

Story Squares for Grade 5

Multiple Learning Styles for Reading Comprehension

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Grade Five

Strider by Beverly Cleary

Leigh Botts, the aspiring writer from *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, continues his story. Leigh lives with his divorced mom in a small apartment. Leigh's father, a truck driver, calls and visits occasionally, but has a hard time coming up with child support payments he owes Leigh's mom. Leigh and his best friend, Barry, spend their summer days at the beach and find a stray dog that they name Strider. Leigh isn't allowed to have dogs in his apartment, so Barry and Leigh decide to take care of the dog together.

Their arrangement works out well in the beginning. But when Barry has to spend the month out of town visiting his mother, the bond between Leigh and Strider grows stronger. Leigh becomes an avid runner after having to exercise Strider every morning. The school track and field coach notices Leigh's speed and encourages him to try out for the school track team. Leigh makes the team and becomes friends with the other members.

After arguing over the dog, the boys decide that Leigh should have full custody of Strider. Their landlady allows Leigh to keep the dog as long as he builds a fence for him. Leigh asks his dad to help him, which strengthens their bond. Leigh learns to enjoy his first year of high school and the new relationships he has made.

This book is recommended for fifth-graders, and should be read independently. Students who have read *Dear Mr. Henshaw* will enjoy the continuation of Leigh's story.

Frindle by Andrew Clements

This is the story of Nick Allen, a very clever young boy. He has a way of getting under his teachers' skins without them even knowing. But now, in fifth grade, he is about to meet his match, Mrs. Granger.

Mrs. Granger has been teaching for a very long time. Everybody knows her reputation as a tough teacher who has the utmost respect for the English language and the dictionary. When the two butt heads on the first day of class, it will be a fight to the end.

Nick's creation of the word *frindle* turns Lincoln Elementary School from an unknown school to a nationally recognized locale. An unknown fifth-grader becomes a household name, and he brings with his newfound fame a great deal of fun for the reader.

This book is recommended for fifth-graders. It could be used independently. It is a fun read with many lessons along the way. Boys and girls alike will be cheering for their hero.

Strider

by Beverly Cleary

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 List some of the things Strider does that makes him different from other dogs.
- 2 What factors contribute to Leigh becoming successful at track?
- 3 Find five clues that tell you Leigh and his mom do not have a lot of money.
- 4 Locate ten words with meanings you do not know and define them.
- 5 How does Leigh meet Kevin and Geneva?

2

- 1 Write three *two-word poems* describing Leigh, Kevin, and Barry. Each should be at least eight lines long.
- 2 Describe your favorite part of the story.
- 3 Leigh tries to keep Strider a secret from Mrs. Smerling. Was that the right thing to do? Explain your answer.
- 4 What are three good things and three bad things about having a dog? Explain in two paragraphs.
- 5 Make a list of the ten most important things in Leigh's life with number one being the most important.

3

- 1 Leigh's teacher made him write a composition using only nouns and verbs. Write a summary of the book using only nouns and verbs.
- 2 Compare and contrast Leigh and Barry by making a *Venn diagram*. Include at least five examples in each section.
- 3 Choose ten events in Leigh's life and create a pictorial timeline showing each event. Write at least one sentence about each event.
- 4 How is Leigh and Barry's custody arrangement for Strider the same as Mr. and Mrs. Brinkerhoff's arrangement for Kevin? How is it different?
- 5 In what ways does Leigh's relationship with his dad change throughout the book?

4

- 1 Draw a picture of Leigh in his "back-to-school" shirt. Use the description from July 20.
- 2 Do you think Leigh will become a writer when he grows up or will he choose a different career? Explain why you think the way you do.
- 3 Design a poster that Leigh might have made to find Strider's owner. Be sure to include important information.
- 4 If you found a dog like Strider, what would you do?
- 5 Leigh and his mom live in a small cottage. Design a house and yard that would be their dream home.

Frindle

by Andrew Clements

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 In a well-written paragraph, tell how a dictionary is useful.
- 2 Make a list of 15 plural and 15 singular nouns and the pages on which you found them in the story.
- 3 Define the following words: monopoly, reputation, hobby, hesitate, emphasize, rowdy, chuckle, oblong, urge.
- 4 After finishing each chapter, write one sentence to explain what it was about.
- 5 Make a list of 15 character traits that describe Nick and 15 character traits that describe Mrs. Granger.

2

- 1 Write a one-page journal entry describing your reaction after reading chapter 15.
- 2 Describe a time when you did something that caused a chain reaction of events.
- 3 Write a *cinquain* poem about a *frindle*.
- 4 Think of a teacher you have worried about having. In one or two paragraphs, describe why that teacher made you so nervous. (You don't need to name him or her.)
- 5 Do you think it is fair that Nick's dad didn't want to tell Nick about his earnings from the frindles? Give reasons to support your answer.

3

- 1 Write a newspaper article describing what is happening at Lincoln Elementary School.
- 2 Start a new word the same way that Nick did. Try it at home and see if it becomes a new word. Record your results and findings.
- 3 If you were in Mrs. Granger's class, how would you explain that students should not get detention for saying *frindle*?
- 4 Create a *Venn diagram* to compare and contrast Nick and Mrs. Granger.
- 5 If you were the reporter Judy Morgan, what five questions would you ask Nick? What five questions would you ask Mrs. Granger?

4

- 1 Create an advertisement for new frindles. Create a poster showing how they look, their price, and where to get them.
- 2 Name five items that would also have been a good gift for Mrs. Granger. Remember, Nick has millions of dollars now.
- 3 What are five items you own that Nick might want to rename? Why do you think they should be renamed?
- 4 Make a *diorama* of your favorite scene. Write at least a one-paragraph summary of what is happening in the diorama.
- 5 How would the story have changed if Mrs. Granger did not make a big deal about the students using the word *frindle*? Explain.

Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Define each of the following terms and use each one in a sentence: apologetic, troupe, peculiar, clutter, bramble, accommodations, marionette, accusation.
- 2 Make a list of ten adjectives that describe the spring.
- 3 Name ten different places that are part of the setting.
- 4 Tell how Winnie discovered the Tucks and their secret.
- 5 How does the stranger plan on using the spring water?

2

- 1 If you could be a character in *Tuck Everlasting*, who would you be and why?
- 2 Write about a fantasy that you wish would happen to you.
- 3 Write a *zip code poem* about Treegap.
- 4 What chapter did you like the best and why? Write a paragraph explaining your reasons.
- 5 In three paragraphs, describe the event that you think was most critical in the story.

3

- 1 If you were Mae Tuck, would you have shot the Stranger? Explain.
- 2 How has Winnie's life changed because of her experience with the Tucks? Explain in a well-written paragraph.
- 3 If you were Winnie's parents, what five questions would you ask Mae and Angus Tuck?
- 4 List five ways that the Stranger and Angus are alike and five ways they are different.
- 5 After reading the story, do you believe there is magic in the world? Explain.

4

- 1 Make a detailed map of Treegap using details from the story.
- 2 Build a *diorama* of your favorite scene from the story. Describe it in a paragraph.
- 3 Predict what would happen if Mae Tuck had **not** shot the Stranger.
- 4 Create a title for each chapter.
- 5 Make two drawings, side-by-side, of the inside of Winnie's house and the inside of the Tucks' house. Show as many details as possible.