

Clowes Sheet

February 19, 2013

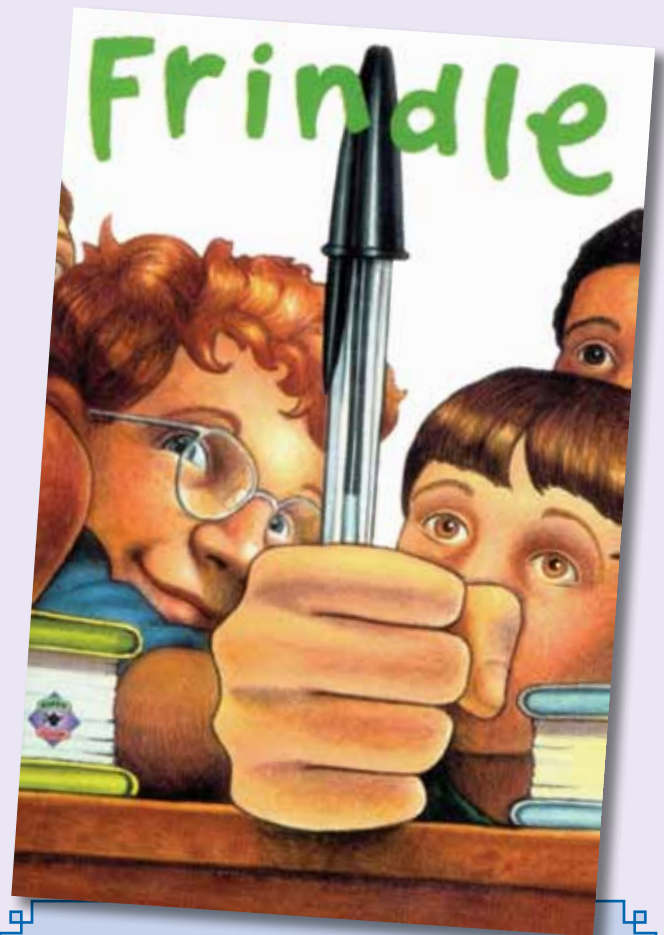
Frindle

Where Do Words Come From?

Nicholas Allen is considered the “idea man” of Lincoln Elementary School who invents ways to get his classmates out of doing class work. Last year in fourth grade, Nick never missed an opportunity to come up with schemes to distract teachers from giving homework. This year, all the kids in his fifth grade class are confident Nick can once again come up with something good to reduce the amount of work to be done in class and at home.

That is, until Nick and his classmates meet Mrs. Granger, a fifth grade language arts teacher who has a **reputation** for being serious and **scrupulous**. Nick thinks he'll come up with the perfect question for Mrs. Granger to keep her talking past the ring of the bell. He asks, “Where do words come from?” Mrs. Granger doesn't fall for Nick's trick. In fact, she turns the question around and asks Nick to research his own question, and write a report and present his findings to the class as additional homework.

This is the beginning of Nick's experiment with words, discovering the magnificence of the dictionary, word origins, and of spoken words and how they are used. It is also the beginning of the power struggle between Mrs. Granger and Nick in the use of the word *Frindle*. Join us in the humorous and life-changing play of a boy who learns a true life lesson and his teacher who makes a difference in the lives of her students. Clowes Hall proudly presents the story production of *Frindle*.



reputation -

your worth or character; how others see you

scrupulous -

having strict beliefs about what is right and proper

Meet the Characters of *Frindle*

MAIN CHARACTERS

Nicholas Allen the school's creative thinker and the story's main character
Mrs. Granger a famously strict fifth grade language arts teacher
Howie, Janet & Chris . . . Nick's classmates

SECONDARY CHARACTERS

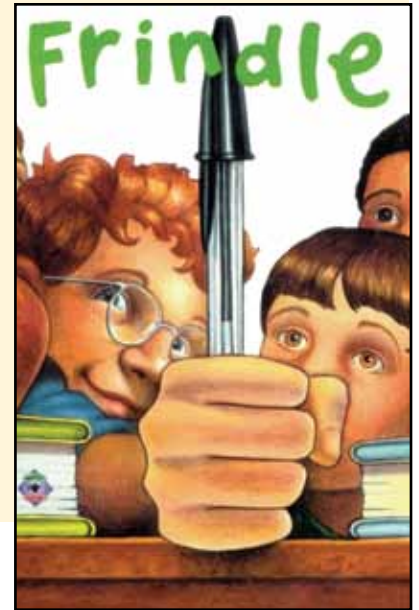
Mrs. Chatham principal of Lincoln Elementary School
Mr. Freed school custodian
Judy Morgan reporter for the Westfield Gazette newspaper
Bud Lawrence businessman and "Frindle" merchandiser
Nick's Mom
Nick's Dad
Woman at Penny Pantry Store
TV Reporter for the Today Show
Darlene Mrs. Granger's daughter

These character roles will appear in the performance of *Frindle*. Even though there are many characters, there will only be six actors performing on the Clowes stage for this performance. Sometimes in a play there are not enough actors or sometimes a character only appears one time in a performance, so some actors have to play more than one character. This is called **doubling**. **Main characters** are usually played by one actor. Several **secondary characters** can be played by one actor. When you are in the audience, the actors who are doubling want you to know when they are a different character on stage. To help you, the actors may change clothes or change the tone or pitch in their voices or change how they move and act with their bodies. Watch and listen when you come to see the performance of *Frindle* for the actors who make character changes and double in their roles. *Knowing the characters and how actors double before seeing the performance will make you a much smarter audience!*



Will the Performance be like the Book?

The performance you will see is **adapted** from the book, *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. That means the play will follow the story line of the book, but some changes will be made for theatrical reasons. Think about what you imagine when you read the book *Frindle*. That is what the **playwright** (the person who writes the script for a play) has to imagine when creating the exciting performance you will see. Then the playwright writes down thoughts and words for the **director, designers** and **actors** to understand. So, don't expect everything in the book to be in the performance. Some parts may be left out and some parts may be exaggerated. Some parts may be completely new and unique. This can be done without making the overall story different. Now, can you predict or guess what you might see at the performance of *Frindle*? Share your predictions with a classmate or family member.



To prepare for the performance, you could also read some other books by Andrew Clements, including:



The Report Card



Room One



No Talking



Lunch Money



Things Hoped For



The Landry News

About the Author: Andrew Clements







Andrew Clements is the author of several picture books, including *Big Al* and *Bill and the Bad Teacher*. He taught in public schools near Chicago, Illinois for seven years before moving east to begin a career in publishing. The idea for *Frindle* grew out of a talk he gave about writing to a group of second graders. He says this about the book: “*Frindle* is...about discovering

the true nature of words, language, thought, community and learning. It's also about great teaching and great teachers, and about the life that surges through corridors and classrooms every school day.” Mr. Clements lives in Westborough, Massachusetts with his family. His official website is <http://www.andrewclements.com/>.

Lines to Listen For...and Interpret...and Try for Yourself

Each character has lines to speak called **dialogue**. Read and discuss the following lines from the script of *Frindle*. Try the following activities:

-  Listen for these lines from three separate **cuttings** – a short portion of lines from the script – when attending the play on February 19 at Clowes Memorial Hall.
-  Read the lines carefully. Discuss the meaning of the lines and what is going on around the characters. Discuss what the characters may be doing while speaking these lines. Discuss how the lines may be delivered to the audience through expression in voice.
-  Try saying the lines aloud with expression, feeling and gestures. Practice the lines in different ways to discover how each line can effectively be shared with an audience.
-  Practice delivering the lines with a classmate or friend, then present to others.

Cutting 1:

MRS. GRANGER

Now we only have about ten minutes left and I want to explain your homework assignment for tomorrow – Oh, I see someone has a question. Young man, what is your name?

NICK

Nicholas Allen.

MRS. GRANGER

Mr. Allen, what is your question?

NICK

Mrs. Granger, you have so many dictionaries in this room, and that huge one especially—where did all those words come from? Did they just get copied from other dictionaries? It sure is a big book.

MRS. GRANGER

Why Nicholas, what an interesting question. I could talk about that question for hours.

Cutting 2:

NICK

Excuse me.

WOMAN AT COUNTER

And what can I get you young man?

NICK

Could I have a frindle please?

WOMAN AT COUNTER

A what?

NICK

A frindle.

WOMAN AT COUNTER

How are you spelling that?

NICK

F-r-i-n-d-l-e.

WOMAN AT COUNTER

Frindle...We don't have one of those.

Cutting 3:

REPORTER

Cutting 3: **REPORTER**
So tell me Nick, why did you make up this new word Frindle?

NICK

NICK
Well, my teacher Mrs. Granger said that all the words in the dictionary were made up by people, and that they mean what they mean because we say or do. So I thought it would be fun to just make up a new word and see if it was true.

REPORTER

Some would call that just being a free thinker.

NICK

A maverick...

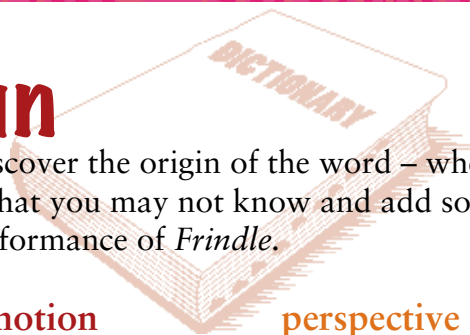


Experimenting with Writing Dialogue

Now try for yourself writing dialogue between two characters from the play *Frindle*. Predict what these characters would say to one another based on the book Frindle. Then, write down your created dialogue. You can also note gestures (movements) the characters would make. Use the “paper” below, then share with your teacher, parent or classmates.

Dictionary Fun

Words can come alive when you discover the origin of the word – where a word comes from. Choose 5 words from the word bank below that you may not know and add some new words to your vocabulary. All of the words are used in the performance of *Frindle*.



superintendent

established

celebrity

villain

stubborn

leisure

devious

concentration

complex

etymological

commotion

detention

disruption

quiz

oath

overreaction

vandalism

disrespectful

brilliant

forbid

perspective

appointment

trademark

preliminary

episode

invent

manufacture

media

perseverance

remarkable

arbitrary

graduation

coinage

endure

history

instructions

definition

maverick

scholarship

Your Turn – Create Your Own New, Original Word!

If Nicholas Allen can do it, you can do it! Think of an original word that can be used in place of another word or create one that is new and different. See if you can encourage others to use your new word!!

New Word _____

Created By _____

Definition _____

Think About the Themes in *Frindle*

After watching *Frindle* discuss or write about what Nick and his classmates learned regarding...

👉 friendship

👉 courage

👉 perseverance

👉 loyalty

👉 standing up for a cause

👉 creative thinking

Also, explain the ways in which Nick and his classmates understanding of these themes are similar to or different from your own ideas.

Who Works To Make a Performance Happen?

Here are a few of the key people who worked very hard to bring this performance to you. Perhaps these are jobs that might interest you.

Playwright	I write the words for a play or adaptation.
Director	I make decisions about how a play will look and sound on stage.
Designer	I create sets, props and costumes for actors.
Actor	I create a character by speaking on stage for the audience.
Stage Manager	I make sure lighting and sound works, and that props, sets and costumes are in the correct place.
Theatre Manager	I make the arrangements for you and your teacher to attend a musical or play at Clowes Hall.

These people have been creating, deciding, organizing, and practicing so you can enjoy the performance of *Frindle* at Clowes Memorial Hall on February 19, 2013.



Taking a Closer Look at the Director, William Massolia, and the Griffin Theatre Company









Established in 1988 by William Massolia, the Griffin Theatre Company is a non-profit theatre company committed to performing affordable and imaginative live performances of original works and adaptations of stories. They select award-winning stories based on popular children's literature and encourage students, like yourselves, to read the work before seeing the play. The Griffin Theatre Company seeks to educate as well as entertain. Mr. Massolia's goal is to remind audiences that imagination is not an escape from reality; it is the creator of possibility.

Now You've Seen the Performance of *Frindle*...

After seeing the play *Frindle* or coming to see any play, dance or musical performance, it's a great idea to discuss what you've seen and heard. Everyone has an opinion about a performance, and your opinion is IMPORTANT, too! Discuss with your class, your teacher or your parents how you felt about the following parts of the performance:



-  What was your favorite **scene** of the play? Why?
-  Did the **costumes** worn by the **characters** make sense in the play?
-  How was the set arranged? What props were used? Were the **set** (background) and **props** believable or work well with the play?
-  How did the **lights** and **sound effects** make the play better? Would you make any additions or changes to the way the lights worked or the sound worked?
-  Did the **actors** chosen for the parts do a good job in their roles?
-  Did the **playwright** write the **script** well? Was it similar to the book? Was it different? If so, how was it different?

You may have a different opinion from someone else about the performance, and that's fine. Every critic has an opinion, and good critics give reasons for their opinion. **Here's what every critic must answer about a performance... Would you recommend this performance to your friends?** If you liked the performance *Frindle*, tell others!

*Thank you for coming to see a performance at Clowes Memorial Hall.
We hope you'll come back with your parents to see another wonderful performance!
Check out our website at www.cloweshall.org for upcoming events!*



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Thank You for your generous contributions and support!



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