

NAME: _____



Activity One

Sid Fleischman is the author of The Whipping Boy and he has written many other books as well. What other books have you read written by Sid Fleischman?

Would you be more interested in reading a story about a boy decades ago or centuries ago? Explain your choice.

Sid Fleischman loves to write novels about different situations that others have experienced. If you could give him the guidelines for his next novel, what would you recommend based on what is happening in your life now?

Write three questions you would want to ask Sid Fleischman, if you had the opportunity of meeting him.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you were an illustrator, what scene from The Whipping Boy would you most want to illustrate? Why? Answer and illustrate it below.

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Activity Two

Peter Sis is the illustrator of The Whipping Boy. He is also the author of books such as Madlenka, A Small Tall Tale, A Starry Messenger, and Tibet Through the Red Box, just to name a few.

What other books have you read that were illustrated by Peter Sis? Have you read some of the books he has written? If so, which ones?

Which of his books did you prefer and why?

What makes his illustrations **unique**?

What do you like and dislike about Peter Sis' illustrations? Explain your answers.

What's your favorite character drawn by Peter Sis in The Whipping Boy?

Can you draw a funny character like Peter Sis?

A large rectangular area for drawing, featuring a spiral binding along the top edge. The area is currently blank.

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Activity Three



In the book *The Whipping Boy* two of the characters are part of a royal family: Prince Brat and the King.

How does a family become a royal family?

Where can we find royal families today?

Why is the presence of royal families important today?

If you could be part of a royal family, which family would you choose? Why this royal family?

What would you like and dislike about being part of a royal family?

What clothing would you want to wear?

What kind of traditions would you enjoy taking part in?

Which humanitarian organization would you be spokesperson for? Why would you choose this cause?

If you were a king or queen, what kinds of consequences would you give your children for inappropriate behavior? Why?

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Activity Four

What experiences have you had with horses? Have you ever ridden on one? Have you ever met a horse on a farm or at a fair? What three adjectives would you use to describe horses?

Think about the horses in this novel compared to horses in other novels. Do you think the horses played an important role in this story? Explain your answer.

Investigate: What are some common breeds of horses in the world today? Find out a few facts about two different breeds and record your facts in the chart below.

Horse Breed 1: _____	Horse Breed 2: _____

Which of these horses would you prefer to own or ride? Explain your answers.

Why do you think horses are so popular in young people's literature? What is your favorite novel about horses or another kind of animal? What makes animal stories different from other kinds of stories?

If you were to write a fictional story about a loveable horse, describe what the character would be like. What would it be like if it was an evil character?

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Activity Five

In The Whipping Boy, we meet Betsy who was on her way to the fair with her talented dancing bear. Traveling fairs and circuses are enjoyable events for those who attend them, and in fact, they are events that have many things in common.

Have you ever been to a traveling fair? Where was it? When did you attend? What type of fair was it?

What do you enjoy most about the fair? What did you dislike about it?

What do you know about circuses?

Have you ever been to a circus? Where was it? When did you attend? What were the featured acts?

What do you enjoy most at the circus? What did you dislike about it?

Some people have strong opinions about whether or not animals should be held in captivity and trained for human entertainment. Some people believe that animals like bears and lions should be allowed to live in the wild, in their natural habitats. Others believe that seeing these kinds of animals at fairs are a good way to learn about them. What is your opinion on this issue? Give good reasons to justify your opinion.

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Activity Six

In Europe, in the medieval times people did not have the kind of health care that we have today in North America. Nor did they have the variety of healthy foods that we have now. For these and other reasons people fell ill more often, and got sicker when they were ill.

Your task is to research human health in Europe in the medieval times, and compare it with overall human health in North America today.

Here are some questions for you to think about as you conduct your research:

- What kind of illnesses were prevalent, or common?
- How were the symptoms treated (i.e., with herbal remedies)
- What illnesses were fatal (what did people die from?)
- What were the living conditions of common people like? How did these conditions contribute to people getting sick or staying healthy?
- What everyday hygiene practices were used (or not used)? How did this affect people's overall health?
- Many common people lived in the same buildings as their animals, and ate the same food as their animals. Would this have affected their overall health? Why or why not?

Once you have collected your information, use a t-chart like the one below to compare and contrast human health from this historical period in Europe to human health in North America today.

Human Health

Medieval Times, Europe	Modern Day North America