UPPER ELEMENTARY

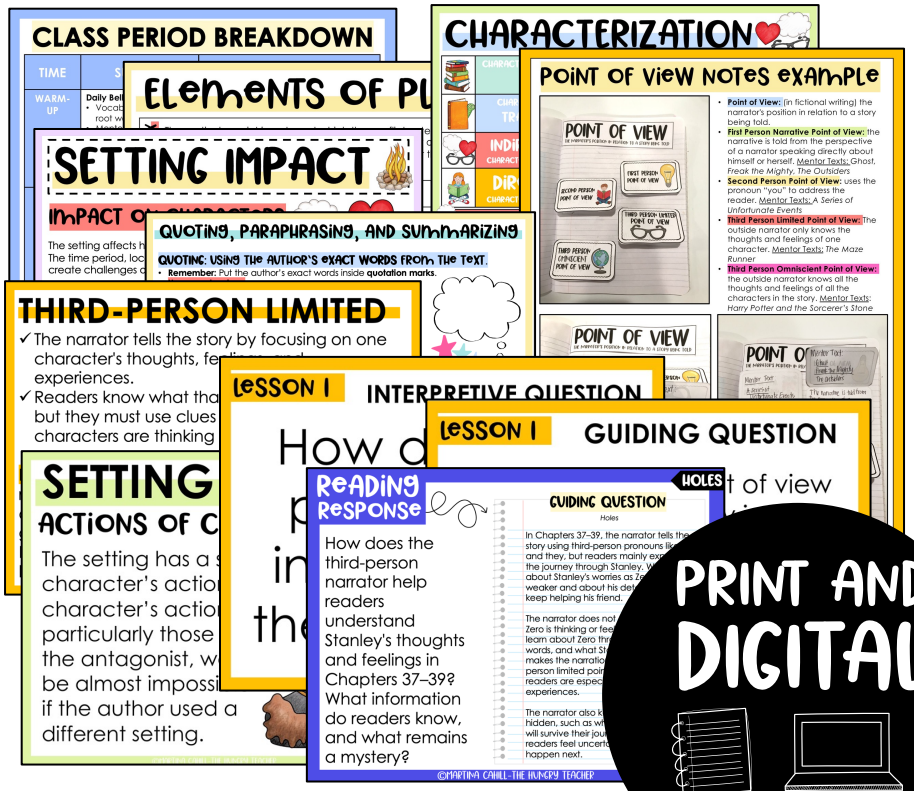
HOLES BY LOUIS SACHAR

A RIGOROUS, DISCUSSION-DRIVEN NOVEL STUDY THAT HELPS STUDENTS THINK DEEPLY, SPEAK CONFIDENTLY, AND WRITE POWERFULLY THROUGH GUIDED SOCRATIC SEMINARS









PRINT AND DIGITAL

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AN UPPER ELEMENTARY SOCRATIC SEMINAR NOVEL STUDY UNIT

Teach *Holes* in a way that gets students thinking, discussing, and analyzing—not just finishing the novel. This **23-lesson novel study for 4th–6th grade** uses structured Socratic Seminars, guiding questions, and reading responses to help students move beyond basic comprehension and analyze Stanley's character development, the novel's interconnected timelines, and Louis Sachar's unique storytelling.

- **23 step-by-step lesson plans with teaching slides:** Each lesson focuses on a specific literature skill, including characterization, theme, symbolism, flashbacks, and narrative structure, with direct instruction, modeling, and guided practice.
- **Guiding and interpretive discussion questions:** Scaffolded questions that move students from basic understanding to deeper analysis and discussion
- **Structured Socratic Seminar routines and supports:** Clear systems that help students participate, respond to each other, and build meaningful conversations
- **Student notebooks, response pages, and organizers:** Tools that help students track thinking, write responses, and prepare for discussion
- **Built-in writing, discussion, and revision cycle:** Students read, write, discuss, and revise so they strengthen both thinking and writing over time
- **Teacher answer keys, examples, and flexible pacing:** Support materials that reduce prep and make implementation easier in real classrooms
- **Final project + additional text and audio analysis:** Students apply their learning through comparing texts, analyzing the audio version, objective summary work, and a final project
- **Print and digital formats for flexible use:** Easy to use in 1:1, blended, or traditional classroom settings

HOLES SOCRATIC SEMINAR NOVEL STUDY UNIT

This *Holes* novel study helps students move beyond simply reading the text and into analyzing, discussing, and writing about it with clarity and purpose.

✨ Here's what they'll learn:

- **Point of View and Perspective:** Analyze how Louis Sachar uses third-person narration to shape readers' understanding of Stanley, Camp Green Lake, and the events of the novel.
- **Author's Purpose and Craft:** Examine how Sachar uses flashbacks, foreshadowing, and interconnected storylines to reveal information and develop meaning.
- **Central Idea and Theme:** Explore how friendship, justice, perseverance, and fate develop through Stanley's experiences and the connections between past and present.
- **Character Traits and Characterization:** Analyze how Stanley, Zero, and other characters develop through their actions, choices, relationships, and responses to challenges.
- **Conflict, Plot, and Inferences:** Examine how conflicts shape characters, drive the plot, and connect events across the novel's three timelines.
- **Figurative Language, Mood, Tone, and Symbolism:** Analyze how Sachar uses language, setting, and symbols like the holes and God's Thumb to create meaning and influence readers.
- **Narrative Structure and Connections Across Timelines:** Explore how flashbacks, parallel storylines, and events from different generations come together to reveal the larger story.
- **Comparing Texts and Media:** Apply literary analysis by comparing the novel to its film adaptation, examining related texts, and writing objective summaries.

📚 Why this works:

Instead of relying on worksheets or basic comprehension questions, this unit uses a consistent structure—read → write → discuss → revise—to help students think more deeply and communicate their ideas clearly. Through Socratic Seminars, students learn how to listen, respond, and build on each other's thinking while strengthening their writing.

💡 Perfect for:

- Teachers tired of surface-level novel discussions
- Students who struggle to explain their thinking
- Classrooms that need more structure for meaningful discussion
- Teachers who want deeper analysis without creating everything from scratch

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TEACHERS LIKE YOU HAVE SAID...



"Students are thrilled to be talking about the book instead of doing a ton of comprehension questions. My students' writing improved because **they are hyper-focused on answering the discussion question and are actually using textual evidence to answer, because instead of 5-10 questions, they have one**. The vocabulary and extra comprehension questions are very useful as well." –Krista L.



"OBSESSED!!!! I am teaching summer school and I'm normally a math teacher but I am also teaching them ELA. **I found this and I honestly wish I taught ELA so I could buy the rest of the novel studies and do them! This is the way you should teach ELA.** Easily able to teach all standards through reading notebook, vocabulary, discussion. **Lesson plans are soooo thorough. I highly suggest all ELA teachers look into your resources!"** -Amy S.



"Fantastic resource! The activities are great and engaging for students. **We're using this for our novel study and it's been incredible!"** – Place for Learning



"Very complete and thorough resource with student approval! Aligned with standards and my students enjoyed the questions and discussion. Includes complete lesson plans that can easily be changed or differentiated in many ways for your students. **My students look forward to class each day to find out what the question and discussion will be for the day. Highly recommend!"** –Mrs. Brumfield



"This was a great resource. There was no planning, and it was it was aligned with the standards using higher-order thinking questions**. I love all of Martina Cahill's novel studies." -**Nicole D.

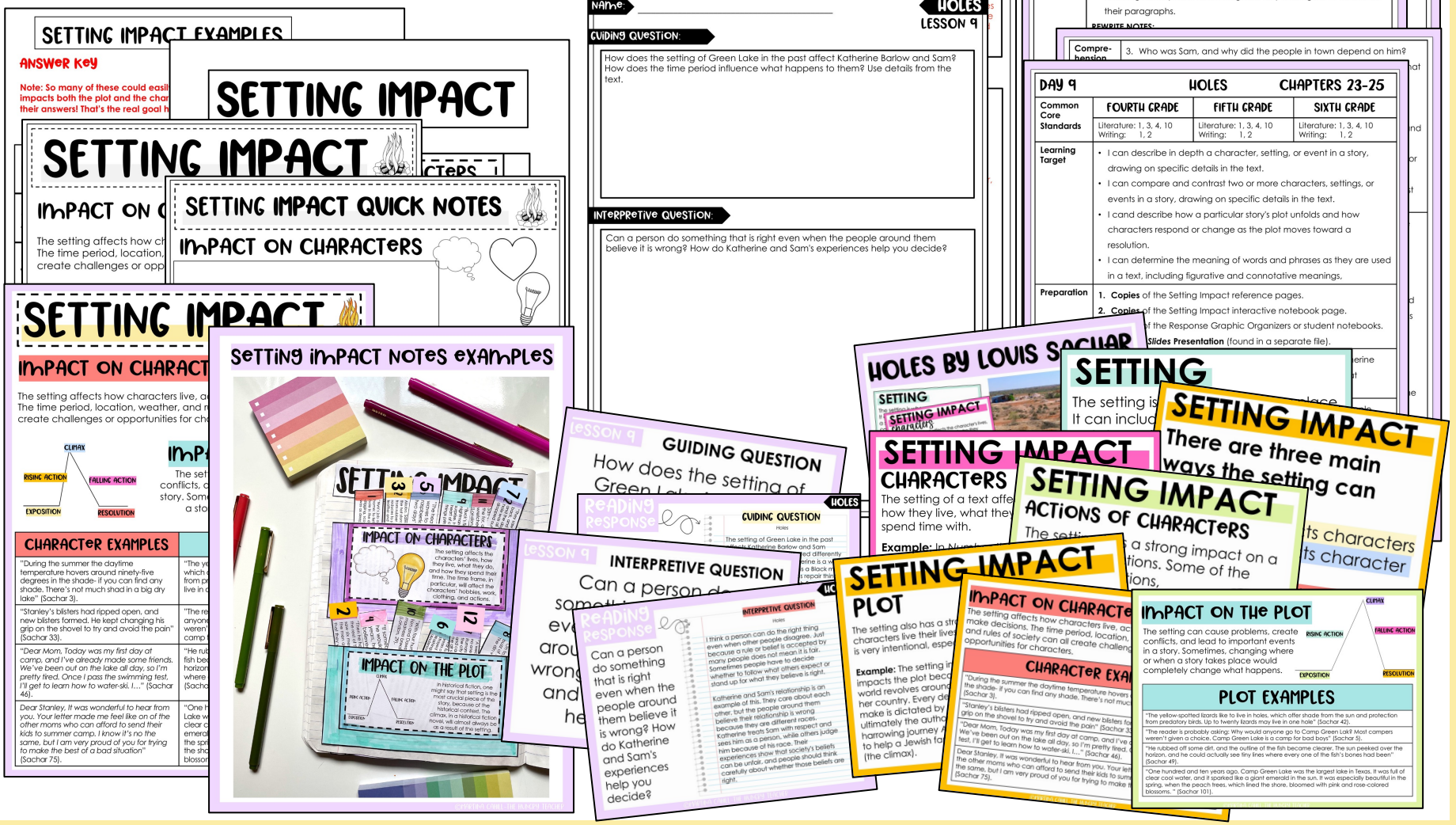


"After using one of your other Novel Study Units I purchased this one. Amazing as always and kept the middle schoolers engaged with great resources." -Karie C.

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A CLEAR ROUTINE THAT BUILDS THINKING, DISCUSSION, AND WRITING

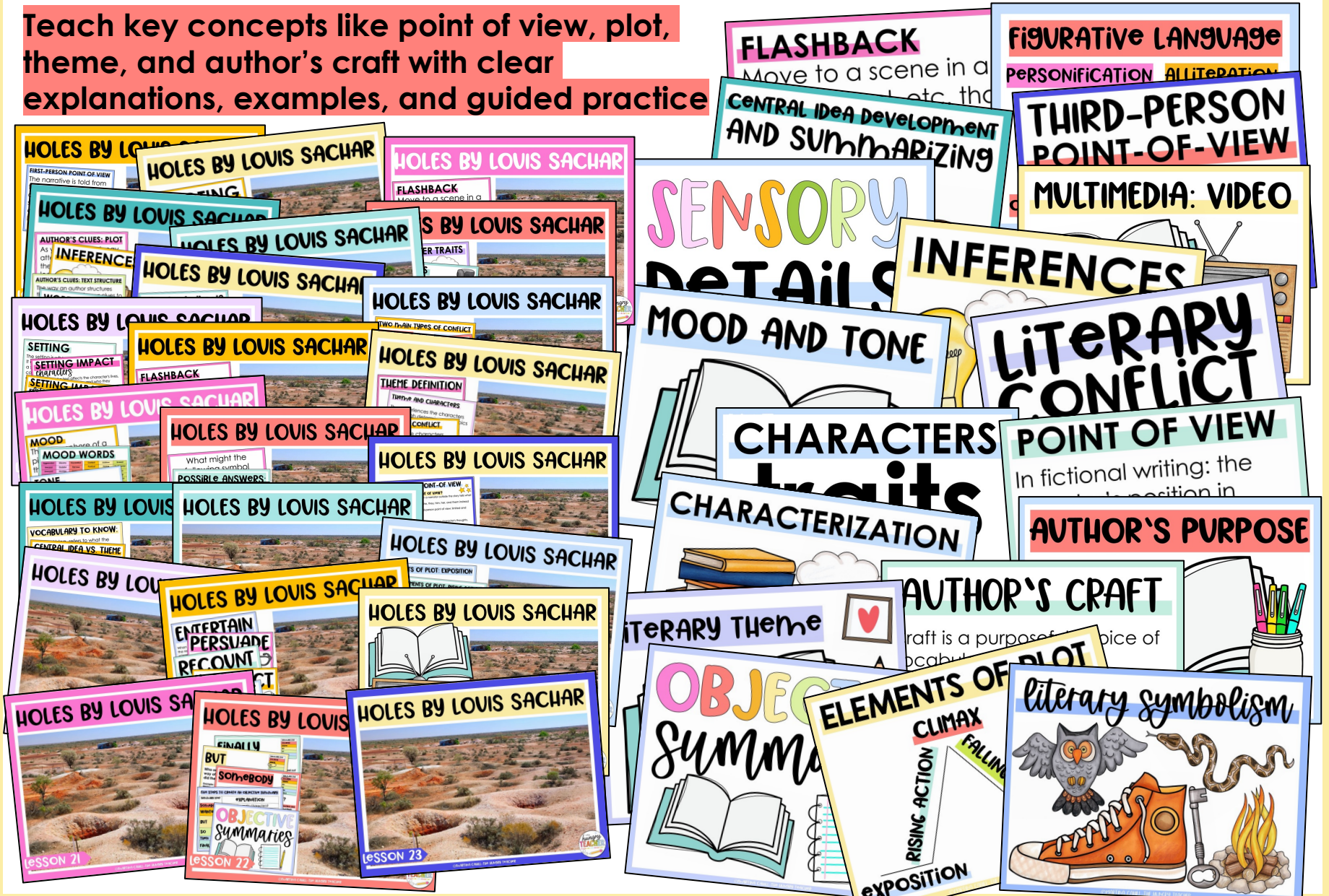
- ✓ **Each lesson follows a structured cycle:** Read → Write → Discuss → Revise
- ✓ Students don't just answer.
- ✓ They think, talk, and improve their ideas over time.



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READY-TO-TEACH SLIDES FOR EVERY LESSON

Teach key concepts like point of view, plot, theme, and author's craft with clear explanations, examples, and guided practice



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STRUCTURED SOCRATIC SEMINARS THAT ACTUALLY WORK

Students respond to guiding and interpretive questions, then build on each other's ideas in meaningful, text-based discussions.

LESSON 1 **GUIDING QUESTION**

What point of view does Louis Sachar

LESSON 1 **INTERPRETIVE QUESTION**

Why do you think Louis

LESSON 2 **GUIDING QUESTION**

LESSON 2 **INTERPRETIVE QUESTION**

LESSON 3 **GUIDING QUESTION**

LESSON 3 **INTERPRETIVE QUESTION**

Why do you think Sachar interrupts Stanley's first day of digging to tell the story of Elya Yelnats and Madame Zeroni? How does this flashback contribute to the larger story?

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LESSON 4 **GUIDING QUESTION**

READING RESPONSE

HOLES

What are

GUIDING QUESTION

Holes

Stanley is kind, determined, and loyal. Even though Camp Green Lake is unfair, he does

LESSON 4 **INTERPRETIVE QUESTION**

What character traits do

READING RESPONSE

HOLES

What character traits do you think are necessary to survive your time at Camp Green Lake? Do you think Stanley has these traits?

INTERPRETIVE QUESTION

Holes

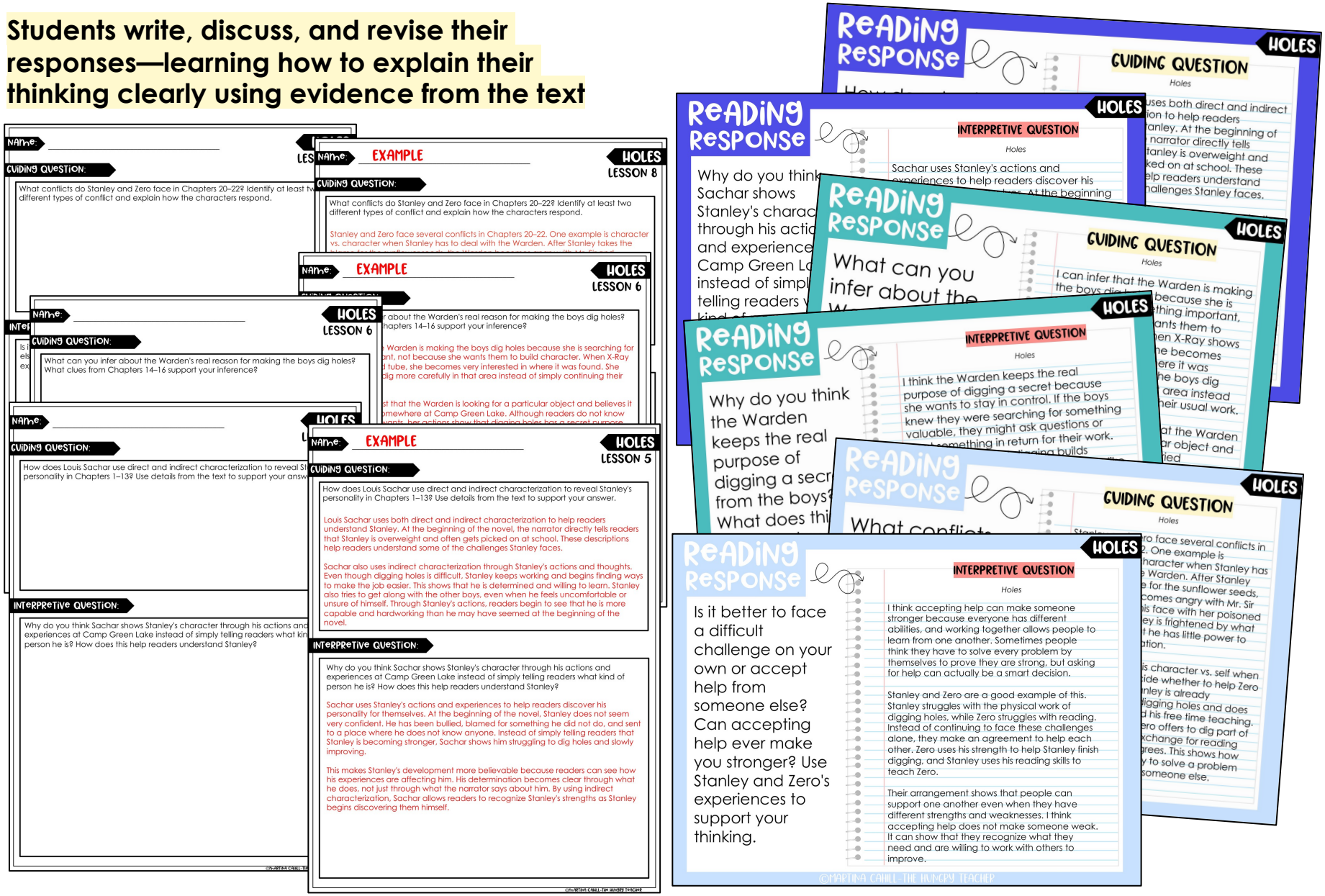
I think someone would need to be resilient, brave, and determined to survive Camp Green Lake. The campers have to work in the hot sun every day while dealing with unfair rules and difficult people. At first, Stanley isn't very confident, but as the story goes on, he becomes more resilient and brave. He keeps digging even when he is exhausted, stands up for Zero, and refuses to leave him behind. By the end of the novel, Stanley has developed the character traits he needs to survive Camp Green Lake.

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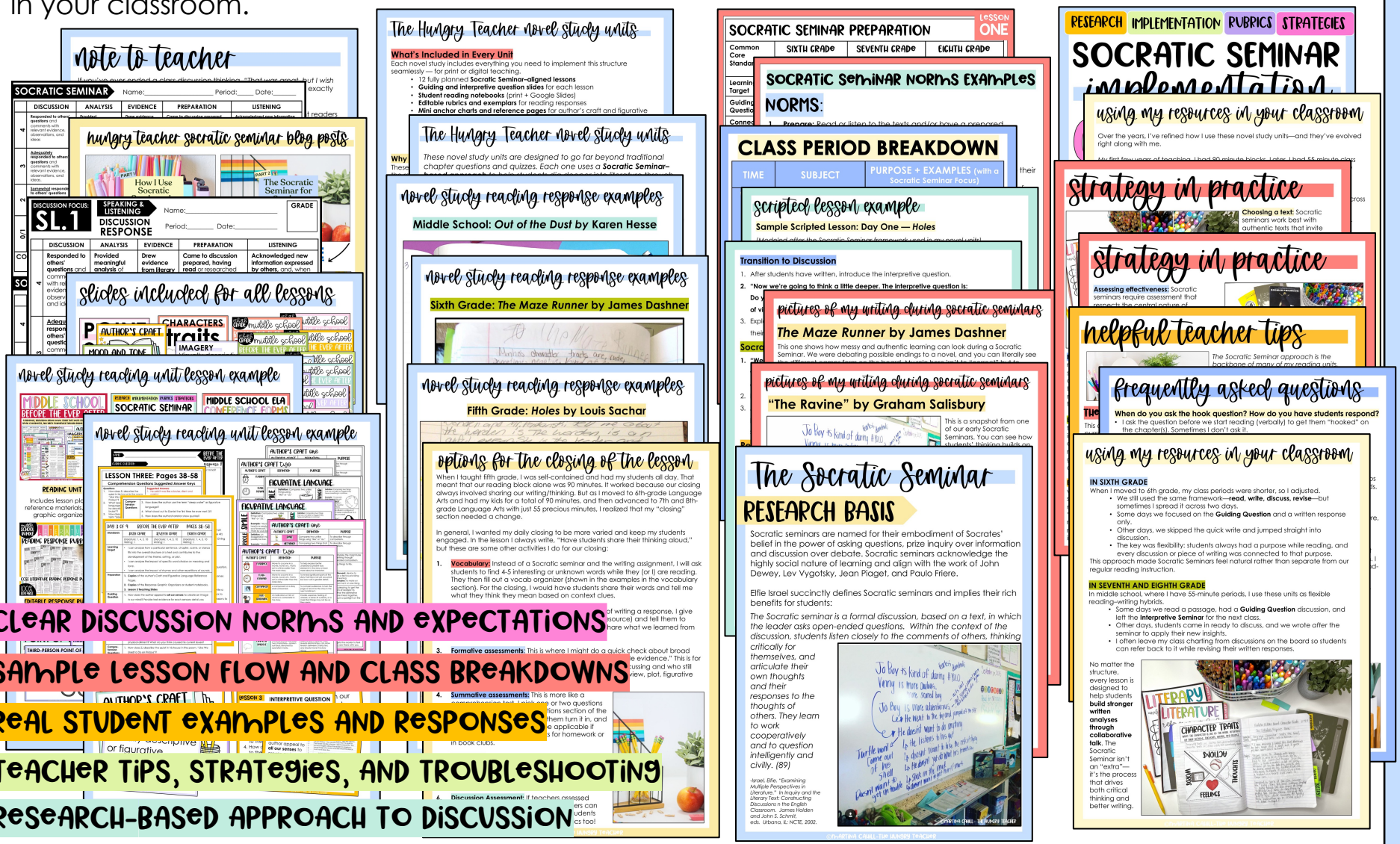
TURN DISCUSSION INTO STRONGER WRITING

Students write, discuss, and revise their responses—learning how to explain their thinking clearly using evidence from the text



SOCRATIC SEMINAR IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE INCLUDED

Not sure how to run a Socratic Seminar? This shows you exactly how. Step-by-step guidance, examples, and ready-to-use tools help you confidently implement structured, student-led discussions in your classroom.



CLEAR DISCUSSION NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

SAMPLE LESSON FLOW AND CLASS BREAKDOWNS

REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES AND RESPONSES

TEACHER TIPS, STRATEGIES, AND TROUBLESHOOTING

RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH TO DISCUSSION

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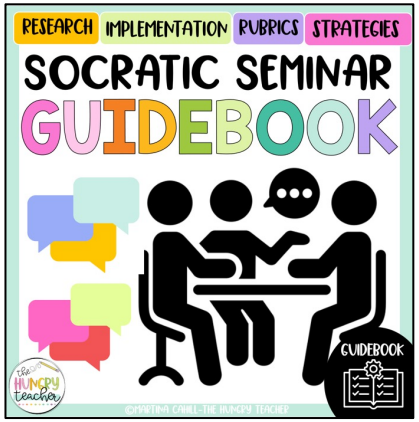
EVERYTHING YOU NEED—NO EXTRA PREP

INCLUDES STUDENT NOTEBOOKS, DISCUSSION GUIDES, EXAMPLE RESPONSES, AND FLEXIBLE PACING TOOLS TO SUPPORT EVERY LESSON



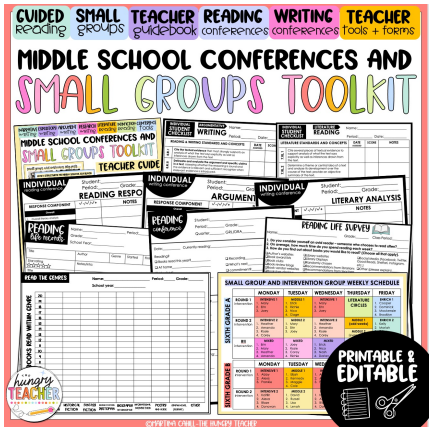
READING UNIT

Includes lesson plans, reference materials, and graphic organizers.



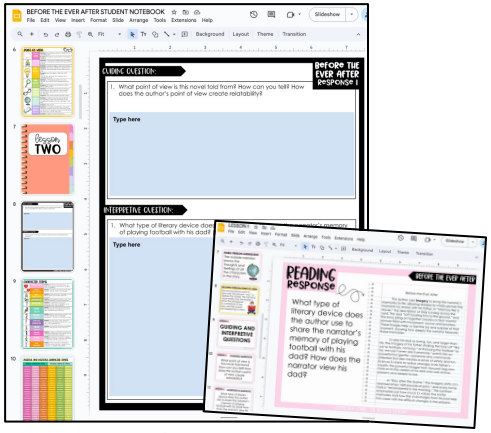
SOCRATIC SEMINAR GUIDE

Breaks down the Socratic Seminar and how it's different than typical novel studies



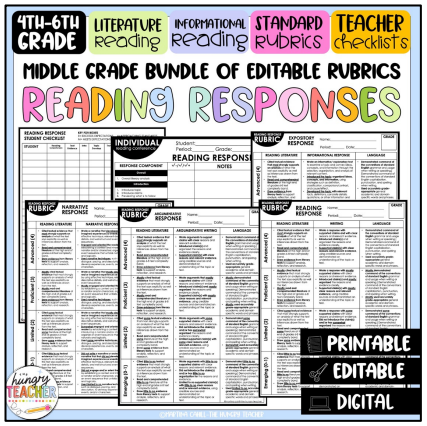
ANECDOTAL NOTES

Anecdotal notes for individual student conferences and small groups.



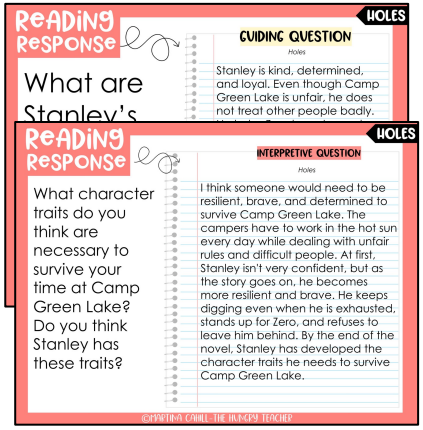
DIGITAL FILES

Digital student response notebooks with guiding and interpretive questions, literature lessons, and teacher Google Slides presentations.



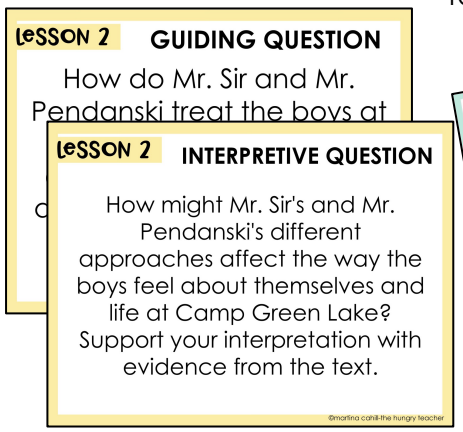
EDITABLE RESPONSE RUBRICS

Editable, digital, and differentiated literature reading response rubrics.



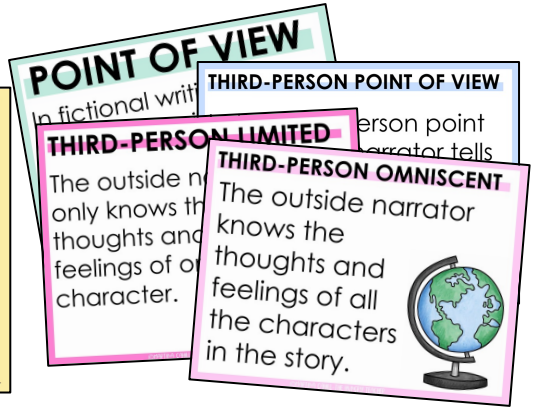
READING RESPONSE EXAMPLES

Examples of written reading responses to show students as exemplars and inspiration.



QUESTION DISPLAY SLIDES

Slides with interpretive and guiding questions to eliminate, "What was the question again?"



CONCEPT TEACHING SLIDES

Slides to teach any literary or literature concepts needed to implement the unit's content.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO TEACH—NO PLANNING REQUIRED

24 structured lessons with built-in pacing, materials, and support so you can focus on teaching, not creating

BUILT-IN MATERIALS AND ORGANIZERS

CLEAR PACING AND PROGRESSION

STANDARDS-ALIGNED LESSONS

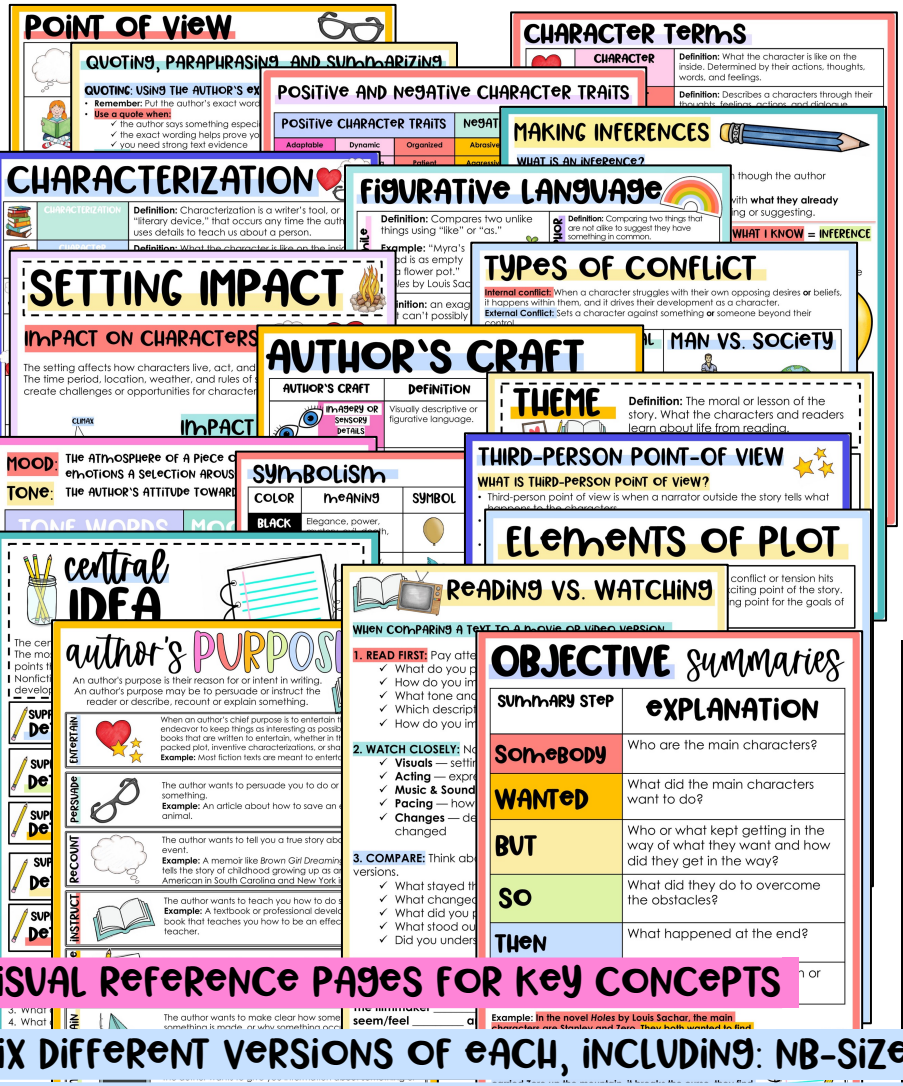
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Page	Lesson	Text Pages	Lesson Title and Concept
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4	N/A		Links to **Digital Files**/Versions of Resources
6	N/A		Fourth-Sixth Grade Standard Alignment
10	PRE		Bonus: *Holes* Classroom Decorations
12	PRE		Socratic Seminar Norms
17	1	Chapters 1-3	*Holes* Day 1: **Point of View**
39	2	Chapters 4-6	*Holes* Day 2: **Quoting and Citing Accurately**
49	3	Chapter 7	*Holes* Day 3: **Flashback and Flashforward**
57	4	Chapters 8-10	*Holes* Day 4: **Character Traits**
77	5	Chapters 11-13	*Holes* Day 5: **Characterization**
94	6	Chapters 14-16	*Holes* Day 6: **Inferences**
110	7	Chapters 17-19	*Holes* Day 7: **Figurative Language**
129	8	Chapters 20-22	*Holes* Day 8: **Literary Conflict**
144	9	Chapters 23-25	*Holes* Day 9: **Setting Impact**
160	10	Chapters 26-28	*Holes* Day 10: **Author's Craft**
174	11	Chapters 29-30	*Holes* Day 11: **Theme**
189	12	Chapters 31-33	*Holes* Day 12: **Mood and Tone**
203	13	Chapters 34-36	*Holes* Day 13: **Symbolism**
217	14	Chapters 37-39	*Holes* Day 14: **Third Person Point of View**
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289	20	All	*Holes* Day 20: **Movie**
304	21	All	*Holes* Day 21: **Comparing Texts**
316	22	All	*Holes* Day 22: **Objective Summaries**
329	23	All	*Holes* Final Project

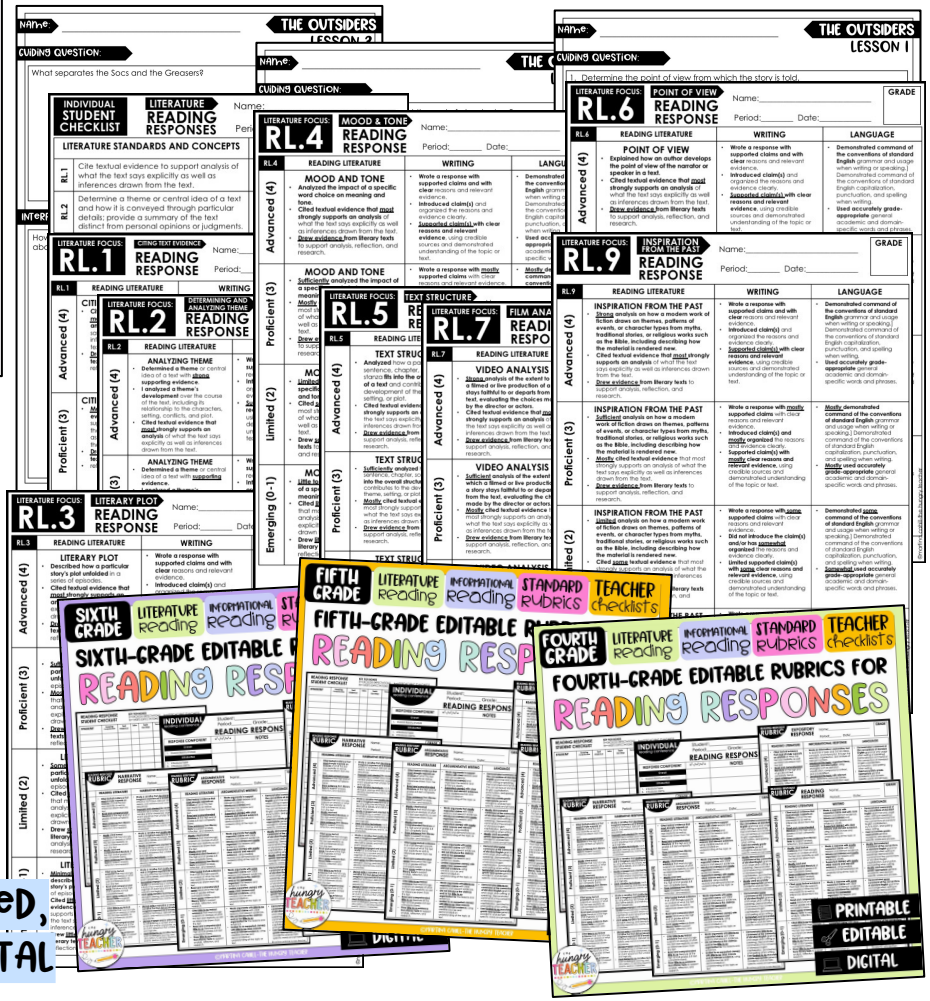
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Built to support every student—from thinking to writing

Students use structured reference pages, guided responses, and clear rubrics to build understanding, participate in discussions, and improve their writing over time



Visual reference pages for key concepts



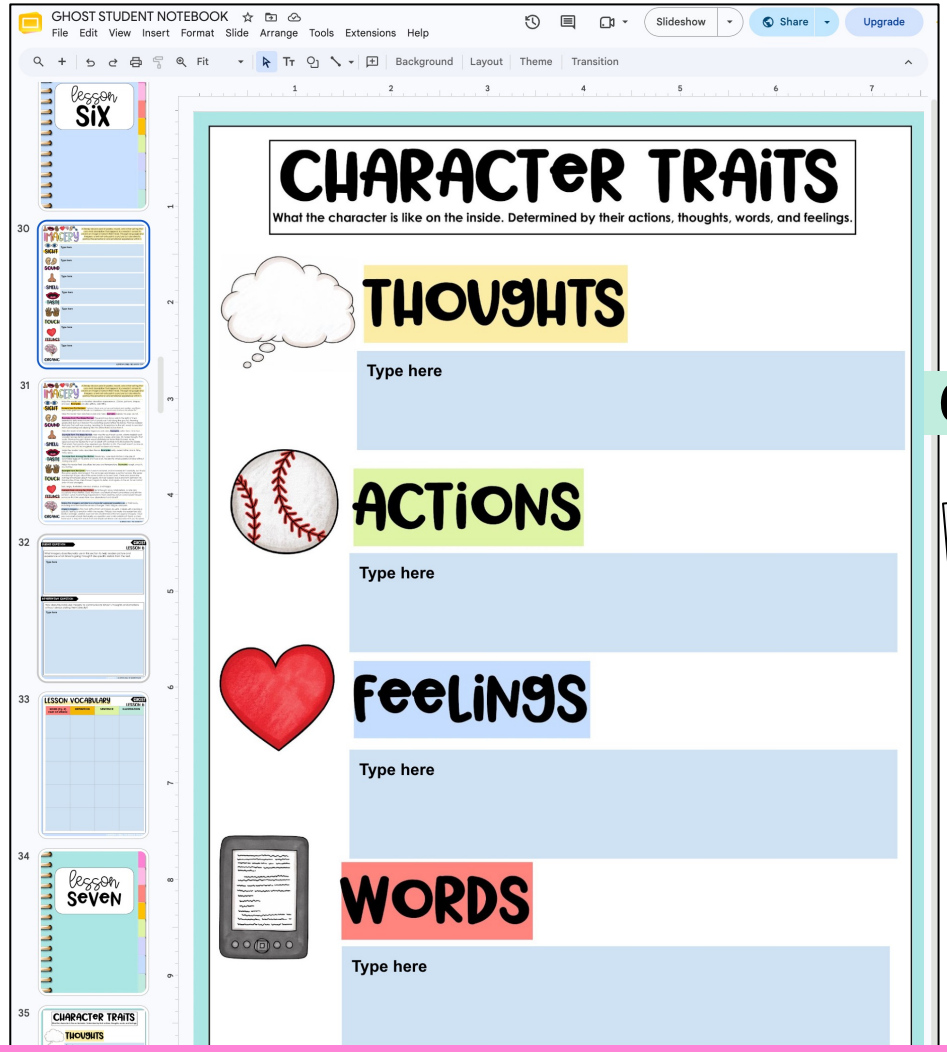
Six different versions of each, including: NB-sized, full-sized, full color, black and white, and digital

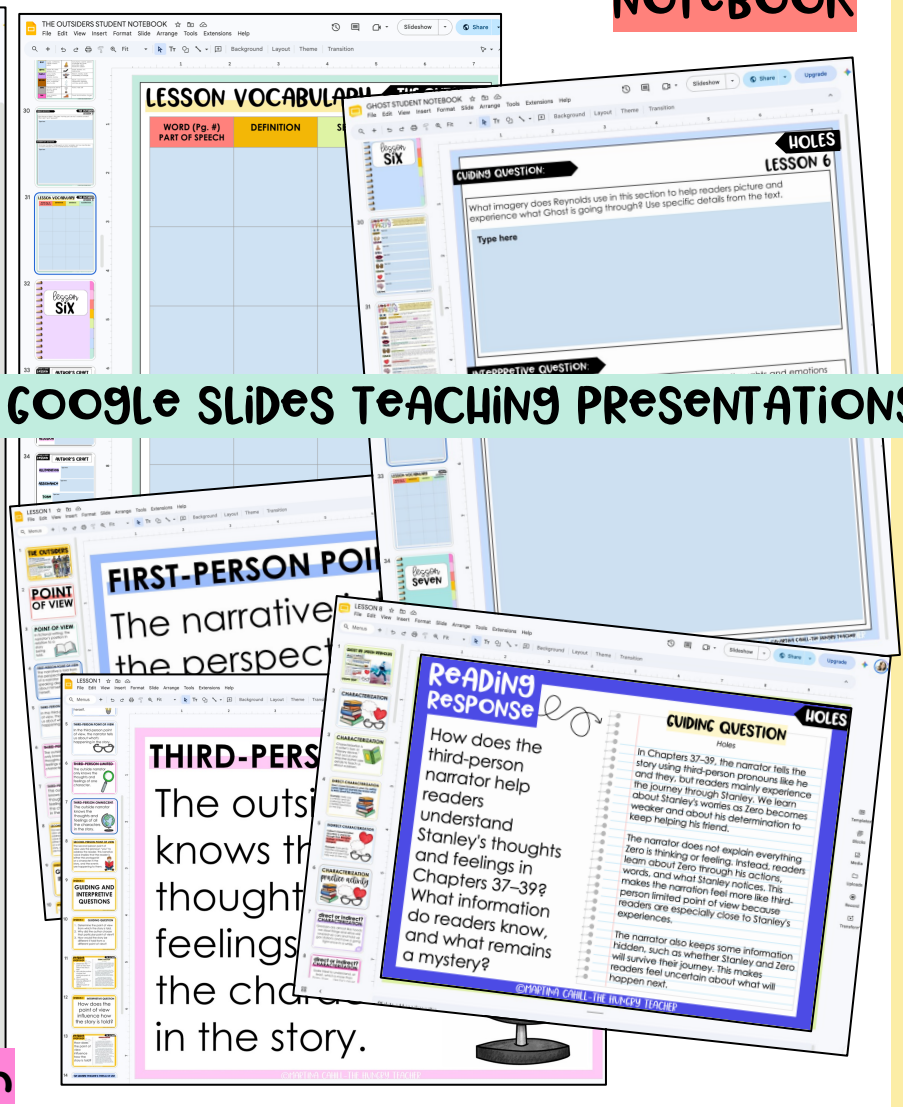
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FLEXIBLE FOR ANY CLASSROOM SETUP

Use this unit in print, digital, or blended settings with ready-to-use slides, student interactive notebooks, and response notebooks.

DIGITAL STUDENT NOTEBOOK





GOOGLE SLIDES TEACHING PRESENTATIONS

EASY TO ASSIGN AND USE IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM

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- BLOGGERS: FEEL FREE TO BLOG ABOUT USING MY PRODUCTS IN YOUR CLASSROOM OR USE THE COVER PAGE TO A RESOURCE AS LONG AS YOU CREDIT ME AND PROVIDE A LINK TO THE ITEM AT THE ORIGINAL SOURCE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PROTECTING MY WORK

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!



FOR TEACHING IDEAS, FREEBIES, AND OTHER FUN STUFF CHECK OUT MY BLOG, INSTAGRAM FACEBOOK PAGE, STORE AND PINTEREST

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