

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 1



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 23–24

“It was May fifth, but it didn’t have to be. My days had a pleasant identicalness about them. I had always liked that: I liked routine. I liked being bored. I didn’t want to, but I did.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph about 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? Provide examples from the book, *Paper Towns*, or real life.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 2



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 37

“That’s always seemed so ridiculous to me, that people would want to be around someone because they’re pretty. It’s like picking your cereal based on color instead of taste.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph narrative describing the events of the night from Margo’s perspective. You may write a summary of the events or select text from the book and re-write it with Margo as the narrator.

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 3



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 57

“Here is what’s not beautiful about it: from here, you can’t see the rust or the cracked paint or whatever, but you can tell what the place really is. You see how fake it all is. It’s not even hard enough to be made out of plastic. It’s a paper town. I mean look at it Q: look at all those cul-de-sacs, those streets that turn in on themselves, all the houses that were built to fall apart. All those people living in their paper houses, burning the future to stay warm. All the paper kids drinking beer some bum bought for them at the paper convenience store.”

Reflect: What does the phrase “burning the future” evoke when you think about it? Why does Margo suggest that the houses will fall apart? Why does she mention underage kids buying beer?

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph about the effects of her friend’s 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.”

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 4



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 81

“She let go then, but kept looking at me, taking step after step backward. She raised her eyebrows finally, and smiled, and I believed the smile.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph answer to the following question: What are the ‘strings’ in 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—but that seemed too cheesy to say, and anyway, she was standing up.”

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 5



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 94

“High school is neither a democracy nor a dictatorship—nor, contrary to popular belief, an anarchic state. High school is a divine-right monarchy. And when the queen goes on vacation, things change.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph answer to the following question: What is the meaning of ‘strings’ in the following paragraph (pp. 104–105):

“These kids, they’re like tied-down helium balloons. They strain against the string and strain against it, and then something happens, and that string gets cut, and they just float away. And maybe you never see the balloon again. It lands in Canada or somethin’, gets work at a restaurant, and before the balloon even notices, it’s been pouring coffee in the same diner to the same sad bastards for thirty years.”

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 6



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 120

“The school felt more mine than in all my four years there. We’d gotten a measure of justice for the bikeless band geeks. Lacey Pemberton had spoken to me. Chuck Parson had apologized.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraph answer to the following question: Margo’s disappearance left her friends to wonder how much they truly knew her. In your opinion, what does it mean to know someone? What should we know about our best friends?

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 7



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key 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.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–paragraph answer to the following question: What were the reasons Quentin, Ben, and Radar skipped school and drove to Grovepoint Acres? Consider the perspective of each of the three characters in your answer.

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 8



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 174

“the book wasn’t too dusty. Maybe SeaWorld was only the first stop on some kind of a whirlwind adventure. Yes. That made sense. That was Margo. She found out about this place somehow, came here to gether her supplies, spent a night or two, and then hit the road.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–paragraph answer to the following question: What is Quentin’s theory about Margo’s disappearance, based on finding the travel books in the deserted building?

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 9



Analyze the key paragraph.

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.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraphs narrative connecting this section to the theme, Kindness Requires Empathy. In what ways Radar and Quentin’s parents help him accept people they way they are, with all their imperfections?

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 10



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 229

“I leave, and the leaving is so exhilarating I know I can never go back. But then what? Do I just keep leaving places, and leaving them, and leaving them, tramping a perpetual journey?”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraphs about transitions. You can refer to Margo leaving home, Quentin’s high school graduation, or other transitions such as moving a house and starting a new school. Every transition including saying goodbye to something familiar and starting something new. In your opinion, what is the role of friends through such transitions? **Use as much detail as you can.**

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 11



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key 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?”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraphs about how the relationship between Ben and Lacey changed throughout the story. What can we learn from their relationship?

Use as much detail as you can.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Paper Towns, Day 12



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key 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.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Write a 2–3 paragraphs about the relationship between the book, *Paper Towns*, and the theme, Kindness Requires Empathy.

Use as much detail as you can.