

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

One Time

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272 pages / Grades 3-6

Eleven year old Gina has always been told she has an overactive imagination, which has always made her feel different. Enter a new boy in class, a new teacher and a new way of looking at things, and you have a recipe for a powerful story about acceptance and the possibilities that lie in front of everyone as they hope to find their niche in the world. A book with a strong but calm and quiet power that will leave students and teachers thoughtful and inspired.



C

Context

The **process of writing** and discovering topics, finding a voice and inspiration in the simplest of ways.

The importance of collecting memories, images and stories, which can serve as connectors and access points to **creativity** and **critical thinking**.

Recognizing and accepting differences in everyone and that each person we connect with, in any way, leaves an imprint on us as we move forward.

A

Arts

The power and acceptance of **imagination and visualization** is front and center throughout the book. As you are reading, ask students to consider times in their own lives they have been afraid to speak about their imagination, or a time when they viewed someone as "different" because of that person's imagination.

The **power and beauty of words and images** to serve as **inspiration** for your own **personal creativity**.

T

Themes

Friendship

Acceptance

Finding your path and who you could be compared with who you are.

Being open to thinking in new ways and trying new things.

Observations - how do we really see things.

C

Create

Using the chapters "First Lines", "Who Is It", "Swirls" and "Images" as inspiration, create a personal board of inspiration - words, images, favorite lines from books (like Heart Words) to use for your own creativity in writing.

Use the chapter "Fictional Trees" as a launching pad for doing the same activity - create a fictional family tree. Allow students their own thought process for doing this, but be sure they can explain their thinking.

H

Heart Words

"Who are you?"
"Who could you be?"

pg. 46 - "I think it matters how people look at you when they first see you, before they have a chance to rearrange their expression."

pg. 169 - "The silence was so noisy."

pg 182 - "When I was writing, I could follow the rhythms of my own mind..."

pg 247 - "I am learning that most of us have an intense need to communicate, but we do it in different ways."

