



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch™ - The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11

Grade level 3
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 590L

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Introduction to Book Punch™

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known upper-elementary core literature. Students write paragraphs responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about what they have read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises three online interactive units as follows:

- Unit 1- Reading Check: Students write about important facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.
- Unit 2- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write about their own experiences.
- Unit 3- Evidence and Inference: Students connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they have read.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch™ Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. To view and print included documents, self-learners and teachers click the course name in My Learning Center; tutors and parents click the Programs link in My Learning Center and then click the Book Punch title.

Reading Check – unit 1

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

Mrs. Leitstein becomes Katie's pen pal when Katie moves to Texas. Write a paragraph about their correspondence and the problems Katie shares with Mrs. Leitstein.

1. What does Mrs. Leitstein give Katie as a going-away present and what does Katie use it for?
2. Katie tells Mrs. Leitstein that she is angry with Mr. Keyes. Why is she upset?
3. Katie tells Mrs. Leitstein that Sam wants to adopt her. Why is this a problem?
4. Katie tells Mrs. Leitstein that she is needed in Texas and will not visit New York. Why is she needed in Texas?

Text-to-Self – unit 2

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to what they have read in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

In the story, Katie really wants a best friend. She writes about some of the things she and her best friend will have in common and what they will do together. Think about your "ideal" best friend. Write a paragraph describing the "perfect" best friend for you.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the August 14th journal entry.)

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In the story, Katie writes about what life will be like for her when she grows up. Think about what you imagine your life will be like when you are grown. What do you wish to do when you are grown? Be detailed and descriptive.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the November 4th journal entry.)

Text-to-Self Topic 3

In the story, Katie has to learn to adjust to many changes. Little by little, she finds ways to come to terms with each change in her life. Think about a time when you had to learn to accept a situation. Think about the way you managed to adapt. Write a paragraph describing a situation you had to get used to.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

Evidence and Inference – unit 3

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph. Help students determine whether they have recognized (inferred) the ideas in the book from the details (evidence) given.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

It can be difficult to move from one place to another. At the beginning of the story, Katie moves from New York to Texas. Write a paragraph telling why Katie finds it hard to get used to Texas.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the August 28th journal entry.)

1. Why do Katie and her mother move to Texas?
2. What are Katie's feelings about the ranch? Why does she feel the way she does?
3. How does Katie feel about the weather in Texas?
4. What does Katie miss about New York?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

A person's feelings about others can change. When Katie's teacher pairs her up with a boy, Matthew, to help her with her schoolwork, Katie doesn't like it. Write a paragraph about what Matthew is like. Tell how Katie changes her mind about him.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the April 18th journal entry.)

1. Why does Katie's teacher pair her with Matthew for help with her schoolwork?
2. What does Matthew look like?
3. Describe what Matthew is most interested in and how he feels about it.
4. What is Matthew's secret plan? How does he intend to accomplish his plan?

Evidence and Inference Topic 3

Relationships may seem to change as conditions change. Katie believes that her relationship with her mother has changed since they moved to Texas. Write a paragraph describing the changes that Katie feels have occurred in her relationship with her mother.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

1. What kind of relationship did Katie and her mother have before they moved to Texas?
2. How does Katie feel her relationship with her mother is different from the way it was in New York?
3. What does Katie think caused her relationship with her mother to change?
4. What does Katie realize about her relationship with her mother?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch™ Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch™ Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch™ Series Manual. Thematic words from The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11 that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
grief	Deep sadness
healing	Making better
jealousy	Want of something

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11 include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
adjustment	Becoming used to
confused	Made uncertain
forgiveness	Stop feeling angry
lecture	Talk that teaches
nervous	Easily excited or upset
pitiful	Feeling bad
synagogue	Jewish place of worship

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets that are included contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch™ Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Katie is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe her to someone who doesn't know her. (What does Katie look like? What kind of personality does she have? What does she like to do?) Why did you choose this character?

Compare and contrast Katie with Matthew or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion – Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch™ Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

In the story, Sam Gold wants to adopt Katie. How does Katie feel about this? Write a paragraph describing Katie's feelings about being adopted by Sam. Include her reasons for and against being adopted.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

Additional Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheet in the Book Punch™ Series Manual. Using the context of The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts, Age 11, and the Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

In the story, Katie misses New York and Mrs. Leitstein. Think about a time you missed someone. Write a paragraph describing a person you have missed.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the September 4th entry.)

In the story, Katie longs to be back in New York City. Think about a place that you love to go to. Write a paragraph describing a place where you love to be. Be specific and detailed in your paragraph.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

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See the Book Punch™ Series Manual for printable worksheets.