Lesson Plan Aid
for Book Punch® - The Egypt Game

Grade level 4
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 1010L

Table of Contents
Introduction to Book Punch® ........................................................................................................................ 1
Printables ...................................................................................................................................................... 1
Text-to-Self.................................................................................................................................................... 2
Evidence and Inference ................................................................................................................................ 3
Reading Check.............................................................................................................................................. 4
Curriculum Integration................................................................................................................................... 5
  Vocabulary................................................................................................................................................. 5
  Character Exploration ................................................................................................................................. 5
  Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing ................................................................................................. 6
  Additional Writing Prompts ....................................................................................................................... 6
Printable Worksheet Links ............................................................................................................................ 6

Introduction to Book Punch®
Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 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.

Together, these units develop students’ reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables
Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.
Text-to-Self
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. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1
In the story, Melanie and April create ancient Egypt in the backyard of the A to Z shop. They become ancient Egyptian characters and create a temple and rituals. What time and place would you use to create a game?

Text-to-Self Topic 2
In the story, after the murder, the parents of the children in the neighborhood will not allow them to play outside. The Egypt game is on hold because of this new rule. The children are not happy about the rule. Think about a rule you have to abide by. Write about a rule that you are required to obey.

Text-to-Self Topic 3
In the story, the children include an oracle in their game after a class assignment mentions an oracle. The children all take turns asking the oracle questions. Think about the question you would ask if you were to consult an oracle. Write about the question you would ask an oracle.
Evidence and Inference
See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1
Beware! A simple game may turn into something more serious than expected and invite strange happenings. In the story, the girls, April and Melanie, create the Egypt Game. Write a paragraph describing the creation of the Egypt Game.
(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “The Egypt Girls.”)

1. What prompted the start of the Egypt Game?
2. Think about the next thing April and Melanie do that gets them more involved in Egypt. What do the girls create so they can communicate?
3. What do April, Melanie and Marshall find just before school starts? How do they find it?
4. What object do the children see in the place they discover that April takes as an omen?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2
At any time, something unexpected may ripple the smooth flow of our lives, our families, our traditions—even our games. In the story, something terrible happens that affects the Egypt Game as well as the entire community. Write a paragraph about this event and its effect on the children and the community.
(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “Prisoners of Fear.”)

1. How do the children know there is something wrong when Melanie’s mother calls them home?
2. What is the terrible event that has occurred?
3. What do the police suspect about the person responsible for the terrible acts that have taken place in the town?
4. What impact does the terrible event have on the community and the Egypt Game?

Evidence and Inference Topic 3
An apparently harmless choice may hold more danger than anyone could imagine. In the story, April’s decision to go to “Egypt” the evening she is babysitting for Marshall almost costs her her life. Write a paragraph describing the events of that night.
(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “Fear Strikes.”)

1. Why does April head out for Egypt at night?
2. Why does Marshall insist on going with April to Egypt that night?
3. What happens as April is backing out of Egypt?
4. What is April thinking as she looks at Marshall?
Reading Check
The Reading Check unit evaluates students’ paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic
In the story, the Professor is an important character. Write a paragraph describing the Professor and his role in the story. Remember to be specific and to include examples from the text in your paragraph.

1. At the beginning of the story, April visits the Professor's store. Describe the Professor's physical appearance.
2. When a crime is committed, what is it about how the Professor behaves that makes the people of the town suspect him?
3. Why is the Professor able to save April on the night she is attacked?
4. At the end of the story, the children discover the cause of the Professor's lack of interest in other people. What is it?
**Curriculum Integration**

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

**Vocabulary**

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from *The Egypt Game* that can be explored include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abandonment</td>
<td>Being left, completely and finally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friendship</td>
<td>The state of being with someone whom you like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unconditional love</td>
<td>Loving someone no matter what happens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unconditional friendship</td>
<td>Being a friend no matter what happens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of *The Egypt Game* include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ancestors</td>
<td>The people from whom you are descended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceremony</td>
<td>Acts performed in a consistent way for an occasion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cultivate</td>
<td>To prepare land for the raising of crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deadpan</td>
<td>Displaying no emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oracle</td>
<td>One who can predict the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prostrate</td>
<td>Spread out on the ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reluctantly</td>
<td>Unwillingly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ritual</td>
<td>Established event; tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>righteous</td>
<td>Doing what is right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spectator</td>
<td>Someone who watches something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>straggle</td>
<td>Wander off a straight course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vague</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

**Character Exploration**

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that April is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe her to someone who doesn’t know her. (What does April look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?)

Compare and contrast April with Melanie or another character in the book.
Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing
See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

In the story, when Melanie meets April for the first time, she doesn't know what to make of her. April shows up wearing false eyelashes, a fur stole, and her hair in a sophisticated upsweep. But, as they talk, Melanie uncovers the real April, and they become friendly. Write about someone who turned out to be different from your first impression.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “Enter Melanie Marshall.”)

Additional Writing Prompts
See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of The Egypt Game, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

In the story, when Marshall loses his stuffed octopus, “Security,” he is distraught. He has carried it with him everywhere for comfort. Think about an object that gives or gave you comfort. Write about this comforting object.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “Where is Security?”)

In the story, when April goes out at night to get her math book from “Egypt,” she is scared. However, she doesn’t want to change her mind because she’s afraid, so she decides to go through with her plan to retrieve the book. Think about a time you were afraid to do something, but you went through with it in spite of your fears. Write about a time you overcame your fears to do something.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through “Fear Strikes.”)

Printable Worksheet Links
You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

Crossword Puzzle - starter
Crossword Puzzle - challenge
Word Search Puzzle
Evidence and Inference Worksheet
See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.

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