

Who- What- Why- When- Where- How- *Considerations for Using this Book*

Who?

The lessons and activities in this book are intended for use with students at the upper elementary level. While most are appropriate for grades 3-6, they can easily be modified for younger and older students.

What?

Each featured title includes three stand-alone lessons. These lessons are formatted with an introduction, grade level recommendation, time allocation, objective statements, materials list, and a step-by-step procedure guide. A standards correlation chart is located in the front of the book.

Why?

With today's distracting technology tools, communication devices, and entertainment choices, competition for the students' attention is greater than ever. Using a movie's connection to a piece of children's literature may be the "hook" needed to engage the students' interest.

When?

These lessons can be intentionally, with some forethought and planning, integrated into a literature unit. They can just as easily be used as enrichment fillers when the daily schedule has been altered or a planned activity had to be postponed. Because most of the lessons can readily be condensed or extended, they work well for "end of the school day" instruction.

Where?

The implementation of these lessons does not require a specific venue. The classroom, library, reading room, or gym will all work well. Flexibility and enthusiasm are what make these lessons effective, not the designated instructional area.

How?

Most of the lessons include visuals and activity sheets. The visuals serve as introductory tools. They allow for concise and consistent delivery of the lesson's objectives and content. Meant to be projected using a document camera, the information on the visuals also transfers well to a chalkboard or chart paper. Activity sheets, game cards, and manipulatives should be prepared prior to class.

Who Needs this Book?

The demands on today's educators are great. There never seems to be enough time to plan lessons, cover content, address standards, and evaluate student progress.

The intent of this resource book is to step away from these demands and, for a half hour or so every now and then, engage the students in learning activities that involve creative problem solving, peer interaction, physical activity, and skills development. Most importantly, because the content is based on a popular piece of children's literature that has been made into a feature film, most students will associate the lessons with entertainment and fun.

Each of these lessons is stand-alone and demands little introduction or follow-up. Classroom teachers can easily incorporate the individual lessons into a thematic unit. However, this book was written with the resource teacher in mind. These are educators who interact with many students but only have contact with them for short periods of time.

The lessons in this book will be especially useful to:

English as a Second Language Teachers – It is a reality that television programs and movies are instrumental in teaching English to non-English speakers. A student who has seen *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* may be motivated to read Roald Dahl's book.

Gifted Resource Specialists – Many elementary "talented and gifted" classes are structured as pull-out programs. If this is the case, student attendance, class location, and time allocation is often inconsistent. Lessons with a "wow" factor that can be condensed or extended are valuable under these circumstances.

Library Media Specialists – Librarians rejoice when a good book is made into a movie and will make sure there are extra copies available for student checkout. They know that a movie creates renewed interest in a book. The time allocation and literary connections of these activities make for effective library lessons.

Reading Teachers – Teaching students how to read is a necessity. Motivating them to become enthusiastic readers is giving them a life-long gift. (This is why Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* has a place in our schools.)

Science & Social Studies Teachers – Teaching interdisciplinary lessons is an effective method of exposing students to content connections. Discovering the civics and economics concepts in *The City of Ember* is interesting and relevant. Discovering the environmental cautionary tale in *Hoot* is enlightening and applicable to present day events.

Substitute Teachers & After-school Program Providers – Many of the lessons and activities in this book are perfect to add to the “bag of tricks” that’s advisable to have on hand. One should be prepared when the promised lesson plans cannot be located or the weather dictates that the kickball game will be delayed for the third time.