

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

The Marvels

Written by Brian Selznick

672 pages / Grades 5-8

Don't let the number of pages scare you away from this incredible novel, which combines two independent stories which weave together. One story is told through over 400 pages of sequential pictures, the other through traditional prose, taking readers from the year 1766 to 1990. This is a powerful adventures that will grab readers from page one as readers strive to discover how the two stories will connect. A tale of family, mystery, and the past.



C

Context

Literary classics - multiple stories and characters are regularly referred to, particularly Shakespeare and Yeats.

There are multiple references to numerous topics that open up discussions:

- Physical tics
- The AIDS epidemic is hinted at

The power of **crafting stories**. What makes a good story?

A

Arts

Storytelling as an art form and creative process.

Visual Observation - the story told through pictures is a class in observing in itself. While reading the story in prose, readers will find them selves going back to the illustrations to look for certain details. Did they spot them the first time?

Theatre - particularly the history of theatre in England, with original rigging and theatres being built.

T

Themes

Acceptance

Love

Family

Home

The power of storytelling

Feeling different

C

Create

Challenge students to "get lost in a story". What would happen to them if they somehow managed to converse with some of their favorite characters.

Go on a Shakespeare scavenger hunt. What are all the ways our world is filled with references to Shakespeare?

Dive into theatre archives - playbills, costumes, photographs. Craft a new story based on something you see.

Write the backstory of a simple item.

H

Heart Words

"Even a broken watch is correct twice a day."

"You either see it or you don't."

"It's what we all need in life. A direction."

"I don't know, but there's always something you can do, even if it's small."

"That's what life is... miracles and sadness, side by side."

