

Independent Reading Assignment

The Pigman by Paul Zindel

As you read the novel *The Pigman*, you must complete the following tasks:

- A. For each chapter, you must take note of three important events. This assignment must be typed and handed in once you have finished reading the novel.
- B. While you read the novel, complete the activity sheets handed out in class.
- C. Once you have finished reading the novel, you must write the unit evaluation.

Please note: When you are ready to complete the unit evaluation, reserve a date with the teacher.

Although you may complete this independent reading assignment at your own pace, the entire unit must be completed by Friday, May 31st. You will receive a mark of 0% for any parts of this assignment that are not completed by May 31st.

The Pigman

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Class _____ Date _____

ACTIVITY SHEET 2 — Character Adjectives

A. The important characters in the novel show certain personality traits. Listed here are some adjectives that describe characteristics of people. Which adjectives do you think fit each person from the novel listed below? Write the adjectives you choose after each person's name. (Add any other adjectives you think fit, too.)

lonely	compassionate	insecure	assertive
young	obsessive	smiling	alienated
sarcastic	insensitive	unhappy	playful
old	vulnerable	trusting	rebellious
rigid	generous	wise	intelligent

1. Mr. Pignati _____

2. Lorraine _____

3. John _____

4. Lorraine's mother _____

5. John's mother _____

6. John's father _____

B. Now write a one-sentence description of each of these characters from the novel. Use as many of the adjectives you chose for that character as possible.

1. Mr. Pignati _____

2. Lorraine _____

3. John _____

4. Lorraine's mother _____

5. John's mother _____

6. John's father _____

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ACTIVITY SHEET 4 — Using Verbs with Dialogue

A. Verbs that describe what a character is saying can make the character's statement more vivid. Which of the verbs listed below would you choose for each of the blanks in the following sentences?

sighed	demanded	groaned
muttered	bellowed	squealed
ordered	whispered	blurted
screamed	chattered	roared

1. "Do you realize I've been trying to get your mother for an hour and a half and the line's been busy?" Bore _____.
2. "Give me one good reason," John _____.
3. "Well, it's all right with me," Lorraine _____, keeping one eye on the bedroom door.
4. "She used to keep the house so clean," Mr. Pignati _____, lowering his head.
5. "Your father's a very funny man," the nurse _____.
6. "I miss him," Lorraine _____.
7. "You look fantastic!" Lorraine _____.
8. "Ohhhhhhhh!" John _____.
9. "Get inside," Lorraine's mother _____.
10. "We murdered him!" Lorraine _____.

B. Dialogue — what the characters say to each other — can seem more interesting when it's described with verbs other than **said**. Put your own verb into these sentences in place of **said**.

1. "She's dead," he said, wiping his tears.

2. "Bobo wouldn't eat today," Mr. Pignati said.

3. "I'm thinking of becoming an actor," John said.

4. "Don't be a jackass," John's father said.

5. "I **am** a lunatic," John said.

6. "Mr. Pignati, we feel terrible," Lorraine said.

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ACTIVITY SHEET 8 — Elements of the Zindel Novel

Paul Zindel has identified ten elements he wants to include in each of his young adult novels. For each of these elements listed below, give examples from *The Pigman*.

1. School scenes are included. _____

2. Parents have very small roles. _____

3. The story is told by the teenage characters. _____

4. The language will be up-to-date but won't use trendy slang. _____

5. The story will include awkward romantic incidents between the characters. _____

6. The teenage characters will be honest and not phony. _____

7. The story will include some mischief to counteract adult stuffiness. _____

8. Solid pages of type will be broken up by short chapters and occasional funny diagrams.

9. Fast pacing and action are essential. _____

10. The books will be short. _____

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ACTIVITY SHEET 9 — Identifying the Narrator

A. John and Lorraine take turns, chapter by chapter, narrating the story. Each sees events in his or her own way. Write a J or an L next to each statement below, depending on whether the narrator is John or Lorraine.

1. ___ Maybe we speeded things up a little, but you really can't say we murdered him.
2. ___ I didn't want anyone really to take advantage of the old man.
3. ___ "It's wrong to take money from an old man."
4. ___ I figured he must have enough money if he offered it over the phone like that without even knowing what our charity did.
5. ___ I never have to worry about finding my father there because he left fifteen years ago, and then he died six years ago.
6. ___ It was easy to feel sorry for her, to see how awful her life was — even to understand a little why she picked on me so.
7. ___ I realize now there were plenty of bad omens within the next few minutes.
8. ___ I think it was sort of nice that a baboon had a friend like Mr. Pignati. I'd say that baboon was @#\$\$% lucky.
9. ___ I'm looking for anything to prove that when I drop dead there's a chance I'll be doing something a little more exciting than decaying.
10. ___ Can't you see I'm growing up and that I've got to have friends? That I want to have friends?

B. Now try changing narrators. Choose a paragraph in which Lorraine describes something (for example, Tony and Tony's Market in the first paragraph of Chapter 6), and rewrite it as John might narrate it. Then choose one of John's narrative paragraphs (for example, the first paragraph of Chapter 13), and reword it as if Lorraine had written it.

1. Paragraph narrated by Lorraine:

page no. ____

paragraph no. ____

As rewritten by John:

2. Paragraph narrated by John:

page no. ____

paragraph no. ____

As rewritten by Lorraine:

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ACTIVITY SHEET 12 — Word Search Review

Use what you know about the novel to get the answers to the clues below. Then circle each answer-word in the puzzle grid. Words in the grid read across, up, down, and diagonally, forward and backward.

1. Norton's nickname: The _____ Kid
2. Lorraine's mother's occupation: _____
3. John's freshman year nickname: the Bathroom _____
4. What Mrs. Pignati collected: _____
5. Type of animal Bobo is: _____
6. Mr. Pignati likes these things coated in chocolate: _____
7. John likes to drink beer at the Moravian _____.
8. Place that Mr. Pignati visits every day: _____
9. First name of Mr. Pignati's wife: _____
10. John's older brother: _____
11. Mr. Pignati offers John and Lorraine some homemade _____ to drink.
12. John and Lorraine visit Mr. Pignati during his stay here: _____

P I K M L Z O E R S E
C I H H O Y W I N O N
E A G O L B E I P U I
M A R S H M A L L O W
E N U P I T O E C S N
T U R I H A E S T O U
E A T T E H C N O C R
R Z O A J D A B N F S
Y M P L Q U A C Z E E
R E B M O B N I S W K