

Story Squares for Grades 6+

Multiple Learning Styles for Reading Comprehension

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Grade Six and Up

101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher

by Lee Wardlaw

101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher is the story of a boy named Sneeze. Sneeze is a brilliant boy who loves to invent. He is so brilliant that he is on the verge of being skipped ahead in school. This would mean leaving his friends behind in junior high while he attends high school.

Sneeze has other ideas. He plans to stay in junior high by bugging his teachers so much that they won't recommend him for promotion. He plans on being a part of the Invention Convention and having the most successful history fair project ever.

This book is recommended for students who enjoy humorous books. It has light-hearted ways to bother a teacher, but also includes projects you could have your class tackle. It is recommended for boys and girls in sixth grade to read independently.

Julie of the Wolves

by Jean Craighead George

Julie (known by her Eskimo name, Miyax) is only 13 years old, but she is already married. As many Eskimos are abandoning their heritage for more modern ways of life, Miyax has never felt more Eskimo. However, she cannot continue to live as the wife in a prearranged Eskimo marriage. She decides to run away to San Francisco, the home of her pen pal.

In order to get to California, Miyax must cross the Arctic tundra. She faces starvation and certain death as she becomes lost in the Alaskan wilderness. During her journey, Miyax remembers the lessons her father taught her about survival and animal instincts. She uses her knowledge to become a member of a pack of wolves to ensure her survival. The wolves become her family. Throughout her journey, Miyax's Eskimo heritage strengthens her physically and spiritually as she prepares to return to the human world.

This book is recommended for sixth grade and up. Due to some issues regarding Julie's marriage, it is geared toward a more mature reader.

101 Ways to Bug Your Teacher

by Lee Wardlaw

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Make a list of ten examples from the book for each of the following types of nouns: common, proper, and plural. Be sure to give the page number on which you found them.
- 2 Use eight of the following words in an original story: contradict, queasy, confiscated, spewing, hoodlum, aghast, eon, odiferous, feigned, impeccable.
- 3 Look through the story and find at least five clues about Ace and what he's really doing.
- 4 Find an Egyptian food recipe to make and share with your classmates.
- 5 Give a short summary of how the "Inventors' Club" was able to get the Nice Alarm.

2

- 1 Steve's parents support his invention ideas so much that they let him make an "Instant Guacamole Maker" in their refrigerator. Would your parents allow you to try new ideas like this? Why or why not?
- 2 Write a *birthday poem* about Sneeze or Hayley.
- 3 Hayley is worried about losing another important person in her life. If you were going to talk with her, what advice would you give?
- 4 Put yourself in Sneeze's shoes. How would you feel about being told you would be skipping a grade? Explain.
- 5 If a teacher really used the "death roll," how would you and your classmates react?

3

- 1 Sneeze has posters of Galileo, Bill Gates, and Ben Franklin in his room. Find information about one of these men and write a two-page expository essay about him.
- 2 Hiccup is into medicine. Find information about Imhotep and the Ebers Papyrus. Write at least two pages about your findings.
- 3 In a paragraph, explain why Hiccup is so embarrassed when Sneeze has to do the hula. Be sure to use some character traits in your explanation.
- 4 Summarize the events leading up to and including the History Fair.
- 5 Tony told Sneeze the story of why he quit the rodeo circuit. Put Tony's story into your own words and tell how it is similar to Sneeze's situation.

4

- 1 Follow the recipe and directions to make the chicken mummy.
- 2 List ten original ways to bug your teacher.
- 3 Determine ten ways to bug _____. (You can fill in the blank with somebody other than your teacher.)
- 4 Using your history or social studies textbook, decide on a plan for a classroom history fair project.
- 5 Design an invention of your own to bring in and share with your class. Describe what it does, how it works, and what it is used for.

Julie of the Wolves

by Jean Craighead George

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Create a list of all the animals mentioned in the story.
- 2 Research the Arctic Circle's cycle of day and night. Write a summary of your findings.
- 3 Keep a record of all the things Miyax learns about the wolves.
- 4 Use an atlas or the Internet to calculate the distance from Barrow, Alaska to San Francisco, California.
- 5 Make a list of 15 common nouns and 15 proper nouns from the story. Tell whether each one is a person, place, thing, or idea. List the page on which each is found.

2

- 1 Which part of the book (I, II, or III), was your favorite? Why?
- 2 What would you do if your parents arranged a marriage for you at 13? How would your life change?
- 3 What are the five most important things in life to Miyax?
- 4 Write three *haiku poems* about Miyax, Amoroq, and Kapu.
- 5 What are five advantages and five disadvantages of being Miyax the Eskimo and five advantages and five disadvantages of being Julie the American?

3

- 1 Eskimo hunters thought intelligence, fearlessness, and love made a man rich. Write an essay about someone you know who is rich in this way.
- 2 In Part II, Miyax comments, "Daylight is spelled A-M-Y." Explain what she means.
- 3 What are five questions you would ask the author? What are five questions you would ask Miyax?
- 4 Why did the author choose to **not** tell the story in chronological order?
- 5 Reread the song Miyax sings on the last page. Explain its meaning line by line.

4

- 1 Draw your favorite scene from the book. Write a detailed summary to explain your drawing and why it was your favorite.
- 2 Think of two other ways Miyax might have escaped from Daniel and her marriage.
- 3 Predict what Miyax's life living with Kapugen would be like.
- 4 Design a survival kit you would take into the Alaskan wilderness. It should have at least ten items and an explanation of why each item is necessary.
- 5 Create three *pyramid scenes* representing each part of the book.

Al Capone Does My Shirts

by Gennifer Choldenko

Choose _____ from each square.

1

- 1 Natalie has autism. Research autism and write your own understanding of it. Be as specific as you can.
- 2 Find five examples from the story that show that the people (not including the convicts) who live on Alcatraz feel safe there.
- 3 Make a timeline of events for one of the main characters. Insert at least ten events and illustrations in the order they happened.
- 4 Using the map of Alcatraz, write detailed directions for somebody to get from the Cell House to the Dock.
- 5 Make a list of 15 adjectives to describe Piper at the beginning of the story, and 15 more to describe her at the end of the story.

2

- 1 Write a *birthday poem* about Natalie.
- 2 There are many things that are important to Moose. List at least ten of them in order from most important to least important.
- 3 Research Alcatraz Island or Al Capone. Give a five-minute oral report on what you learned. A written version should be included in your final project.
- 4 Everybody has had to do something they did not want to do. Describe a time when you were forced to do something you did not want to do.
- 5 Put yourself in Moose's shoes. How would you deal with having to take care of a sibling with a condition like Natalie's?

3

- 1 Compare and contrast Moose and Piper. Give at least five similarities and five differences.
- 2 Mrs. Flanagan kept trying to make people believe that Natalie was ten years old. What did she hope the result of this would be? Explain her reasons.
- 3 Natalie becomes friends with inmate AZ105. What does Moose believe could happen to Natalie if this friendship continues?
- 4 The author used many factual details about Alcatraz. Tell whether or not you think she did a good job detailing what life on the island was like for the families. Give details to support your answer.
- 5 Summarize your favorite section of the story. It should be at least one page.

4

- 1 Write about another plan to make money from Piper's classmates by using Alcatraz.
- 2 Create a six-frame *cartoon strip* showing how Piper was able to trick her classmates into giving her money for their laundry.
- 3 When Moose grows up, what do you think he will be? Give reasons to support your opinion.
- 4 Design an advertisement for the Alcatraz laundry service that Piper imagined.
- 5 In the story, we find a few examples that show Al Capone was not all bad. What are those examples, and why do you think he performed these acts of kindness?