Lesson Plan Aid
for Book Punch® - Stargirl

Grade levels 6-9
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 590L

Table of Contents
Introduction to Book Punch® ................................................................. 1
Printables ........................................................................................................ 1
Text-to-Self .................................................................................................... 2
Evidence and Inference - Essay Topics ..................................................... 3
Reading Check ............................................................................................. 4
Curriculum Integration ................................................................................ 5
  Vocabulary .................................................................................................. 5
  Character Exploration ............................................................................... 6
  Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing .............................................. 6
  Additional Paragraph and Essay Writing Prompts .................................. 6
Thesis Statement Worksheet ........................................................................ 7
Printable Worksheet Links .......................................................................... 8

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
Stargirl does things without thinking or caring what others think of her. For example, she frequently sings in the lunchroom. Write a paragraph about one thing that you do despite what others think about it.

Text-to-Self Topic 2
Stargirl changed her name when she felt that the one she had been given didn’t fit her anymore. First she was Pocket Mouse, then Mudpie, next Hullygully. Write a paragraph about a good name that describes how you feel about yourself.

Text-to-Self Topic 3
Archie says about Stargirl, “Star people are rare. You’ll be lucky to meet another.” Think about what Archie means when he says this to Leo. Write a paragraph about a “star person” you have met and tell what makes that person special.
Evidence and Inference - Essay Topics
See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions for each prompt, the answers to which provide supporting evidence for body paragraphs that could be included in an essay. The Thesis Statement Worksheet at the end of this document will help students understand the structure of a thesis. The Evidence and Inference Worksheet pages will help students plan their essays and understand the relationship between the thesis statement, body paragraphs and supporting points.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1
The students at Mica High School have never known anyone like Stargirl. "Different" barely begins to describe her. The character in Jerry Spinelli's novel "Stargirl" who calls herself by that name ultimately experiences hurt and disappointment. Nevertheless, many people will look at Stargirl and think it is better to be different--and true to yourself—than to try to be like everyone else. Write a multi-paragraph essay that shows why it is better for Stargirl to be true to herself—and different--than try to be like everyone else. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a concluding paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Freedom of expression>>
1. How does Stargirl's appearance show that she feels free to express herself?
2. What does Stargirl do that shows she is not afraid of what others think of her?

Interesting life>>
3. What is something that Stargirl thinks is important in life that most students her age would not value?
4. What is one way Stargirl spends her time that is both interesting and different from the way other students spend their time?

Self-acceptance>>
5. What can you tell about the fact that "Susan" changes back to "Stargirl"?
6. How have Stargirl's parents helped her to be comfortable with who she is?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2
Leo Borlock is your average teenager. There is nothing exceptional about him. Only when he begins to spend a lot of time with Stargirl does he realize how painful life can be when others view you as different. Leo must choose between being accepted by his peers or continuing a friendship with someone whose "differences" set him apart also. Write a multi-paragraph essay that argues that being friends with someone "different"—like Stargirl—is difficult. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a concluding paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Harsh Judgement>>
1. What is an incident that causes the students to react harshly to Stargirl?
2. Why do the students judge Leo harshly?

Loneliness>>
3. After Leo and Stargirl become friends what do the students do that makes Leo feel lonely?
4. What does Leo do because of his lonely feelings at school?
Need for acceptance >>

5. After Leo explains what being part of a group means, how does Stargirl try to be like the other girls?
6. What does Leo expect will happen to him when Stargirl becomes like the other girls? What does happen?

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

Stargirl is not a typical Mica Area High School student. Write a paragraph about the ways in which Stargirl is different from the other girls at school. Be specific and include examples from the story.

1. The school lunchroom is the scene of some of Stargirl’s unusual behavior. What does she do?
2. What does Stargirl do that her fellow students consider unpatriotic?
3. Stargirl has an unusual pet that she treats in an unusual way. What is it and what does she do with it?
4. What does Stargirl do at a school basketball game that upsets the students in her school?
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 Stargirl that can be explored include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>annihilate</td>
<td>Destroy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>badger</td>
<td>Tease or annoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conform</td>
<td>Agreement in form, manner or character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ego</td>
<td>Feeling of pride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>individual</td>
<td>Different</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rara avis</td>
<td>A strange person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revel</td>
<td>To take delight in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shun</td>
<td>Avoid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suppress</td>
<td>To stop someone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Stargirl include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>barren</td>
<td>Bare, empty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elusive</td>
<td>Hard to find</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enchant</td>
<td>To put under a spell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gumption</td>
<td>Courage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoax</td>
<td>Something done to deceive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocotillo Ball</td>
<td>An end-of-year party named for a flowering shrub found in arid regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orator</td>
<td>A public speaker known for skill in speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paleontologist</td>
<td>A scientist who studies the history of earth through bones or fossils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>perpetual</td>
<td>Going on forever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>promenade</td>
<td>A grand march of the guests at a formal event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raucous</td>
<td>Rough, noisy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sprightly</td>
<td>Lively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stifile</td>
<td>To keep in check by deliberate effort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book. These worksheets can be accessed via the Internet. See the last page of this document for Printable Worksheet links.
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 Stargirl 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 Stargirl look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?)

Compare and contrast Stargirl with Leo 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:

Leo likes Stargirl from the moment he first sees her. Write a paragraph describing how Leo's feelings for Stargirl develop in the story. Tell whether he stays in love with her even after she moves away.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

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

Paragraph writing topic
In the story, Stargirl is a true nonconformist. While many people would choose a dog, cat or a bird for a pet, Stargirl has a pet rat. Write a paragraph describing a strange and unusual animal that you might choose for a pet.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 3.)

Essay writing topic
In the story Stargirl is accepted and cheered at one oratorical contest but is rejected after another oratorical contest. Write an essay detailing the reasons she is accepted at one event but rejected at the other.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)
Thesis Statement Worksheet

The thesis statement contains two parts: your OPINION and a PLAN, the points that support your opinion. Each of the points in your plan will be the main idea of a body paragraph in your essay.

Sample thesis statement for an essay with 3 body paragraphs.

Bike riding is an ideal mode of transportation (OPINION) because it is reliable, fast, and allows you to avoid traffic (PLAN).

Exercise 1

Look at the following well-written thesis statements. Underline the opinion with two lines and the plan with one line.

1. Soccer is a great sport because it is fun, athletic, and social.

2. Oatmeal is the best breakfast because it is tasty and nutritious.

3. The two most important United States presidents were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Exercise 2

Remember that a thesis statement should always be comprised of two parts: your opinion and a plan. Draw a line to connect each opinion on the left with its matching plan on the right.

1. Bananas are the best type of fruit to travel, bike ride, and swim.

2. My two favorite relatives are because they are tasty, filling, and stay fresh all day.

3. The most exciting ways to spend my vacation are my brother and my grandmother.
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.

See the previous page for the Thesis Statement Worksheet.

copyright © 2008 Merit Software