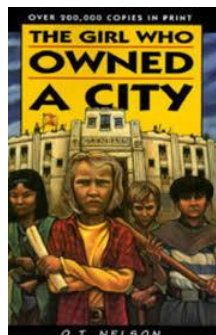


The Girl Who Owned a City



ISBN-10	0-440-41267-6
ISBN-13	978-0-440-41267-0
Author	Nelson, O. T.
Publisher	Carolrhoda Books
Copyright	1995
Lexile	660L
Genre	Post-Apocalyptic fiction, Children's literature, Science Fiction
Synopsis	A deadly plague has devastated Earth, killing all the adults. Lisa and her younger brother Todd are struggling to stay alive in a world where no one is safe. Other children along Grand Avenue need help as well. They band together to find food, shelter, and protection from dangerous gangs invading their neighborhood
Themes	Family, Perseverance
Protagonist	Female
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.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 1



Key Paragraph, pg. 16

“Lisa used to hate her little brother for getting more attention than her. But now she needed him and took care of him. It was strange how her feelings had changed. But everything was all upside down.”

Writing Prompt

Think about a time when you were a leader to a friend or sibling. What decisions were important when you were deciding what to do? **Write an explanatory paragraph about your leadership experience. Be sure to include an introductory sentence; present your example using details, transitions, and appropriate tone in your writing. Provide a conclusion that summarizes your experience and creates a coherent whole. Make sure you provide clear ideas linked to the theme Leadership Requires Engagement. How did you work towards the common good?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 2



Key Paragraph, pg. 24

“Lisa looked up at the wind-up alarm clock. It was almost ten. ‘I’d better get some sleep,’ she decided. But her mind was racing with many new ideas. Some of them made her laugh, but others were actually workable. It seemed that she had a million things to do tomorrow, and she could wait to get started.”

Writing Prompt

Lisa formulates a plan to keep Todd and her alive using ideas that she has pondered. What ideas can you list as a plan that would help you and a sibling stay alive if you were in the same circumstance? **Before you begin writing, create a list of your ideas. Then, take these ideas and create a 1-paragraph explanatory text that describes how you would help a close friend or sibling stay alive in a dangerous situation. Make a connection to leadership skills: how is engagement and working towards a better society important? Provide a one-sentence introduction at the beginning and a one-sentence conclusion at the end of your paragraph to help present and then summarize your ideas. Include relevant examples and transitions to help bring your list of ideas to life. Use appropriate language and a formal tone throughout your writing.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 3



Key Paragraph, pgs. 34-35

“They needed those supplies, and getting them would take 10 trips with the wagon. Besides, someone else might find the stuff before she could get it all moved. If she could learn to drive the car, then she and Todd could really stock up. That would give them time to make better plans.”

Writing Prompt

Describe how you would feel, or have felt, when you were left alone to care for a sibling, close friend, or relative. Before you begin writing, make a list of what you would need to prepare a meal, or describe how you handled a situation where you had to make a decision to protect the health and safety of both you and your sibling/friend/relative. **Once you’ve made your list, write an explanatory paragraph that describes how you cared for a special person in your life, using personal examples and details, as well as sensory and precise language. Make sure you use a formal tone in your writing and use transition words (i.e. first, then, also) Reread your writing once you have finished, and as a friend to help you revise it.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 4



Key Paragraph, pg. 45

“Her thoughts went on and on until they became dreams again. Her parents wouldn’t have believed it. They had known Lisa was smart, but would they have believed that she had survived so cleverly? That she could drive a car or provide for a family.”

Writing Prompt

Before you begin writing, brainstorm a list of steps you would take to find food and survival items if you were in Lisa’s situation. **After brainstorming, write an informational paragraph that presents the items you would need and the ways in which you would go about getting them. Make a connection to leadership and engagement in the community - would you work alone or allow others to assist you? Be precise in your writing; use appropriate and detailed language that will help present your ideas clearly. Be as informative as possible, providing details, reasoning for all the supplies, and transitions to produce coherent writing. Make sure your writing has an introduction at the beginning and a conclusion at the end.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 5



Key Paragraph, pg. 55

“Lisa’s angry words surprised even her. It wasn’t that those ideas were new to her. She had heard them from her parents in many ways before. But now she could really understand why those ideas were so important. She and Todd were working hard and felt proud to live by their own efforts. When someone thought that hunger gave them the right to steal – now that made her mad.”

Writing Prompt

Imagine you heard that someone had stolen something from your house because they were hungry and scared. **Write an explanatory paragraph about what would be the prudent response to such knowledge, and how you would feel about that person who had committed such an offense against your family and home. Before you begin writing, think about both sides of the issue. Be sure to use a formal tone and appropriate vocabulary for the prompt. Provide an introduction and a conclusion to strengthen the cohesion of your writing.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 6



Key Paragraph, pg. 58

“Despite her problems, Lisa never got tired of ‘figuring things out.’ With each new crisis, a solution seemed easier than before. She liked the new feeling of confidence, even though it surprised her.”

Writing Prompt

Think of a time when you had to use your leadership skills to help another person in a crisis situation. Before you begin writing, reflect on that time and how important your help was to someone in need. What leadership skills were necessary for you to help? **In an informational paragraph, inform your audience about your experience helping another person, and why your help was so important. Include information about what strength and confidence is gained from making successful decisions in dealing with a crisis. Use details from your personal experience as a guide to your writing, and use appropriate vocabulary for such a writing task. Be sure to provide a conclusion that brings your main ideas together coherently. When you have finished writing, add a heading to your paragraph that includes a creative title.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 7



Key Paragraph, pg. 66

“To be free, you need protection against people who want to control your life. No one should tell you how to work or take what you have earned.’ Then she was too tired to say anymore.”

Writing Prompt

Think about a time when you faced a crisis that took the help of others to assist you through the crisis. Think about the leadership skills and engagement they used to help you out. Then, using reliable online sources, research the life of a famous leader in history who had to help others through difficult times (John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, Pope John Paul II). **Write two informational paragraphs; in the first, describe your experience with relevant information and details from your own life. Who helped you? What was the crisis? Use appropriate vocabulary and transitions and conclude your first paragraph with a one-sentence summary of your situation. Next, in a second paragraph, describe the experience of the famous leader, using information you have gathered from your research. How did they help lift up others? In the conclusion to your second paragraph, be sure to compare your experience to that of the famous leader. How are you two similar? How are you different? How can you follow their example and be more like them?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 8



Key Paragraph, pg. 85

“Okay, maybe you’re right. Maybe I expect too much of everyone. But you have to understand the way I feel. Surviving isn’t such a bad problem if we can just use our heads. In fact, we’ll really have something when we know we’ve actually earned our survival. That’s the way I felt today when we found the secret supply. Try to understand what I’m saying.”

Writing Prompt

Think about how you would deal with Tom Logan and his gang of thieves if you were in Lisa’s position of leadership of a community of children trying to survive. What actions would you take, how would you confront Tom’s proposals, and would you leave the door open for Tom to lead the gang to a community lifestyle where everyone works together to survive instead of using violence and stealing?

Write an explanatory paragraph in which you describe and provide a rationale for your actions if you were in the characters’ shoes. Remember, leadership requires engagement; what steps could you take to build a better community? Be sure to provide transitions in your writing as well as a conclusion that summarizes your writing coherently.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 9



Key Paragraph, pg. 92

“The ideas were working, and everyone on Grand Avenue was having fun. They were proud of their work, and many of them were beginning to share Lisa’s feeling that working to survive and feeling proud of it could be a sort of happiness.”

Writing Prompt

Write an informative a paragraph describing how building community can create happiness even in the face of a multitude of problems involved with survival. Be sure to draw on the examples of leadership and community engagement from the novel to support your response. Use details from your own life, as well as information from reliable informational sources. Be sure to use appropriate vocabulary for your writing; maintain a formal tone and use transitions (First, Then, Next, Also) to make your writing smooth.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 10



Key Paragraph, pg. 106

“Lisa wasn’t paying attention. ‘Why?’ was all she could say over and over, in her mind. ‘Why?’ It was more than just a house. Her confidence and her joy and her wanting to rebuild things began to leave her. Her dreams and plans were destroyed with the house.”

Writing Prompt

Think about how you might feel if somebody burned down your house while you were away one night doing something important to help your community. As a leader, how would you respond? *Remember that good leaders do not retaliate; they promote the good of the community they are living in.* What would be some of the thoughts going through your mind as you watched the ember and ashes of the house in the darkness when you returned home later that night? **Begin creating an explanatory list of thoughts and emotions you would have if this tragedy occurred to you. Make sure you use descriptive words to convey your feelings and explain your thoughts. Provide a heading and other essential formatting items (bullets or numbered list). When you have finished your list, use a computer to create a word-processed copy.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 11



Key Paragraph, pg. 109

“Her thoughts were all jumbled. I’m such a fool, she said to herself. I talked about changing things, and now things have changed me. I thought I could do anything, and I made such a big deal out of what I would do. Just look at me now. I am just another orphan.”

Writing Prompt

Nelson writes, “Having things is something but not everything. Earning values for your life is more than something. It is everything.” Values are important ingredients to building a better leader. **Write an informative paragraph about the most important value you have learned in your life, and how it makes you a better leader and citizen. Be sure to use details and reflection to inform the reader as to the ‘who, what, when, where, and why’ of your learning experience. Use vocabulary that is relevant to the topic and maintain a formal and appropriate tone in your writing. Include a concluding sentence that clearly summarizes the information presented in your paragraph.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 12



Key Paragraph, pg. 120

“They listened carefully as she presented the details of the plan. There were no smiles and no jokes, just nodding. They could see her point that the houses on Grand Avenue were spread too far apart to defend. The fire had taught them a lesson. Their own houses might be next.”

Writing Prompt

Making choices can be difficult sometimes. Before you begin writing, think about a time when you had to make a difficult decision that took some time to formulate, and how you collected information to make the responsible right choice for that decision. What was difficult and unclear? What helped you to make the right decision? How did this experience help you become a better leader? Did your community help you?

Next, write an explanatory paragraph about your own experience of making a choice that required planning and reflection. Be sure to describe the situation using appropriate vocabulary and a formal tone. Provide transitions (Next, Then, Also) to make your writing as clear as possible. Add a one-sentence conclusion that helps summarize your ideas and bring your paragraph to a close.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 13



Key Paragraph, pg. 132

“She told them that Glenbard was now her private property and that they were all welcome to stay. But she wanted everyone to do something to support the city. She wanted and need them with her. But they had to know the rules.”

Writing Prompt

Have you ever had to move? What emotions did you feel? Now think about what your feelings might be if you have to move from your house where you have lived a long time to a high school so you could survive. **Write an explanatory paragraph describing how you would feel if you were in that situation. Use examples from your own life or the novel to compare your emotions to those of the characters. Be sure to provide a conclusion that summarizes your feelings.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 14



Key Paragraph, pg. 138

“Their plans were very detailed. They tried to consider every possibility and take no chances. The mistakes of Grandville were mentioned. This time they wanted to be sure.”

Writing Prompt

Before you begin writing, take a moment to reflect on the following question: Do you remember a time in your life when you had to take leadership and make a decision using good judgment so you would be safe? If so, what factors did you consider in making that decision? How did you make sure you were helping your community?

Use those factors to create an informative paragraph in which you clearly present the steps you took to make an important decision as a leader. Use details from your life, and compare your experience with that of the characters in the book. What is similar and what is different? Use a formal tone and be sure to include vocabulary that ties in with the topic. Finish your paragraph with a conclusion that summarizes the main points of your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 15



Key Paragraph, pg. 156

“Craig had no choice. He turned Glenbard over to Logan without a fight. The girl who built a city was suddenly powerless – a captive, or worse.”

Writing Prompt

Being a good leader requires engagement and working towards the common good. **Write an explanatory paragraph about what you have learned from the novel about being a leader who has positive civic engagement. Use reliable online search engines to provide definitions of the terms: leadership, engagement, and civic engagement. Be sure to provide a personal reflection in your writing and transitions to help create a cohesive piece of writing. Provide a conclusion that summarizes the main points of your paragraph.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 16



Key Paragraph, pg. 164

“The sight of the wound would not have shocked nurses in a regular hospital. They might even have said it was minor. But to Jill and Todd, it looked bad. Jill faced an awesome responsibility. Her life is in my hands, she thought. What if she dies? What do I do first?”

Writing Prompt

Write an informative journal entry from the point of view of either Todd, Jill, Craig or Erica. What was that character thinking and feeling during the events of today’s chapter? Be sure to use the first person point of view in your writing. Inform the reader as to your thoughts and emotions during this time. Use appropriate transitions (First, Then, Also, Next, Last). Be sure to provide details from the chapter to make your writing as clear as possible.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 17



Key Paragraph, pg. 172

“But her thinking has never been clearer. The ideas kept coming. Signals from a spy... a new plan of the city showing Logan’s room... a hired army surrounding the city... disguises for the four of them... a day-light attack on the inside from the tunnel... a signal to the army on the outside...”

Writing Prompt

Based on what you have learned in the novel thus far, does being a leader who acts with engagement and respects the common good seem like a reasonable goal? **Write an explanatory paragraph of ways that you will use leadership and engagement to work for the betterment of your community in the coming months. Be sure to provide well-reasoned explanations and details as to how you will accomplish your goal. Use transitions, provide a conclusion, and maintain a formal tone in your writing.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 18



Key Paragraph, pg. 180

“No, he said flatly. ‘Lisa, I think you should give it up and stay here with Erika and me on this farm. Why keep fighting?’”

Writing Prompt

Describe your thoughts about Craig’s decision to stop fighting Lisa’s battles as her general. Do you agree or disagree with Craig? **Explain your thoughts and feelings in an explanatory paragraph. Use details from the story as well as your own personal experience. Be sure to use transitions in your writing as well as a conclusion that creates a coherent whole.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 19



Key Paragraph, pg. 190

“Lisa never wanted to hurt anybody, not even Tom Logan. But now she smashed her fist into the face of the Wheaton general.”

Writing Prompt

Describe your feelings and thoughts about how the army mocked Scott Mennie's name, and then Lisa's reaction to Scott Mennie mocking Lisa being the leader of the 55 soldiers in relationship to the concept of leadership requiring engagement. Was Lisa's reaction logical or merely emotional? **Write an explanatory paragraph about Lisa's reaction and describe if it is logical or emotional. Provide at least three reasons from the text to support your stance. Maintain a formal tone throughout your writing and be sure to provide a conclusion that sums up your ideas. Use transitions such as also, next, then, last to create a cohesive whole.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The Girl Who Owned a City, Day 20



Key Paragraph, pg. 197

“What is it about you that makes you want to fight and steal? Are you afraid that you can’t earn things for yourself? Why do you need to steal what others have worked for?”

Writing Prompt

Describe how you felt and what action you might take in the future now that you have learned that leadership requires engagement. **Write an informative paragraph that tells the reader what you have learned from the novel and which lesson will stick with you the most. Maintain a formal tone in your writing. Provide a title to your work. Use reflection, definitions, and examples from the book to make your informative paragraph strong.**