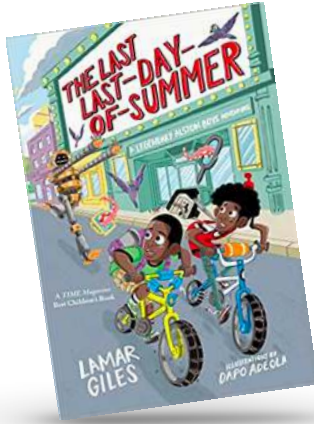# CATCH *a spark!*

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

The Last Last-Day-Of-Summer

Written by Lamar Giles
320 pages / Grades 4-6 (independent) / Grades 2+ as a read-aloud.

This novel is pure imaginative fun, filled with figurative language. Otto and Sheed are cousins who want to have one last adventure before school starts tomorrow, and they sure get it! We have all said the phrase, "If only we could stop time". What if you could? When the boys find a camera that does just that, chaos follows!

C — Context

Figurative Language and plays on words (such as Crunch Time, Second Guess, Father Time, etc)

The concept of **missed opportunities**: recognizing them as well as considering their consequences.

How the past effects the future, and how one might want to change the past if they could.

Keeping track of characters as you are reading.

Newton's Laws of Motion

A — Arts

Tie in using **frames of a movie**. Consider how people and objects literally freeze in many poses and movements in each frame.

Movement. How do you slow it down or stop it, how it can speed up, how it connects to everyday life. Have students really stop to think about their movements. They likely aren't conscious of them.

Photography - focus, setting the picture, what is captured.

T — Themes

Time

Family/Friendship

Adventure

Loyalty

Opportunities

Risks

Bravery

C — Create

Randomly "Freeze" students. They must fret in an exact position at the time you call it. How long can they keep their pose? Why or why not. What happens to your body as you try to hold positions? Consider this in relation to the events of the book.

What moment of your life would you photograph as "the best time of your life" and to freeze time at that moment. Is that something you would really want?

H — Heart Words

"You can't be brave without fear."

"…humans deciding what to do with time. With opportunity. How often do you think they make the right decisions?"

"There will always be…people who want to tell us no, and can't, and shouldn't."