

UNIT OVERVIEW

The Chicken Doesn't Skate - A Novel Study

OVERVIEW

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts, as students develop a love for reading longer materials like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) **Chapter Questions**

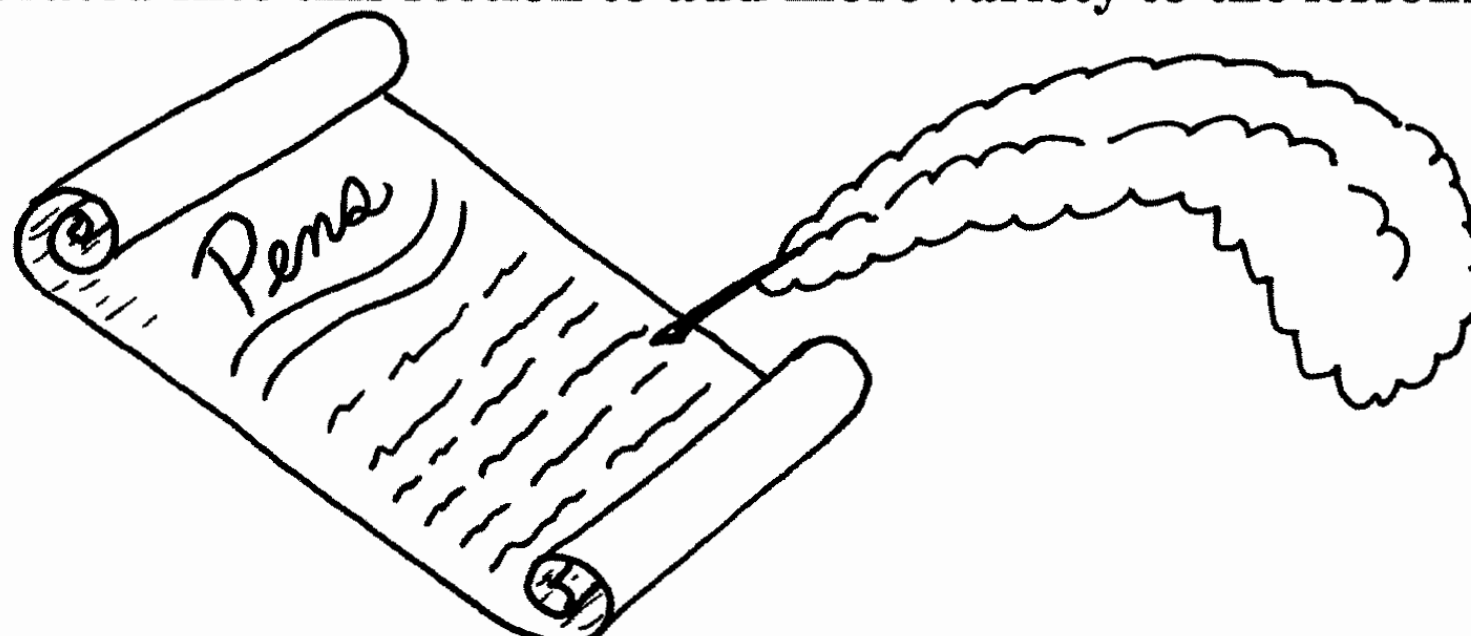
For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is key as students must read and understand the *entire* book, in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students *must understand* the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.)

2) **Vocabulary and Language**

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, antonyms/synonyms, syllables, punctuation and grammar.

3) **Writing and Creativity**

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills. A puzzle activity is incorporated into this section to add more variety to the lessons.



STORY SUMMARY

The Chicken Doesn't Skate - A Novel Study

It began when Mrs. Baggio announced this year's science fair. Milo Neal's project was "The Complete Life Cycle of a Link in the Food Chain". The link was a chicken named Henrietta. All the children took turns looking after her. When Zachary Gustafson had his turn, Henrietta escaped. Adam Lurie, the hockey team captain, found her and took her to the arena. The Rangers won their first game and Henrietta became the team mascot.

The Rangers continued to win and Henrietta continued to mature. When Milo revealed that Henrietta was destined to become a chicken dinner, everyone was stunned! What was worse, was that the dinner was to be before the championship game against the Canadian team - the Rebels. Henrietta is "chicken napped" by Zachary and brought to the game in a duffel bag.

The Rangers have another big problem - a porous goalie. Adam notices that Zachary is a natural wonder at blocking projectiles thrown at his computer. Zachary is put in the net and the Rangers win! Zachary goes from being a "dweeb" to a sport celebrity. And Henrietta is saved from the roasting pan by laying an egg - thus completing the food chain.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Chicken Doesn't Skate - A Novel Study

Gordon Korman

Gordon Korman was born on October 23, 1963 in Montreal, Quebec. He received a B. F. A. in 1985 from New York University. His memberships include: Writers Union of Canada; Canadian Society of Authors, Illustrators and Performers; Canadian Authors Association; and the Society of Children's Book Writers. His writings have won many awards, among which are the Air Canada Award, the Children's Choice Award, the International Reading Association 1986, and the American Library Association Best Book Award for Young Adults 1990.

His first book, "This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall", was written as a seventh-grade English assignment. By the time he entered high school, Mr. Korman was a best-selling author. His books have been inspired by things that have happened in his own life and these life experiences are the support guidelines for his writings. His books have slapstick humour, zany settings and fun-filled escapades. There are highly energetic characters and authority figures to break up the fun. Many of his books are written for pre-adolescents and adolescents to show that kids' concerns are important. Everywhere he goes, he collects pieces of information that are stored for future books. Books written by Gordon Korman include:

This Can't Be happening at Macdonald Hall, 1977.
Go Jump in the Pool!, 1979.
Beware the Fish!, 1980.
Who is Bugs Potter?, 1980.
I Want to Go Home, 1981.
Our Man Weston, 1982.
The War with Mr. Wizzle, 1982.
Bugs Potter: Live at Nickaninny, 1983.
No Coins, Please, 1984.
Don't Care High, 1985.
Son of Interflux, 1986.
A Semester in the Life of a Garbage Bag, 1987.
The Zucchini Warriors, 1988.
Radio Fifth Grade, 1989.
Losing Joe's Place, 1990.
Macdonald Hall Goes Hollywood, 1991.
The Twinkie Squad, 1992.
The Toilet Paper Tigers, 1993.
Why Did the Underwear Cross the Road?, 1994.

CHAPTERS 1, 2

Writing and Creativity



- A) Design a goalie mask for your hockey team.

TEAM NAME: _____



CHAPTERS 3, 4

Questions



- A) Why did Adam feel that the sixth-graders were losers?

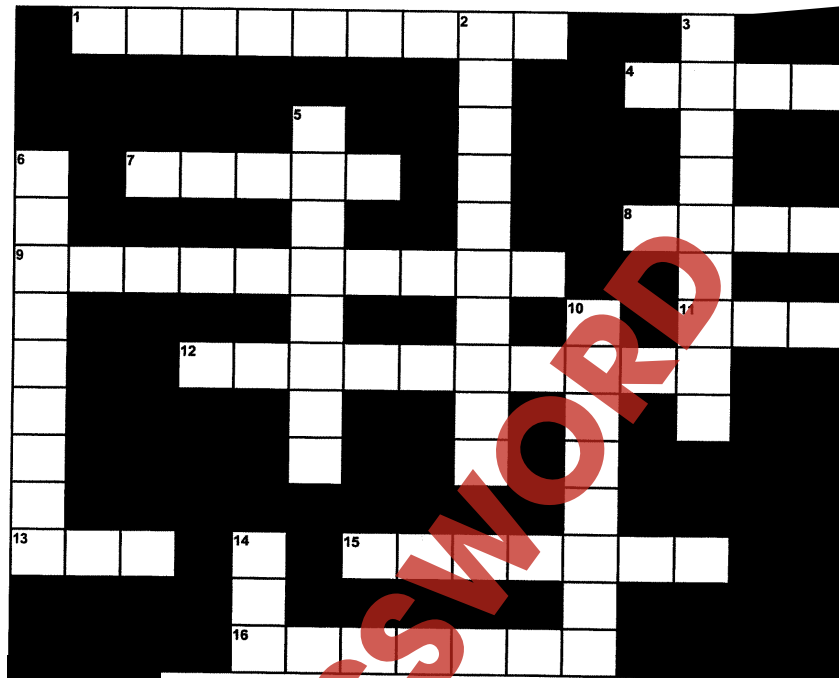
- B) What was wrong with Donald Vincent's slapshot?

- C) Match each person to his position:

Adam Lurie	_____	A	coach
Joey Sorrentino	_____	B	defence
Brendan Walters	_____	C	center
Crenshaw	_____	D	right wing
Donald Vincent	_____	E	goalie

- D) What two teams met at the end of the season?

C) Use the clues to solve the crossword puzzle. Many answers can be found in Chapters 3, 4.

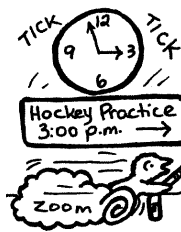


Across

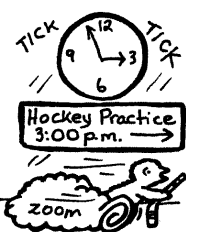
- 1. Zachary's last name
- 4. An unpleasant, unattractive, insignificant person
- 7. Adam's last name
- 8. Owner of the project
- 9. What Zachary was writing
- 11. The highest part of anything
- 12. What was proceeding on schedule according to Milo
- 13. A sweet potato
- 15. One class Adam enrolled in
- 16. Joey's girlfriend

Down

- 2. One's job or business
- 3. The chicken's name
- 5. Minnesota champions would play a team from _____
- 6. The day before today
- 10. Opposite of positive
- 14. The entire number or substance



CHAPTERS 5, 6
Vocabulary And Language



A) Similes are comparisons that use like or as in the comparison. Find some similes in these chapters.

- 1. He sticks to you like _____.
- 2. He took off like _____.
- 3. He stood there poised like _____.
- 4. The shot was as hard as _____.
- 5. He charged the net like _____.
- 6. The roar of the crowd powering me like _____.
- 7. There she sat like _____.

B) Write the plural form (more than one) for the following nouns:

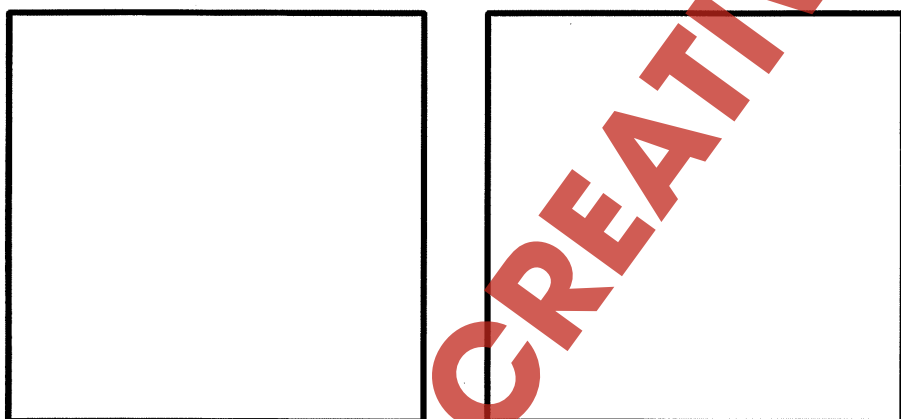
- | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| chicken | _____ | cliff | _____ |
| hotel | _____ | chief | _____ |
| house | _____ | knife | _____ |
| holiday | _____ | shelf | _____ |
| mystery | _____ | calf | _____ |
| candy | _____ | man | _____ |
| city | _____ | woman | _____ |
| sky | _____ | mouse | _____ |
| piano | _____ | moose | _____ |
| potato | _____ | deer | _____ |
| tomato | _____ | monkey | _____ |
| hero | _____ | sheep | _____ |



CHAPTERS 7, 8
Writing And Creativity



A) Illustrate two superstitions people have. (Colour your illustrations after you are done.)



B) Draw the "Brain-Eating Psycho-Monster".



C) **Book Reviewer - Thumbs up or thumbs down.**



Book Title _____

Setting _____

Characters _____

You are working for a large magazine as a book reviewer. Your job is to tell three million readers a bit about the book (without giving away the ending) and whether or not they should read it.

Briefly describe what happens in the book and the main characters - without giving away the ending. (Use at least four complete sentences with proper punctuation.)

How would you rate this book?
(Draw a thumb up or down in the box provided)



- _____ EXCELLENT
- _____ GREAT
- _____ OK - I Can Live With It
- _____ NOT TOO GOOD
- _____ DOWNRIGHT LOUSY

Why did you choose the rating you did? (Give at least one good reason.)
