

In-depth Interactive Learning Tools  
— Because You Want Results



## **Getting Started with Book Punch for Teachers**

## Book Punch Overview

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9.

The program for each book title has 3 online interactive units as follows:

- **Text-to-Self:** Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- **Evidence and Inference:** Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- **Reading Check:** Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Each book title includes these content specific printables:

- Lesson Plan Aid (for grade levels 6-9, Thesis Worksheet included)
- Two Crossword puzzles (starter and challenge)
- Word Search puzzle
- Evidence and Inference Worksheet for each Evidence and Inference writing prompt

The **Book Punch Series Manual** contains detailed instructions and suggestions for using the program as well as the following printable worksheets:

- Merit Writing Assessment Rubric (Optional)
- Vocabulary Exploration
- Character Exploration
- Compare and Contrast Characters
- Brainstorming
- Prove It
- Independent Follow-up for paragraph writing topics
- Independent Follow-up for essay writing topics

## Select the Activities and Lessons that Fit With Your Students

The core activities for each Book Punch title are the online interactive writing prompts that engage students to focus their thinking about the particular book.

The online interactive units, along with the Lesson Plan Aid, the Series Manual and the printable Worksheets provide numerous activities for the book.

Between the independent student work and suggested group work, one Book Punch title can offer hours of instruction.

We encourage you to review the documents to select the activities and lessons that fit with your students.

**Book Punch™**  
Software for teaching writing and reading.

**Book Punch® Series Manual**  
Grades 3 through 9

This title includes a lesson plan aid, 11 worksheets, and 3 online interactive units.

**MERIT**  
software

**Lesson Plan Aid**  
for Book Punch® - A Lion to Guard Us

Grade level 3  
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 360L

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## Using the Lesson Plan Aid and the Printable Worksheets

The Lesson Plan Aid contains the writing prompts presented in the three interactive units, suggested vocabulary words, and suggested prompts for classroom discussion.

The Book Punch Series Manual is a resource for implementing the program and for mini lessons to support reading comprehension and the writing process.

We recommend that you print the Lesson Plan Aid, Worksheets and Series Manual.

To access the documentation and printables go to the Course Information page for the Book Punch program you plan to use with your students.

(From your home page, click the course name to go to the course's information page.)

The screenshot shows the Merit Learning Center interface. The browser address bar displays 'http://www.meritonlinelearning.com - Course Information - Microsoft Internet Explorer'. The page header includes the Merit logo and 'Welcome Gale Green'. A navigation menu contains links for Home, My Profile, Courses, Students, Reports, School Preferences, Documentation, and Access Periods. The main content area is titled 'Learning Center > Book Punch' and displays the following course details:

- Course name: Frindle [View Online Portfolio](#)
- Program conducted in course: Frindle
- Start Date: 11/14/2007 | End Date: 11/13/2008
- Description: Response to literature
- Documentation and Printables: Click the title of the document you wish to view.
  - [Book\\_Punch\\_Series\\_Manual](#)
  - [Frindle\\_Lesson\\_Plan](#)
  - [Frindle\\_Crossword\\_starter](#)
  - [Frindle\\_WordSearch](#)
  - [Frindle\\_Crossword\\_challenge](#)
  - [Frindle\\_Evidence\\_Inference\\_Worksheet](#)
- Available for playing: Yes | Sound available: Yes
- Administrator: Lynn Lavarella
- Teacher: Gale Green

At the bottom, it shows 'Assigned students (Total active assignments: 11)' with a table header containing 'First Name', 'Last Name', and 'Online Portfolio'.

## Helping Students Organize their Thoughts and Make Connections to the Text

The Text-to-Self online interactive prompts may be used as a pre-reading activity or as an activity while students are reading the book.

The Text-to-Self writing prompts can be used as a jumping off point for group work and class discussion.

The Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book.

Students choose between three Text-to-Self Topics, ensuring a vested interest in their writing assignment.

For classroom follow-up have students share their work in progress and published work, in small groups or with the whole class.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.meritonlinelearning.com> and the page title "A Lion to Guard Us - Text-to-Self - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The page features the Merit Software logo and a welcome message for Glenn Applegate. A navigation bar includes a "Back to Learning Center" button and "Topic" and "Print" links. The main content area is titled "A Lion to Guard Us - Text-to-Self: Topic" and includes a "Tip" section with a progress bar for various writing stages: Introduction, Topic, Pre-Writing, Writing--Opening Sentence, More Pre-Writing, Writing--Body, Organizing, Writing--Revising, and Publishing. A yellow box contains the instruction: "Here are the topics. Choose the one you would like to write about." Below this, three topic buttons are visible: "Topic 1", "Topic 2", and "Topic 3". The "Topic 2" button is selected, and its content is displayed in a larger box: "In the story, Dr. Crider is very kind to the children after the children have been thrown out of the Trippett home by helping them find their way to America. Think about someone who has been kind to you by helping you in some way. Write a paragraph about the person who was kind to you and describe how he or she helped you." At the bottom of the page, there are "Select" and "Tip on Topic" buttons.

## Helping Students Recognize (Infer) the Ideas in the Book from the Details (Evidence) Given

The Evidence and Inference online interactive writing prompts challenge students to understand the relationship between the facts, details and ideas in the book.

The Evidence and Inference writing prompts can be a jumping off points for mini lessons on such topics as: fact vs. opinion, supporting statements, inferences from text, related ideas, and the use of present tense.

The Evidence and Inference Worksheets will focus students and help them plan their writing. Have students fill out the worksheets while they are reading the book.

Encourage students to use the worksheets to determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.meritonlinelearning.com>. The page title is "A Lion to Guard Us - Evidence and Inference - Microsoft Internet Exp". The Merit logo and "Welcome Glenn Applegate" are visible. Navigation links include "<Back to Learning Center", "Topic", and "Print". The main heading is "A Lion to Guard Us - Evidence and Inference: Topic". A "Tip" box contains a progress menu: "My Progress: Introduction | Topic | Pre-Writing | Writing--Opening Sentence | More Pre-Writing | Writing--Body | Organizing | Wri Revising--Overview | Style | Sentence Structure | Grammar | Proofreading | Publishing". A yellow box contains the instruction: "Here are the topics. Choose the one you would like to write about." Below this are three topic buttons: "Topic 1", "Topic 2", and "Topic 3". "Topic 2" is selected and highlighted. A text box for Topic 2 contains the text: "A terrible event can lead to an important decision. In the story, the children embark on the long and dangerous journey to America. Write a paragraph describing the events that lead up to that journey." At the bottom are "Select" and "Tip on Topic" buttons.

## Using Book Punch as a Reading Check

The Reading Check online interactive writing prompt tests students' knowledge and understanding of the book. The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check.

The Reading Check may be used in class study of a Book Punch book for an after reading activity.

The Reading Check may be used in an independent reading program when students select a Book Punch book to read on their own.

### Paragraph

Amanda is a very independent girl. She decides to go to America to be with her father. Amanda asks Mistress Trippett for the money her mother left her. It does not work though. She is forced to hide the lion's head since other people believe it to be gold. On the island she decides that she and her siblings can live by themselves, though other people help with building the house. Amanda is able to take care of her little siblings through her own actions.

A good response to this topic should include answers to the following:

---After Amanda leaves Mistress Trippett's house, to what faraway place does she want to go and why?

x--What happens to the children as a result of Amanda's decision to ask Mrs. Trippet for the money their mother had been saving for them?

---What does Jemmy do on board the ship to make Amanda decide to hide the inexpensive lion's head?

---When the children first arrive on the island, Amanda makes a big decision about where they will live. What does she decide?

x indicates the question may not have been answered correctly.

Your score for the paragraph is:  
3 out of 4 key points