

The Third Mushroom

Written by Jennifer L. Holm

Yearling

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LESSON FOCUS

How thinking about characters changes throughout a story

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Authors use their writing talent to create complex characters; teaching students how to analyze characters within the story allows them to understand fiction at a deeper level. For students to analyze a character they will need multiple tools in their toolbox. The My Character Notes Analysis chart will allow students to track characters throughout a novel or even from an excerpt and connect the purpose for the author including the information. Additionally, it will focus on what students think of the characters and how their thoughts adjust throughout the story.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will analyze characters' thoughts, quotes, and actions.
2. Students will adjust their thinking based on additional information revealed in the plot.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *The Third Mushroom* by Jennifer Holm
2. My Character Notes Analysis Chart

Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



SUMMARY

Ellie's grandpa Melvin is a world-renowned scientist . . . in the body of a fourteen-year-old boy. His feet stink, and he eats everything in the refrigerator — and Ellie is so happy to have him around. Grandpa may not exactly fit in at middle school, but he certainly keeps things interesting. When he and Ellie team up for the county science fair, no one realizes just how groundbreaking their experiment will be.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce *The Third Mushroom*. Students will need additional connections to book one, *The Fourteenth Goldfish*.
- Step 2:** Read chapter 1 of *The Third Mushroom* aloud as students follow along.
- Step 3:** Model how to add information into the My Character Notes Analysis Chart.
- Step 4:** Read chapter 2 aloud and continue adding information into the My Character Notes Analysis Chart.
- Step 5:** Have students determine if their thinking has changed.

MY CHARACTER NOTES ANALYSIS CHART

Quote From Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Am thinking.... <input type="checkbox"/> The author wants me to know....	Tracking My Thinking
The Mushroom War - Chapter 1 “Eventually, my parents gave up and I won the Mushroom War.” p 3	I think the author is showing Ellie is strong willed and doesn’t give up on things easily.	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts my Thinking
Criminal - Chapter 2 “While the lawyers are interesting, my heart’s been with criminals lately. Because I know just how they feel. Middle School is just like jail...” p 5		<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts my Thinking
“Most of all, I miss talking to him. He’s bossy and opinionated and thinks he’s smarter than everyone else because he has two PhDs.” p 7		<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts my Thinking
		<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts my Thinking
		<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed Thinking <input type="checkbox"/> Adjusts my Thinking