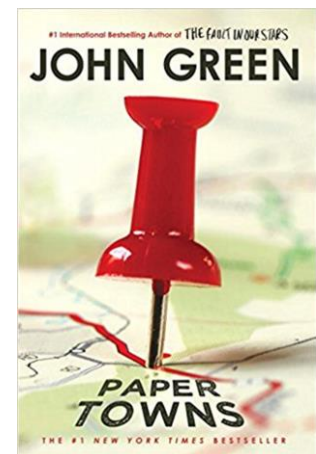


Paper Towns

INDEPENDENT STUDY GUIDE

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____



ISBN-13	978-0142414934
ISBN-10	0-14-241493-X
Author	John Green
Publisher	Penguin Group
Copyright	2008

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study

Paper Towns, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Kindness Requires Empathy. Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

What is Resilience?

Resilience is a name of a social and emotional ability. Resilient people can manage stressful events and go back to their normal life after being hurt physically or emotionally. Being resilient does not mean having to deal with problems alone. Resilient people can find support from family, friends, and professionals. They know how to seek help and keep looking for coping strategies until they are fully recovered. A common metaphor to resilience is a flexible string or a strong rubber band. It can stretch and go back to its original state without breaking.

What is Hope?

Hope is the anticipation of attaining one's wishes or goals. Hopeful people enjoy working towards their goals because they expect good things to happen. Because of their hopeful state of mind, these individuals are confident in their ability to find solutions to problems. Hope motivates people to work through challenges. As a result, they are more likely to experience self-fulfillment and life satisfaction than hopeless people.

Word Wall Look up the meaning of the following words. Page numbers are in parentheses.

Subdivision (3)	Casualty (12)	Morosely (12)	Deadpan (20)	Marveled (23)
Incontestably (31)	Auditory (34)	Discernible (37)	Cadence (37)	Vindictive (41)
bouquet (47)	spectacular (50)	exertion (56)	laborious (37)	solemnly (63)
badgered (70)	opaque (75)	curtsied (79)	dedication (80)	remarkable (80)

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ambled (87)	incidentally (87)	fathom (89)	appraised (90)	narcissistic (106)
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READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read Read the selection.

Setting	Characters	Pages
Prologue		
Jefferson Park	Quentin, Margo	3–6
Quentin's house	Quentin, Margo	6–8
Part 1, Chapter 1		
Winter Park High School	Quentin, Marcus (Radar), Ben	11–23
Quentin's house	Quentin, Quentin's parents	23–24
Part 1, Chapter 2		
Quentin's house	Quentin, Margo	25–28
The Chrysler minivan	Quentin, Margo	26–30
Part 1, Chapter 3		
Publix and Wal-Mart	Quentin, Margo	31–35
Part 1, Chapter 4		
Becca's house	Quentin, Margo	36–45
Part 1, Chapter 5		
Karin's house	Quentin, Margo	46–47
Jason's house	Quentin, Margo	47–48
Lacey's car	Quentin, Margo	49–52
Part 1, Chapter 6		
The Sun Trust Building	Quentin, Margo	53–58
Part 1, Chapter 7		
Chuck's house	Quentin, Margo	59–68
Part 1, Chapter 8		
Seaworld	Quentin, Margo	69–79
Part 1, Chapter 9		
7-Eleven; Near Quentin's house	Quentin, Margo	80–82
Part 2, Chapter 1		
Winter Park High School	Quentin, Ben	85–93
Part 2, Chapter 2		

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Winter Park High School	Quentin, Radar	94–95
Quentin's home	Quentin, Jason, Chuck, Ben	96–99
Part 2, Chapter 3		
Quentin's home	Quentin, Quentin's mother and father, Margo's mother and father, Detective Otis Warren, Ben	100–109

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment. Note the following key points in the plot:

- Quentin and Margo are nine-year-old and see a dead man in the playground .
- Margo tries to solve the mystery of the dead man.
- Quentin and Margo are in their senior year in high school. They do not talk, although Quentin admires Margo from afar.
- Radar has a prom date. Ben can't find a prom date.
- Quentin receives an odd shopping list from Margo and goes shopping in Publix and Wal-Mart.
- Margo locked the steering wheel in Jason's car.
- Quentin called Becca's father.
- Quentin took Jason's clothes.
- Margo sprayed Becca's bedroom wall and put fish in her closet.
- Margo and Quentin leave flowers on Karin's doorstep.
- Margo leaves the second catfish in Jason's house.
- Margo and Quentin place the last fish inside Lacey's car.
- Margo and Quentin insect the neighborhoods and houses they visited from a conference room in the SunTrust Building.
- Margo and Quentin shave Chuck's eyebrow.

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- Margo and Quentin break into Seaworld.
- Margo is bitten by a snake.
- Margo and Quentin dance.
- Margo and Quentin clean the car and go back home.
- Margo tells Quentin it would not be possible to hang with him and his friends.
- Margo disappears.
- Quentin tells Ben about Margo's revenge.
- Chuck Patterson, Taddy Mac, and Clint Bauer bully freshmen and sophomores.
- Quentin threatens to post Ben's photo if he doesn't stop the bullying and compensate the victims.
- Jason agrees to Quentin's terms, and Chuck apologizes to Quentin and Ben.
- Detective Warren asked Quentin and his parents what they know about Margo's disappearance.
- Margo's parents expressed lack of interest in looking for her.
- Quentin notices a black-and-white poster taped to the back of Margo's bedroom window shade.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Draw Quentin, Ben, a Radar. Next to each figure, add a thought bubble with the thoughts and feelings of the characters towards each of the following events:

1. The prom
2. Jason and Becca's betrayal
3. Margo's revenge
4. Gaining a new status in school

EXPLORE

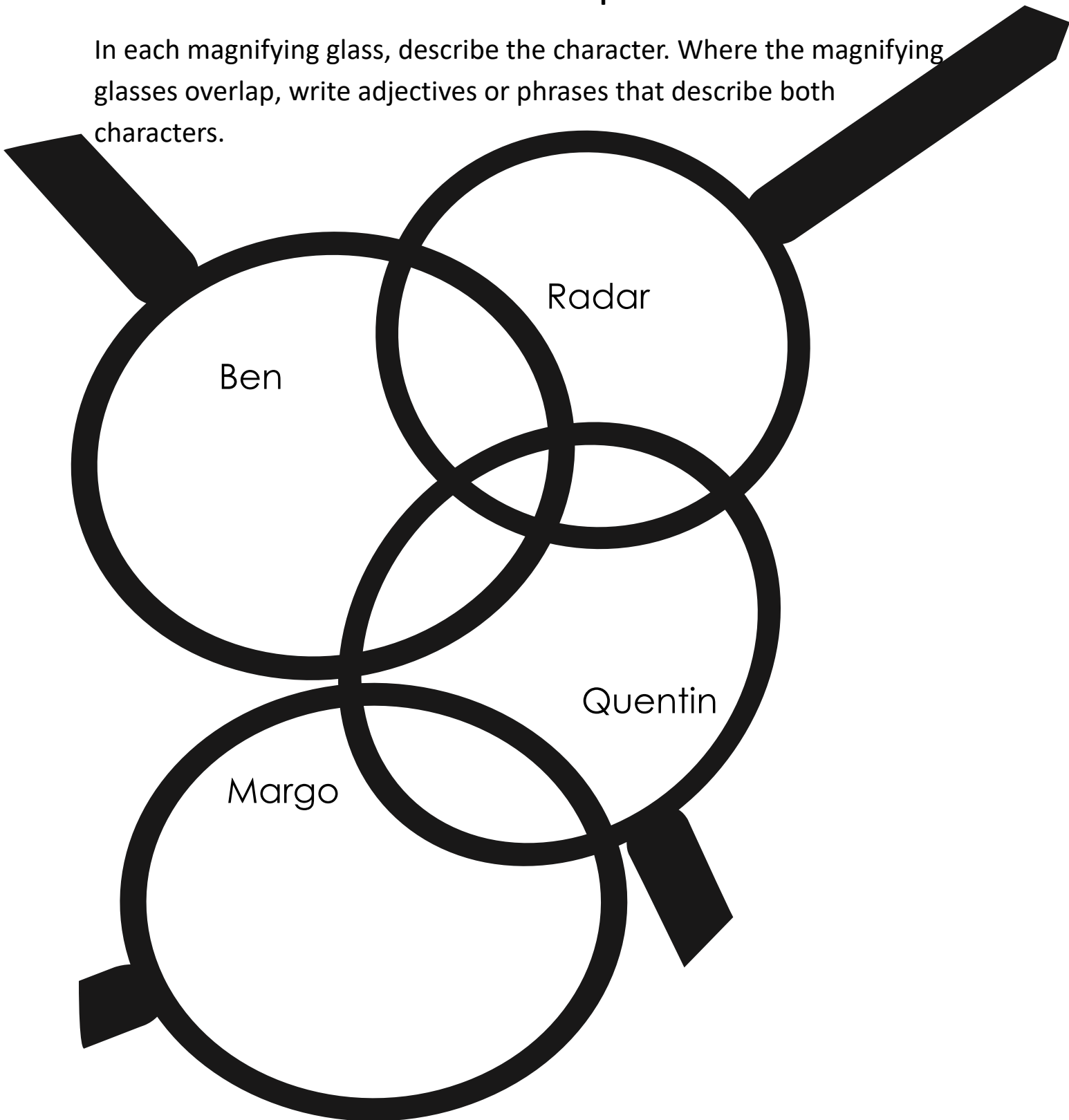
Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Complete the character map, on the next page. Keep adding to this map as you read the book this week.

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Character Map

In each magnifying glass, describe the character. Where the magnifying glasses overlap, write adjectives or phrases that describe both characters.



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Discussion

Answer the key questions. Use evidence from the text.

1. Compare Margo's investigation of the death at the playground to Quentin's attempt to isolate himself from the incident. What does their response say about their personalities?
2. How strong is the friendship between Quentin, Ben, and Radar?
3. Why did Quentin encourage Radar to be honest with Angela?
4. What is the difference between Quentin and Margo's views of the future?
5. What was the purpose of Margo's plan?
6. Why did Quentin return the polo shirt to Jason?
7. What is the difference between Quentin and Margo's views of Orlando from above?
8. What did Margo mean when she referred to her friends, Jason, Becca, and Lacey as 'the last string'?
9. How did Margo's absence affect the social environment at the high school?
10. How would you describe Margo's relationship with her parents?
11. Why did Margo tape the poster to the back of her rattan shades?

EXTEND

Write Write a one-page product based on the following outline.

1. The importance of accepting friends the way they are. To what extent should good friends try to fix their best friends and to what extent they should support them without being judgmental?
2. The effects of her friends' betrayal on Margo. Refer to Margo's quote on page 58: "I just hate myself so much for even caring about my, quote, friends. I mean, just so you know, it's not that I am of-so-upset about Jason. Or Becca. Or even Lacey, although I actually liked her. But it was the last string."
3. The invisible strings that connect people. Refer to the following paragraph (p. 78): "And I wanted to tell her that the pleasure for me wasn't planning or doing or leaving; the pleasure was in seeing our strings cross and separate and then come back together."

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study

Paper Towns, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Kindness Requires Empathy. Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

Who Was Walt Whitman?

Walt Whitman was a famous American poet. When he was 11-year-old, he had to leave school and take on a job to support his family. When he was 14-year-old, his family relocated and he was left alone to provide for himself. When he was 29-year-old he was fired from his job as a newspaper editor because he was opposed to slavery. He published the first edition of his poetry book, *Leaves of Grass*, at the age of 36. He published later editions this book in the years that followed the Civil War. He kept revising *Leaves of Grass* until the final edition, which he published in 1892, just before he died at the age of 72.

What Are Ghost Towns?

Abandoned residential communities are also known as 'ghost towns.' Florida, Arizona, and Nevada have a higher number of ghost towns and half-populated communities than the rest of the US. In these states, land is abundant and local authorities grant permissions for development regardless of the current market demand for housing. Typically, ghost towns had a rapid rise and fall. Some ghost towns have been built quickly to satisfy the labor market. In such towns, when most of the residents depend on a single employer or industry, they have little or no other employment options when losing their source of income.

Other factors can lead to out-migration including changes in railroads and highway routes that isolate a town and hurt tourism and businesses. Economic downturns coupled with geographic isolation or harsh weather conditions can lead people to abandon their family house without finding a buyer or a renter.

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Another type of ghost towns has never been fully populated before they were abandoned. Developers who bought cheap land in rural and suburban areas invested in these towns during a real estate boom. They built houses, street lights, sidewalks, parking lots, shopping centers, and even schools. However, when people lost their savings or jobs during a recession, they stopped buying houses, moved away, or defaulted on their mortgage payments. In some cases, developers ran out of funds and could not complete the construction of houses or the infrastructure. Consequently, developers abandoned their projects and left behind what some have nicknamed ‘zombie subdivisions.’ According to The Atlantic, there are hundreds of zombie subdivisions across the country.

The construction of houses and streets prevents municipal authorities from reverting these areas to farmland. At the same time, the deserted buildings can become a habitat for crime and an environmental hazard. Landowners can wait for years for another real estate boom, or they can work with local organizations and communities to repurpose the land.

Word Wall Look up the meaning of the following words. Page numbers are in parentheses.

gestured (114)	motioned (114)	dwindled (121)	husky (124)	destructive (129)
razzing (131)	analogy (140)	jagged (146)	souvenir (147)	perpetually (147)
inescapable (152)	morbid (153)	cavalier (153)	plaintive (159)	scurrying (167)
vapid (191)	Constellation (193)	deplorable (198)	emboldened (204)	obfuscation (207)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read Read the selection.

Setting	Characters	Pages
Part 2, Chapter 4		
Margo’s room	Quentin, Ben, Radar, Ruthie	110–117
Part 2, Chapter 5		
Winter Park High School	Quentin, Ben, Radar, Iacey Pemberton	118–125
Part 2, Chapter 6		

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Quentin's house	Quentin, Margo	25–28
The Chrysler minivan	Quentin, Margo	26–30
Part 2, Chapter 7		
Quentin's home	Quentin, Quentin's parents, Ben (by phone)	131–135
Part 2, Chapter 8		
Grovepoint Acres	Quentin, Radar, Ben	136–141
Part 2, Chapter 9		
Grovepoint Acres	Quentin, Radar, Ben	142–149
Part 2, Chapter 10		
Quentin's home	Quentin, Ben and Radar (online)	150–157
Part 2, Chapter 11		
Winter Park High School	Quentin, Ben, Dr. Holden	158–162
Quail Hollow	Quentin	164–165
Part 2, Chapter 12		
Grovepoint Acres	Quentin	166–175
Part 2, Chapter 13		
Becca's house	Quentin, Ben, Lacey	176–189
Part 2, Chapter 14		
Quentin's house	Quentin, Ben, Radar	190–195
Part 2, Chapter 15		
Quentin's home	Quentin, Quentin's parents	195–199
Part 2, Chapter 16		
Grovepoint Acres	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey, Gus, Carpenter, Ace	200–208
Part 2, Chapter 17		
Radar's house	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	209–215
Quentin's house	Quentin	215–216

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

As you continue reading, note the following key points in the plot:

- Quentin, Ben, and Radar find the first clue: the song “Walt Whitman’s Niece” circled by Margo.
- The second clue is highlighted verses in a Walt Whitman’s poem.
- Ben gets a date to the prom.

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- Ben solves the second clue.
- Removing Margo's bedroom door does not lead to additional clues.
- Ben tries to convince Quentin to go to New York and look for Margo.
- Quentin tells his parents he is trying to find clues about Margo's whereabouts.
- Quentin discovers the next clue behind his bedroom door.
- Quentin, Ben, and Radar decide to skip school.
- Quentin pretends to be sick.
- Quentin, Ben, and Radar reach Grovepoint Acres and are worried about Margo.
- Quentin, Ben, and Radar break into a deserted building.
- Quentin asks his literature teacher for help interpreting Whitman's poem.
- Quentin decides to visit again the ghost towns.
- Quentin finds more clues that Margo was in Grovepoint Acres.
- Quentin spends the rest of the night in Becca's party.
- They discover a message on a wall in Margo's handwriting.
- Quentin is frustrated with what he interprets as indifference of his best friends to the mystery of Margo's disappearance.
- Quentin's parents help him understand that every person has strong and weak sides.
- Quentin and his friends return to Grovepoint Acres and learn that Margo used to regularly visit this place.
- Quentin attends a Black Santa Collection party at Radar's house.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Next to your drawing Quentin, Ben, a Radar, add a thought bubble with the thoughts and feelings of the characters towards each of the following events:

1. Margo's clues
2. The deserted buildings in Grovepoint Acres
3. The change in relationships with Jason, Chuck, and Lacey

EXPLORE

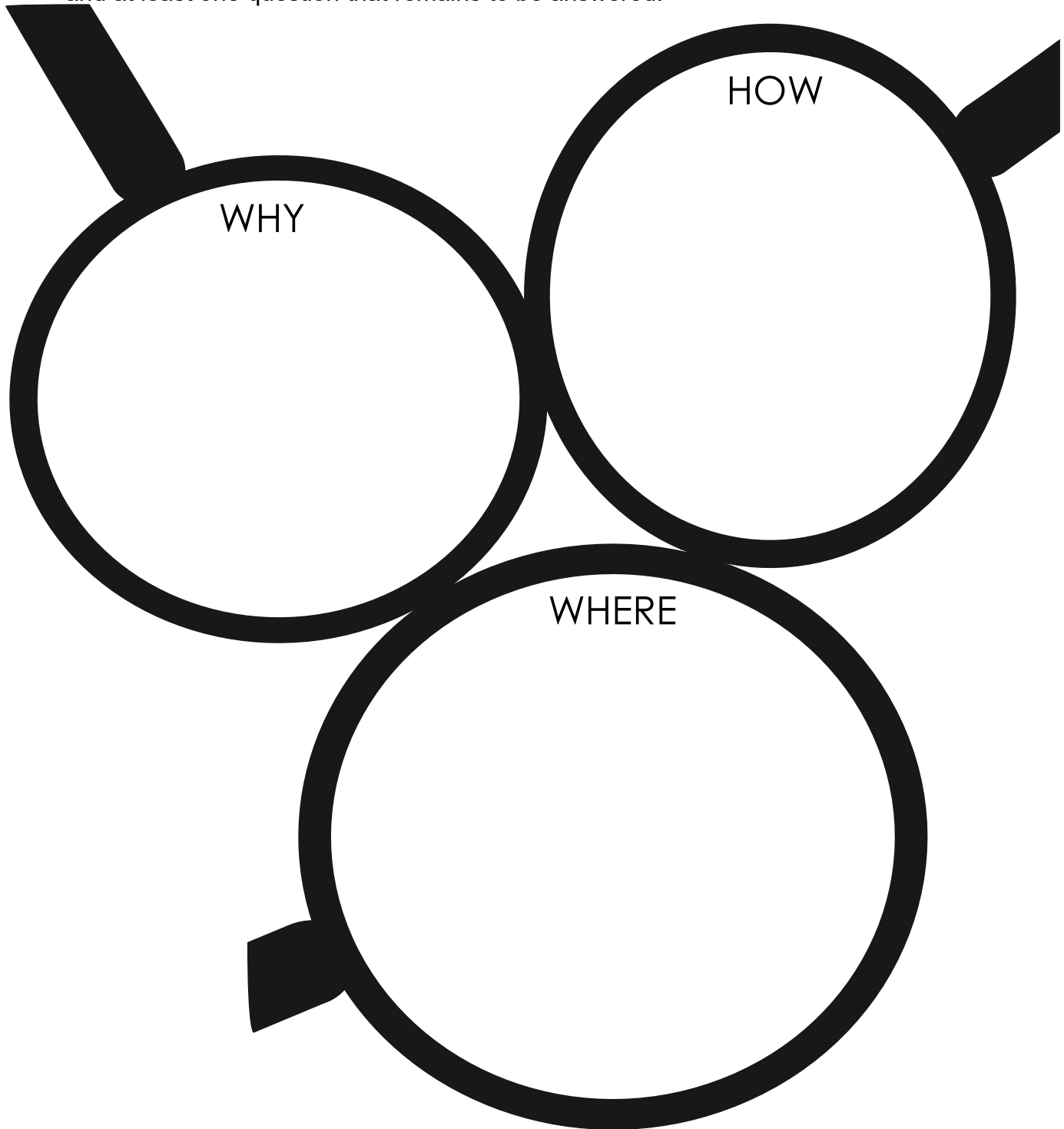
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Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Complete the Mystery Graphic Organizer, on the next page. Keep adding to this organizer as you read the book this week.

Mystery Graphic Organizer

Take stock of what you have learned so far about the mystery in the book, *Paper Towns*. In each magnifying glass, write all the details you know about Margo's disappearance and at least one question that remains to be answered.



Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics

Discussion

Answer the key questions. Use evidence from the text.

1. How did Quentin, Ben, and Radar figure out Margo's clues?
2. What is different about Quentin's school experience?
3. Why did Lacey approach Quentin at school?
4. Why did Ben tell Quentin to not go alone to Grovepoint Acres?
5. Why were Quentin, Ben, and Radar worried when they arrived to Grovepoint Acres?
6. Why were they scared when they found Margo's message on the wall?
7. What did Dr. Holden say about Whitman's poem?
8. What new information did Quentin discover in Grovepoint Acres?
9. Why did Lacey hide in the bathroom during the party at Becca's house?
10. In what ways did Radar and Quentin's parents made similar points about judging other people?
11. What did Quentin and his friends learn from Gus, Carpenter, and Ace?
12. Why did Quentin have maps above his computer?

EXTEND

Write Write a one-page product based on the following outline.

1. The meaning of sharing experiences with friends. Refer to the following paragraph (p. 138): "We drove all the way out Colonial Drive, past the movie theaters and the bookstores that I had been driving to and past my whole life. But this drive was different and better because it occurred during calculus, because it occurred with Ben and Radar, because it occurred on our way to where I believed I would find her."
2. Letting friends be their true selves. Refer to the paragraph on page 194: Key Paragraph, p. 194: "You know your problem, Quentin? You keep expecting people not to be themselves. I mean, I could hate you for being massively unpunctual and for never being interested in anything other than Margo Roth Spiegelman, and for, like, never asking me about how it's going with my girlfriend—but I don't give a shit, man, because you're you."

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study

Paper Towns, Week 3



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Kindness Requires Empathy. Kindness is the desire to lift others' spirits, help the ones in need, and mend relationships. Kindness requires that I take the time to listen, understand, and take action to benefit other people and the world.

Is Agloe, New York a Real Town?

In the 1930s, General Drafting Co. added to a map of New York a fictitious town with the made-up name "Agloe." The purpose of this addition was to identify copyright violation by other map makers. Years later, another map company sold maps of New York with Agloe included. When General Drafting Co. attempted to sue them, they discovered that because of their map, there was a building at that location with the sign "Agloe General Store." However, Agloe never developed into a town in later years. It has remained a 'paper town.'

What is Empathy?

Empathy is an emotional reaction to the expression of feelings of another person. It involves the mirroring of others' feelings through verbal or facial expressions. It also involves understanding the perspective of others. Empathy motivates kindness, caring, helping, forgiveness, and generosity. In friendships, it is the foundation for getting to know friends, accepting them with their flaws and imperfections, and being supportive companions in times of need.

What is a Sense of Purpose?

One of the developmental milestones of adolescence is accomplishing a sense of purpose in life – a future orientation and personal ambitions based on one's interests, close relationships, and connection to the community. Sense of purpose depends on finding personal meaning in everyday activities and future aspirations. When teens feel that they cannot be their true selves, they find it harder to develop a sense of purpose and to be resilient as they work through challenges to accomplish their goals.

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Word Wall Look up the meaning of the following words. Page numbers are in parentheses.

established (220)	nostalgic (227)	unadulterated (228)	disentangled (231)	effusive (232)
indeterminate (253)	Nonplussed (264)	gouge (270)	embankment (272)	cadence (274)
incrementally (279)	remnants (280)	indecipherable (290)	contemporary (299)	interconnected (301)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Read Read the selection.

Setting	Characters	Pages
Part 2, Chapter 18		
Grovepoint Acres	Quentin, Radar	218–223
Part 2, Chapter 19		
Winter Park High School	Quentin	224–229
Part 2, Chapter 20		
Quentin's house; Winter Park High School	Quentin, Quentin's parents, Radar, Ben, Lacey	230–240
Part 3		
Florida (hours 1–3)	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	243–250
Georgia (hours 4–7)	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	250–260
South Carolina (hours 5–11)	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	260–266
North Carolina, Washington (hours 12–18)	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	266–275
New York (hours 19–21)	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey	275–278
Agloe, NY	Quentin, Radar, Ben, Lacey, Margo	279–283
Agloe, NY	Quentin, Margo	283–305

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15–20 most important on the timeline.

As you continue reading, note the following key points in the plot:

- Quentin and Radar find the map that Margo pinned to the wall.
- Quentin feels nostalgic about his time in high school.

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- Quentin finds an online comment from Margo that she will be in Agloe New York until May 29th.
- Quentin, Ben, Radar, and Lacey embark on a road trip to Agloe, New York.
- Quentin, Radar, Ben, and Lacey divide roles and responsibilities for the ride.
- Radar creates a plan for arriving at Agloe on time.
- Two cows on the road cause an accident.
- Lacey is proud of Ben for saving everyone's life.
- Margo is rude towards Ben, Lacey, and Radar.
- Margo tells Quentin she did not intend to be found.
- Margo calls home and talks with her mother and sister.
- Quentin and Margo promise to write and call each other.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Next to your drawing Quentin, Ben, a Radar, add a thought bubble with the thoughts and feelings of the characters towards each of the following events:

1. High school graduation
2. A road trip to Agloe, NY
3. Finding Margo

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

1. On a map, identify the route that Quentin and his friends used to drive to Agloe, NY.
2. Create a list of supplies you would get if you went on a road trip.

Discussion

Answer the key questions. Use evidence from the text.

1. What graduation present did Quentin receive from his parents?
2. How did Quentin discover that Margo is in Agloe?
3. Why did Ben, Radar, and Lacey join the road trip?
4. Why did Quentin and his friends skip graduation?
5. What was the problem with their clothes?

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6. How did the friends take care of each other during the road trip?
7. What was Margo's original plan?
8. What feelings did Margo have towards Quentin when they were children?
9. Why does Margo feel she cannot go back home?

EXTEND

Write Write a one-page product based on the following outline.

1. How do friends handle transitions, such as moving to another city or leaving for college?
2. The adjustments people need to make when they become close to someone they admired from afar. Refer to the following paragraph (pp. 266–267): “Just—Just remember that sometimes, the way you think about a person isn’t the way they actually are. Like, I always thought Lacey was so hot and so awesome and so cool, but now when it actually comes to being with her... it’s not the exact same. People are different when you can smell them and see them up close, you know?”
3. Understanding what others experience. Refer to the following paragraph (p. 299): “Imagining isn’t perfect. You can’t get all the way inside someone else. I could never have imagined Margo’s anger at being found, or the story she was writing over. But imagining being someone else, or the world being something else is the only way in.”

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Final Assignment

Analytical Essay

Task: Write an analytical essay about the concept of friendship in the book, *Paper Towns*. Using the paragraphs you have written in the previous weeks, create a coherent essay. Your essay's length should be between 400–600 words.

The essay will include the following elements:

1. A statement about **the centrality of friendships in high school students' lives**, according to John Green.
2. An analysis of the **plot and the characters** that supports or expands the key argument.
3. A critical personal response which may **fully agree, partially agree, or disagree** with the key argument.

Remember that one paragraph should flow into the next. In order to produce this effect, you may have to re-write some sentences or paragraphs from the paragraphs you have completed in the past weeks. You may also need to add leading or unifying sentences at the beginning or end of paragraphs to aid your reader in following the direction of your essay.

Organize your writing schedule:

- Pre-write to organize your ideas
- Rough draft
- Edit
- Final Draft
- Turn in