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San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

**Thursday, May 7**

1:00pm

**The Great American Read, Part 5 -**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

THE GREAT AMERICAN READ is an eight-part series that explores and celebrates the power of reading, told through the prism of America’s 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey). It investigates how and why writers create their fictional worlds, how we as readers are affected by these stories, and what these 100 different books have to say about our diverse nation and our shared human experience.

The series was the centerpiece of an ambitious multi-platform digital, educational and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books

Learn why literature's most notorious villains began behaving badly. Many weren't born evil, but became that way when faced with some of the same choices we make every day. See what these villains can teach us about our own dark impulses.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

**Question Box 1**

- What is this program “saying”? Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support your analysis.
- Prove at least two quotes of evidence that support the main claims or reasons.
- What novel presented in this episode appeals to you the most? Why?
- Choose 2-3 unfamiliar words for the program and define them.
- If you could choose a different title for this episode, what title would you choose? Provide supporting evidence for this choice.
- What villains and monsters were discussed in this episode?
- Describe the attributes of a villain or monster in one of the books discussed.

**Question Box 2**

- How do novels help us to understand why people behave badly?
- Why are villains and monsters fascinating characters in the books that captivate us?
- When learning about villains and monsters can you find justification for their behavior?
- What is the underlying theme of this episode?
- Is there a lesson to learn from the behavior of the villain or monster? How about from others around them?

***Continued on the next page...***

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Research some of the novels discussed in today's episode. Choose one and begin to read it? Why did you choose this novel? How do you feel about the villains and/or monsters in your story?
- What is the ratio of books that feature villains compared with the total number of books? What is the ratio of books that have a villain compared to those who describe the beginnings of the villain?
- Think about some villains from literature or the movies and their characteristics. How many of each do you see? Make a bar graph charting the villain and the number of characteristics. What do you notice? What do you wonder?

### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- "There are villains in literature because they're villains in life." Who are some of the villains and monsters in life? Who are the villains in your favorite story? What similarities do they have?
- Make a comic book of your own. Be sure to have a villain or monster in your story. Make it so that others learn a positive lesson from your story. <https://www.pixton.com/>

### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Everyone makes choices and there are different approaches to making choices. Some better than others! Watch this short video and answer the questions below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdsCUExLE-Y>
- Kid President said we make thousands of choices a day.
- What are some choices you've already made today?
- Kid President said there are four choices for making choices.
  - Impulsive: What does this mean?
  - Do Nothing: He said "If you do nothing, you'll be nothing." What does that mean?
  - Follower: He said to "focus on being someone worth following." What does that look like? When is it ok to follow what others are doing?
  - Be Thoughtful: What does that mean?
- What is a small choice that might have a big consequence?
- How can you make better decisions in the future?
- Share what you have learned with a family member.
- Social-Emotional Connection: In this episode it explored how characters can sometimes turn into villains because of bad choices they make. Responsible decision-making is an important skill to have and impacts those around you. Understanding the consequences of your decisions and how they affect others is an important skill to have. Write in your journal about a time you had to make a very important decision that affected others. What things did you consider? Did you get help from others when making your decision?