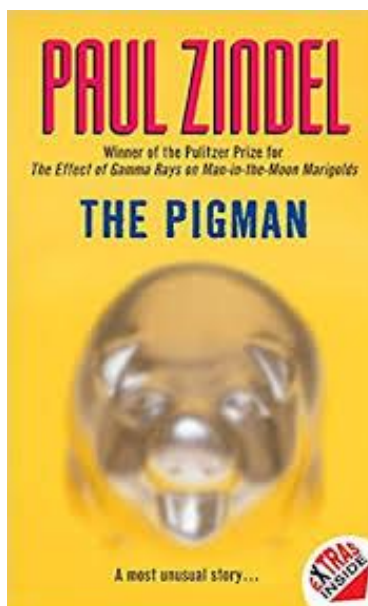


The Pigman

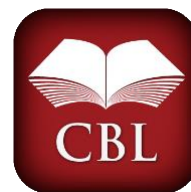


- ISBN-10 0-06-075735-3
 ISBN-13 978-0-06-075735-9
 Author Zindel, Paul
 Publisher HarperTeen
 Copyright 1968
 Lexile 880L
 Genre Young adult fiction
 Synopsis When sophomores John and Lorraine played a practical joke a few months ago on a stranger named Angelo Pignati they had no idea that they were starting. Virtually overnight, almost against their will, the two befriended the lonely old man. But now Mr. Pignati is dead. (book jacket)
 Themes Guilt and regret
 Protagonist
 Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.
 Content Warning this lesson plan contains offensive terms.
 More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 1

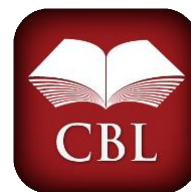


John doesn't like school, and uses this as an excuse to act irresponsibly towards his teachers, classmates, and parents. He probably has several reasons why he doesn't like school, but he might find that he likes it better if he gave it a chance.

In one to two paragraphs, describe how you feel about school and why. Use descriptions of the scene, the people in the setting, and vivid details to help the reader understand what you are trying to say.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 2

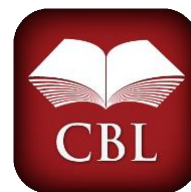


As the theme “Responsibility Requires Action” states, responsibility involves “doing what I should do,” and “doing what is best for everybody.”

Write a short product about a time where you disagreed with someone about what was the responsible thing to do in your situation. What happened? Why?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 3

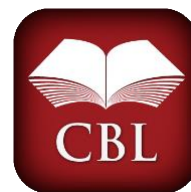


Our unit of “Responsibility Requires Action” states that a responsible person does what he should do and what he said he would do. John and his friends lie to their parents and do not do what they say they are doing.

In one to two paragraphs, write about a time where you didn’t do what you said you would. What was the outcome? Even though you didn’t directly hurt someone, was someone still hurt by the lie you told?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 4

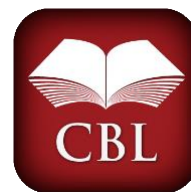


Our theme, “Responsibility Requires Actions” says that responsibility is “doing what is best for everyone.” We know that it is not responsible to play pranks and lie, even if your friends are doing it.

Write a short product describing a time when your friends were pressuring you to do something. What happened? Did you do something you thought was wrong? Did you walk away from the situation? How did you feel about those friends later?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 5



Responsibility requires “doing the one thing I should be doing right now.”
Sometimes, though, it can be difficult to figure out what that one right thing is.

Write about a time when you struggled to decide what the right thing to do was. What helped you decide? How did you go about figuring it out? What did you eventually decide to do, and why?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 6

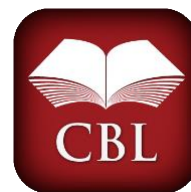


Our theme of “Responsibility Requires Action” says that responsibility is “doing what I said I would do.” Lorraine says that her mother would be furious if she ever stole anything, but steals things herself all the time. Is it responsible to say one thing and then do another?

In one to two paragraphs, write about a time when you experienced a double standard. How did you feel? What effect did it have on your behavior or beliefs?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 7

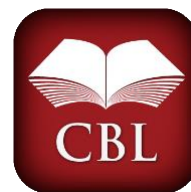


Responsibility is “doing what I should do.” It was wrong for John to go through Mr. Pignati’s things.

Write a short product about a time when you had someone betray your trust by looking at or taking something of yours without asking. How did you feel about that person later? Did you feel like you could trust them again?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 8



Our theme is “Responsibility Requires Action.” Oftentimes, we learn how to be responsible from our parents and other adults in our lives. In the story so far, we have learned a lot about John and Lorraine’s parents and their relationships with them.

In one to two paragraphs, write about a time when you realized that your parents’ actions were affecting your own actions. How did you feel? What did you do?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 9



Our theme of “Responsibility Requires Action” states that responsibility is “doing what I should do.” Norton seems to have a problem getting along with people and respecting their property. Would you want a friend like Norton? Should John spend time with Norton and try to be his friend even though Norton regularly gets into bad situations?

Write a short product about a time when one of your friends was doing something you didn’t agree with. How did you handle the situation? Are you still friends with them now? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 10

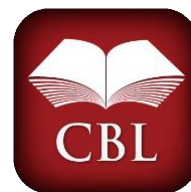


Our theme of “Responsibility Requires Action” states that “responsibility is doing what is best for everybody.”

In one to two paragraphs, write about a person that you admire for their attitude and outlook on life. What about them makes them admirable? Why do feel this way?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman , Day 11

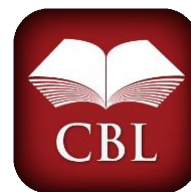


Our theme is “Responsibility Requires Action.” Mr. Pignati trusts John and Lorraine with his house and his possessions. He gives them his keys, and insists that they make themselves at home. Responsibility is “doing what I should do.”

Write a short product about a time when someone trusted you with their belongings. How did you act? What did you do? Did you respect their trust or break it?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 12

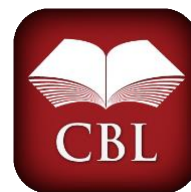


Our theme of “Responsibility Requires Action” states that responsibility is “doing what I should do.” It seems that John and Lorraine care about each other as more than friends. This relationship affects their ability to judge situations objectively.

In one to two paragraphs, write about a time when you struggled to know what to do in a situation because of your relationships with the other people involved. How did you solve the problem? Why did you choose to go about things this way?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 13

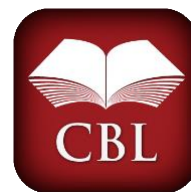


Responsibility is “doing what I said I would do.” When John and Lorraine visited Mr. Pignati in the hospital, they implied that they would take care of his house. By inviting guests over and having a party, they went back on their word and betrayed Mr. Pignati’s trust.

Write one to two paragraphs about a time when you betrayed the trust of someone you cared about. What happened? How did you feel?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 14



Key Paragraph

"I felt tears rolling down my cheeks onto the pillow as I remembered the condition of Mr. Pignati's house. Would he think we had forsaken him and deliberately ripped his wife's clothes—viciously broken the pigs? I wanted to phone him and say, Mr. Pignati, we didn't mean things to work out like that. We were just playing."

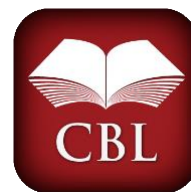
Writing Prompt

Responsibility is "doing what I should do." Lorraine thinks to herself that her actions were not deliberate, and that she and John were only 'playing'.

In one to two paragraphs, write about the last time you used excuses to justify your actions. Did you feel better or worse about what you had done? Why?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Pigman, Day 15



Key Paragraph

“There was no one else to blame anymore. No Bored or Old Ladies or Nortons, or Assassins waiting at the bridge. And there was no place to hide—no place across the river for the boatman to take us. Our life would be what we made of it—nothing more, nothing less.”

Writing Prompt

“Responsibility is the active side of morality: doing what I should do, doing what I said I would do, doing what is best for everybody; especially doing the one thing I should be doing right now.”

In one to two paragraphs, make an argument for what the quote from the key paragraph means in terms of our theme for the unit. What does it mean for John and Lorraine? What does it mean for you?