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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

Monday, May 11

1:00pm

The Great American Read, Part 7,
4th – 8th 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. 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.

Take a magical journey to another world through some of America's best-loved novels. From Middle Earth to Lilliput, the trials and tribulations of these alternate universes help us to better understand our own world.

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

Question Box 1

- What is the author’s purpose for creating this program? What is your evidence for this?
- What is the author telling us about the novels in this episode compared to the novels in other *The Great American Read* episodes?
- In less than 5 sentences, state the key message for the TV show?
- What did the books discussed in today’s episode have in common?
- What was the general theme or topic being discussed in relation to the books?

Question Box 2

- What was most challenging or least interesting about this program?
- What did you learn about how the authors wrote the novels in this episode?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started?
- Many of the books in America’s top 100 books take place in alternate universes. How can readers use what they learn from these stories and apply them to our world?
- Often, we read to escape and take a journey with the author outside of our own lives. Have you read a book that has taken you on such a journey? If so, what was the title? What was it about the book that was so interesting and enjoyable?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- How are the genres similar and different? Which genre do you most identify with? Why?
- 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 identify with the hero in your story?
- Choose two books discussed in today's episode. Compare and contrast them using details from the show. *(ELD) Create a Double Bubble Thinking Map to compare and contrast.* With the help of an adult, choose a book from today's episode that sounds interesting. Research it further and determine if it is something that you would like to read. Access eBooks with a free digital library card [here](#).

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Watch the movie Finding Joe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8nFACrLxr0>. Trace your favorite heroic story through Joseph Campbell's hero's journey. Where are you in your hero's journey? Compare your journey so far with your hero from your favorite story. What do you need to move forward in your journey? How did your favorite hero move forward? How will you move forward?
- Take a look at your favorite fantasy or sci-fi novel series. Compare it to your own life. Identify the key characters in the series that you see in your life currently. Why did you assign the roles you did to the people you assigned them in your life? Is there a character in the series that's missing from your life or a character in your life that you can't place in the series. How does the series or your life change without that character?
- Compare your favorite sci-fi or fantasy novel to any of the Star Wars trilogies or the entire saga. First discuss their similarities and then tell which is better and why.
- Draw a book cover for one of your favorite novels/books.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- There are many forms of communication, one of the most important is body language or non-verbal communication.
- Watch this video on body language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sfM-xx7tHI>
- Define body language in your own words.
- How important is body language in personal relationships? How could your body language affect those relationships?
- Imagine you are an author and answer the following questions.
 - Describe how an author could convey body language/non-verbal communication in their stories?
 - Select the best example of body language for conveying your character is angry.
 - He crosses his legs.
 - He plants his fists on his hips.

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- He strokes his beard.
- He chews his pen cap.
- He leans forward in his chair.
- Select the best example of body language for conveying your character is daydreaming.
 - She snaps her umbrella closed.
 - She gazes out the window.
 - She bites her lip.
 - She furrows her brow.
 - She twirls a curl around her finger.
- Review your selections with a family member to determine if you were correct.
- Read this short article about common writing mistakes:
<https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/most-common-writing-mistakes-33/>
 - Explain the difference between telling and showing a scene in a story.
- **Your Turn:** Write a short story with a minimum of 2 characters. Your short story should follow the plot structure, need a refresher watch this silly video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpWHZJZQDSE>
- Focus on conveying the feelings and thoughts of your characters through words.
- Share your short story with a family member.
- Social-Emotional Connection: One mindfulness practice is called mindful reading. Mindful reading allows the reader to have a calm awareness and better understanding of what they are reading. Next time you are reading try practice a mindful reading strategy called *wrap-around*. Before reading, sit quietly for a few minutes. Focus your attention on your breathing. Try letting go of thoughts and sensations while you focus on your breathing. Then read. When you are done reading, notice if you read with more focus and appreciation. Then sit again for a few minutes and again focus on your breathing. Notice what you have learned from the reading. Record in your journal how this practice made you feel.