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Activity One

Creative Comparisons

Paul Zindel uses a lot of comparisons in his novel to develop imagery. He uses both similes and metaphors throughout the novel to add descriptions for the reader to imagine the scenes.

Here are some examples from Chapters 11–12:

- John compares having passes versus not having passes: We weren't ghouls raiding the morgue.
- John compares Lorraine to his mother: You sound like my Old Lady.
- John describes the Pigman's oxygen tent: The Pigman's oxygen tent looks like a malaria tent.
- John explains what visiting the Pigman feels like: Being in the hospital felt like being in prison for 73 years.
- John describes the snow plow: The snow plow looks like a black dragon.
- Lorraine describes the porkchops she makes: The porkchops look like fried dwarf's ears.
- Lorraine describes her relationship with John: Like a dreamboat with a leak.

This is your chance to get creative! You are going to create five of your own comparisons. (Reminder: a simile uses the words like, as, or than.)

Think of some comparisons you could make using Zindel's examples as inspiration:

- A friend or family member (like John and Lorraine).
- A machine or object (like the snow plow or the oxygen tent).
- An event (like being in the hospital).
- A location (like the hospital).



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Activity Two

Eyes Collage

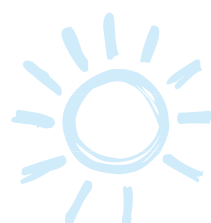
Paul Zindel likes to describe characters' eyes. He uses eyes to show emotion, and to describe how characters react.

Here are some examples from the novel:

- **Chapter 2:** John "has these gigantic eyes that look right through you, especially if he's in the middle of one of his fantastic everyday lies."
- **Chapter 2:** John's "eyes reminded (Lorraine) of a description of a gigantic Egyptian eye that was found in one of the pyramids... Somehow an archaeologist's wife ended up with this huge stone eye in her bedroom, and in the middle of the night it exploded and a big cat started biting the archaeologist's wife's neck. When she put the lights on, the cat was gone. Only the pieces of the eye were scattered all over the floor. That's what John's eyes remind (Lorraine) of."
- **Chapter 3:** Lorraine's "got very interesting green eyes that scan like nervous radar—that is they used to until the Pigman died. Ever since then her eyes have become absolutely still, except when we work on this memorial epic. Her eyes come to life the second we talk about it."
- **Chapter 4:** "When (Mr. Pignati) answered (the phone), my voice was rather quivery because John was watching with his X-ray eyes and I think he knew I had cheated a bit."
- **Chapter 5:** The Pigman "looked so glad to see us I thought his eyes were going to twinkle out of his head."
- **Chapter 5:** The Pigman's "smile and bright eyes faded in front of us, and he got awkwardly to his feet" when John and Lorraine say they need to leave.
- **Chapter 8:** The subway "really can get boring unless you keep your eyes open."
- **Chapter 9:** "'Has he got anything worth stealing?'" Norton clarified, his eyes beginning to get mean and sneaky like an alley cat about to jump on a bird."
- **Chapter 10:** The Pigman "started to double over—his eyes fastened on (Lorraine)—gaping like a fish out of water."
- **Chapter 12:** "'Just a few intimate friends for a quiet little drink. Don't you think Mr. Pignati wants us to have a social life?'" (John) smiled, his great big eyes glowing."
- **Chapter 14:** Lorraine "couldn't look at (her mom), and as soon as (Lorraine's) eyes went down (her mom) knew (Lorraine) was guilty."

Create a collage of eyes to represent different emotions. You must include at least four different emotions (guilt, anger, hope, joy, etc.).

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Activity Three

Context Research

The Pigman takes place during the 1960s in the USA. It was a different world back then. Do some research about the 1960s to better understand the context and history of this time period.

Find information for each of the topics. Be sure to include your sources.

Topic	Information and Sources
Cars in the 1960s	
Sources:	
Clothes in the 1960s	
Sources:	
Political leaders (USA) in the 1960s	
Sources:	
Civil Rights Movement	
Sources:	
Slang terms from the 1960s	
Sources:	
Major world events in the 1960s	
Sources:	
World Series and Superbowl winners in the 1960s	
Sources:	

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Activity Four

Personal Connections

Lorraine's hobby is psychology. She uses a lot of psychological terms throughout the novel.

What is your hobby? For example, playing hockey, drawing, playing video games, cooking. And what are some unique words about your hobby that people might not know? For example, in Art there is easel, impasto, chiaroscuro.

For each word in your hobby, include a picture to represent it so that people can understand your hobby better.

Hobby:		
Hobby Vocabulary Words:	Definitions:	Images:

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Activity Five

Movie Poster



Imagine that *The Pigman* is being made into a movie! Your task is to create a movie poster to promote the film.

Get creative! Who will you cast in your film? Who will direct your film? And who will produce your film?

Actors: The Pigman John Lorraine Norton Dennis Lorraine's mom Old Lady (John's mom) Bore (John's dad) The Cricket Director: Studio:	Slogan ideas:	Images ideas:
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Things to include in your poster:

- Images that represent the theme or topic of the novel.
- Slogan for the film (connected to the theme or topic).
- Actors
- Director
- Studio

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Activity Six



Character Sketch

We learn a lot about Lorraine and John throughout the novel. We get details about what they look like (hair, eyes, facial expressions). We learn about where they like to hang out. We learn about what they enjoy doing with their free time. We learn about their friends and family. We learn about what they want to do when they grow up.

The purpose of a Wanted or Missing Persons poster is to include visual and written information so that people can recognize the missing or wanted person. In the case of John and Lorraine, there is so much you could include on a poster.

Your task is to create either a Missing Persons poster or a Wanted Poster.

Visuals to include on the poster:

- A clear title (Wanted or Missing Person?).
- A drawing of either John or Lorraine.
- Physical features (like eyes).
- Clothing (or hints to their hobbies).
- Hints to a specific location in the background (school, home, cemetery, zoo, etc.).

Information to include on the poster:

- Physical details (including clothing).
- Personality details.
- Hobbies.
- Locations they might be found.
- Friends or family who might have seen them last.
- Who to contact if they are found (use a pretend phone number).

