

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

Written by Dan Gemeinhart

352 pages / Grades 4-8

There are some characters that grab our hearts from page one of a book. Coyote Sunrise is one of them. This is a book for the heart, that celebrates what is most important in life - the connections we make, the memories we hold close, and the idea of being open to whatever comes across our path - and all done with a touch of humor. Coyote will become part of every reader who lets her in, as will her journey.



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Context

Historical context of holiday traditions.

Timelines and historical fiction. The book includes archival photographs and real life event timelines at the end of the book to pique student interest more.

Staying focused and determined despite humble beginnings.

Recognizing small moments as big moments.

A

Arts

Visualization - noticing the things around you. Cultivating an artistic eye. What is it you tend to focus on?

Finding music in the sounds around you (i.e. the music of someone's voice)

T

Themes

Courage

Growing up

Friendship

Overcoming obstacles

Finding joy in small moments

Recognizing sadness, recognizing happiness.

Loss and acceptance

C

Create

Challenge your students to create their own memory box with special friends/family as Coyote does.

What are 3 questions you would ask someone to see if they are a match with you and could "travel on your bus"? Take a poll and ask people around you. What would you do based on their answers?

Write a script or story about a journey across the country with up to 5 other people. Who are they, why do you connect with them, where are you going?

Create a soundtrack for Coyote's road trip. Justify your choices.

H

Heart Words

"It was a quiet moment, and maybe one that anyone watching from outside my heart wouldn't even have noticed, but I tell you it was a big moment all the same."

"...wherever your hearts wants to go, go there and don't look back."

"Sometimes trusting someone is about the scariest thing you can do. But you know what? It's a lot less scary than being all alone."

"There's so much sadness in the world."

"There's so much happiness in the world."

"Starts are important. Once-upon-a-times are important."

"Maybe we're all a little broken. Maybe we're all a little fragile. Maybe that's why we need each other so much."

