



Frindle

By Andrew Clements

Summer Reading Packet

*Noteworthy Novel Studies 2013

Character Summary

Nick Allen – Nick is the main character in *Frindle*. The story describes his year in fifth grade where he is somewhat of a class clown. He is infamous for asking many questions during class so that his teachers forget what they are doing and do not have time to assign homework. Nick is creative and likes to challenge the way others think. He comes up with the idea of change the word *pen* to *frindle* and gets all his classmates to follow him. He is a leader and always seems to find himself in trouble.

Mrs. Granger – Mrs. Granger is a no-nonsense language arts teacher who believes in the value of using the dictionary. She is very strict in her routines and many students think she is intimidating. Mrs. Granger challenges Nick when he tries to change the word *pen* to *frindle* and she has to deal with a lot of students who choose to follow him. In the end, Nick realizes that Mrs. Granger is not quite the teacher he thought she was.

Judy Morgan – Judy is a reporter for the Westfield Gazette. She hears about the story of the word *frindle* and interviews the teachers and students for an article. Afterwards the word *frindle* gains popularity around the whole town and even the world.

Bud Lawrence – Bud is an entrepreneur in Westfield. Whenever he hears about a new idea he begins to think about how he can use this idea to make money. As soon as the news story broke about the popularity of the *frindle*, he made a legal application to copyright the word and began selling pens with the word *frindle* engraved on them. He later sets up a trust fund for Nick with Nick's father so he will get some of the proceeds from the sales of *frindle* related products.

There are many other minor characters introduced in *Frindle*. Some include Nick's parents, Mrs. Chatham, and Nick's friends: John, Pete, Chris, Dave, etc.

***Frindle* Quiz**

Answer True or False for the questions below using information read in *Frindle*.

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Nick has a sister who is away at college | True | False |
| 2. Mrs. Granger believes the dictionary is the law. | True | False |
| 3. Nick attends Westfield Elementary School. | True | False |
| 4. Nick calls Mrs. Chatham the red queen. | True | False |
| 5. Nick's father believes Mrs. Granger is over-reacting when Mrs. Chatham visits. | True | False |
| 6. The students enjoy staying after school to write out sentences as punishment. | True | False |
| 7. Mr. Allen loves all the fuss from the frindle idea. | True | False |
| 8. The town sign changes to "Home of the Only Frindle." | True | False |

Fill in the blanks with the best answer.

1. Nick is walking home with _____ when he comes up with the idea.
2. The word pen comes from the Latin word for _____, pinna.
3. During the class picture, everyone says, "_____."
4. The only other word invented for no particular reason is _____.
5. _____ agrees to give Nick thirty percent of frindle profits.
6. _____ sets up a trust fund for Nick.
7. Nick sets up a _____ called the Lorelei Granger Students' fund.
8. _____ is the word everyone spells wrong on the weekly spelling test.

***Frindle* Assignment Options**

Choose 2 and be ready to present to the class the first week of school.

Newspaper Reporter – Pretend you are a writer for The Westfield Gazette. Write a newspaper article about Nick’s invention of the word *frindle*. You must include information from the viewpoint of Nick and Mrs. Granger. It is optional if you want to include another character’s viewpoint about the invention in the story. Note: Use the template for the newspaper article.

Movie Director – Pretend *Frindle* is actually a movie. Create a movie poster for *Frindle* that is different from the book cover. Use a large sheet of paper or a small poster board and be sure to include color and captivating images to attract potential viewers.

Inventor – Have you ever wanted to create an invention? Nick used his creativity to reinvent the pen, and Bud Lawrence used this opportunity to sell new products. Think of a unique invention that you could sell. Draw a design of your invention on plain white paper or a small poster board and write a description of the product, its purpose, and business ideas for the product. How much would you sell it for? Who would be interested in purchasing your product? Write your description on a sheet of notebook paper.

Book Reviewer – Write a review of the book for potential readers. Describe some of the highlights and downfalls of the novel. What should have been different in your opinion? Give the book a rating to accompany your review, for example: 3 out of 5 stars or 7 out of 10...

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