

CCSS ELA Reading, Writing, Speaking, & Listening

The Wave

Written By,
Todd Strasser

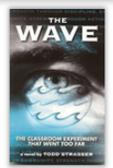
Interactive
Layered
Flip Book

With Answer Keys!

The collage includes several worksheets:

- Character Chart Analysis Key:** A table with columns for Character, Physical Description, and Personality traits.
- STUDYABLE ANSWER KEY:** A document with chapter questions and answers.
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including *The Wave*, *Give A Boy A Gun*, and *The Accident*. *The Wave* and *How I Created My Perfect Prom Date* have become feature films and several of his books have been adapted for television. Now-a-days, Strasser divides his time between Westchester and Montauk, NY. In his spare time, he likes to read, watch movies, spend time with his grown children, play tennis and ski, but his favorite new sport is surfing.



Todd Strasser * The Wave
Vocabulary

Symbols * Themes

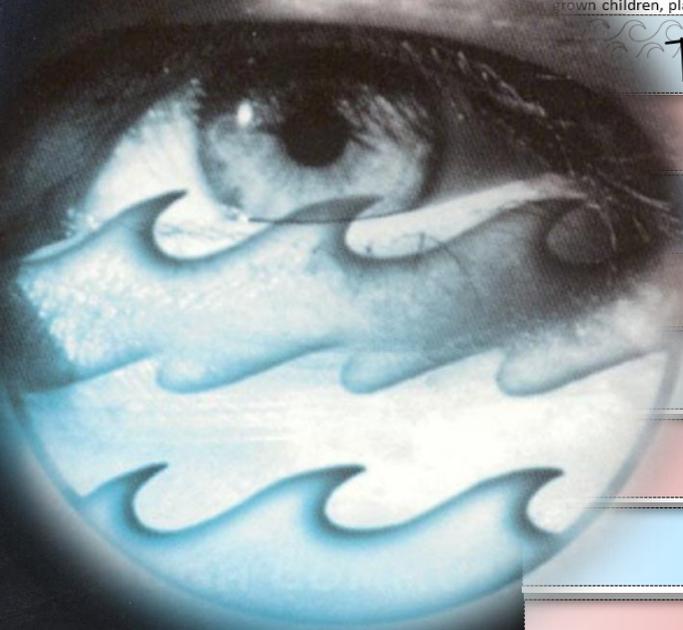
Plot Diagram

Characters

Chapters 1-5

Chapters 6-10

Chapters 11-17



14 pages in the flip book

- perpetual - _____
- dexterity - _____
- charismatic - _____
- lackadaisical - _____
- atrocities - _____
- quintessential - _____
- emaciated - _____
- espoused - _____
- facetiously - _____
- permeated - _____
- intrigued - _____
- skeptically - _____

Vocabulary



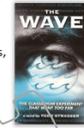
The Wave, was based on a true experiment that happened in Ben Jones' history class in Palo Alto, California in 1969. Ben Ross began his unit on World War II with a documentary film on the concentration camps. His students were horrified that such an event could ever happen and start asking Ben questions, that even Ben could not answer. Ben devised an experiment of his own, which would show the students how easy it is to blindly follow others. Strasser based this novel on an essay by Jones that appeared in *Whole Earth Catalogue* sometime during the early 1970's.

Todd Strasser, was born in New York City in 1950 and grew up in Roslyn Heights on Long Island. He attended I.U. Willets Elementary school and then attended the Wheatley School during his junior high and high years.

After dropping out of New York University, he lived for a while on a commune in Virginia. He later lived in Europe, where he was a street musician. During this part of his life, he wrote some poetry and some fiction, but nothing of his was published. Later he returned to the United States, he attended Beloit College where he studied literature and writing.

Strasser sold his first novel in 1978, *Angel Dust Blues*, and used the money to start the Dr. Wing Tip Shoo fortune cookie company. For the next 12 years, Strasser sold more fortune cookies than books.

In 1990, Strasser moved with his wife and two children to Westchester County, N.Y. He is the author of more than 140 books for teens and middle graders including the best-selling *Pleat! I'm Trapped!* series, and numerous award-winning Young Adult novels including *The Wave*, *Give A Boy A Gun*, and *The Accident*. *The Wave* and *How I Created My Perfect Prom Date* have become feature films and several of his books have been adapted for television. Now-a-days, Strasser divides his time between Westchester and Montauk, NY. In his spare time, he likes to read, watch movies, spend time with his grown children, play tennis and ski, but his favorite new sport is surfing.

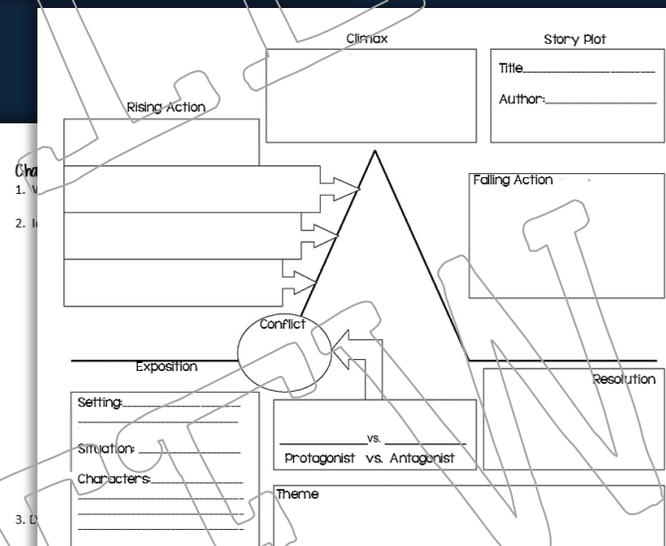


Todd Strasser * The Wave

As you read, complete the chart based on each character

Character	Physical Description	Personality Traits
Laurie Saunders		
Amy Smith		
Ben Ross		
Christy Ross		
Brian Ammon		
Robert Billings		

Characters



Plot Diagram

- Chapter 6:**
- At first, who did Laurie think was the most likely to be the murderer?
 - Identify the symbols that Laurie uses to describe the murderer.
 - Why does Laurie think the murderer is a woman?

- Chapter 7:**
- How do Laurie and David describe the murderer?
 - What does Laurie think the murderer is?
 - How does Laurie describe the murderer's appearance?
 - What bothers Laurie about the murderer's appearance?

- Chapter 8:**
- Has The Wave been successful? Explain the reasons.

- Chapter 2:**
- Describe the events in Ross' history class.
 - Are Ross' troubled thoughts about Robert Billings justified? What does he think is Robert's basic problem? Explain your answer with details.

- Chapter 8:**
- How many men, women and children were murdered in the Nazi extermination camps?

Chapters 1-5

Chapters 6-10

Explain the relationship between Laurie and David. Explain with details.

Chapters 11-17

As you read, complete the chart finding details to support each symbol

Symbol	What is it?	What does it look like? *Illustration*
The Wave logo		
The Wave motto		
The Wave salute		
The Wave identity cards		

Symbols * Themes

Answer Keys for everything and teacher notes ☺

Character Chart Answer Key

Character	Physical Description	Personality Traits
Laurie Saunders	She was a pretty girl with short light brown hair and an almost perpetual smile that only disappeared when she was upset or chewing on Bic pens.	Liked to cheer on Bic pens. She was the editor-in-chief of The Grapevine school newspaper.
Amy Smith	A petite girl with thick, curly, Goldlocks hair.	Laurie takes French with Mr. Gondoni. Anything can make her laugh.
Ben Ross	He had wavy brown hair. He taught history. Other faculty members said he was just young, naive, and overzealous.	All his life he had been befuddled by machinery—film projectors, cars, even the self-service pump at the local gas station drove him bananas. He usually has to find more about something that bothers him.
Christy Ross	Ben's wife. She taught music and choir at Gordon High, and at home she was in charge of anything that required manual dexterity.	She's nice and she usually picks on Ben.
Brian Ammon	A quarterback on the football team.	Brian seemed to like to get low grades.
Robert Billings	The class loser. He was a heavy boy with pigtails perpetually hanging out and his hair always a mess, as if he never bothered to comb it after getting out of the bed in the morning.	The Billings boy was a real problem.
David Collins	A tall, good looking boy who was running back on the football team.	He was also Laurie Sanders boyfriend. He often only cares about football.
Brad	Especially enjoyed tormenting Robert.	He's usually a sarcastic person.
Eric	A black youth.	He's likes learning about the Germans and Nazis and the concentration camps.
Carl Block	A tall, thin guy with blond hair.	The Grapevine's investigator reporter. One of the biggest practical jokers in school.
Alex Cooper	Stocky and dark.	The music reviewer. Another one of the biggest practical jokers.
Coach Schiller	The football coach	He was going to throw anyone who didn't show up for practice off the team. He seemed hesitant and strict.
Deutsch	A junior on the football team	In the second-string quarterback behind Brian. Everyone knew that Deutsch wanted nothing more than to steal Brian's position. As a result, the two of them don't get along.
Principal Owens	Was a towering man who stood over six feet four inches. His head was almost completely bald except for a few tufts of hair above either ear. He had large black shoes.	His only other noteworthy feature was his pipe, always present, which protruded from his lips. He had a deep voice, and when he was angry he might still insight religion in the most hardened atheist.
Mrs. Saunders	Laurie's mother. Was full of ideas, and you could talk to her for hours. She practically ran the county's League of Women Voters by herself and was so politically astute that aspiring politicians seeking local offices were always asking her to advise them.	A worry-wart. Who was probably the brightest and most perceptive woman Laurie has ever encountered. She worries a lot about The Wave.
Mr. Saunders	Laurie's father. Would come home and tell Laurie and Mrs. Saunders about his stroke-by-stroke description of the 28th hole golf. He manages to get out all the pressures and frustrations of his job when he played golf.	Easy-going, rather than a worry-wart like Laurie's mother. He had a passion for golf.

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STUDY GUIDE ANSWER KEY

Chapter One:

1. What is the setting of the book? Gordon High School
2. Identify the following characters: Laurie Sanders, David Collins, Amy Smith, Ben Ross, Robert Billings.
Laurie Saunders: popular teen, editor for The Grapevine newspaper, accepts the Wave at first, but then realizes the dangers of the Wave
David Collins: good looking running back on the football team, Laurie's boyfriend, wants to be a computer engineer, accepts the Wave at first as he believes it will help his team, and it takes him hurting Laurie to see that the Wave is not good
Amy Smith: Laurie's best friend always feels she has to compete with Laurie for popularity, grades, etc.
Ben Ross: history teacher at Gordon High for two years, well liked by his students for his creativity and energy in the classroom, becomes engrossed in the Wave
Robert Billings: "class loser", has problems in class, picked on by classmates, lives in the shadow of his brother, becomes the security guard for Ben Ross in the Wave
3. Describe Ben Ross' reputation with his students and faculty at Gordon High School. Ben Ross has a growing reputation as an outstanding young teacher, the students feel his intensity is contagious, some faculty members are impressed with his dedication and love for his career, while others think he is naive and overzealous.

Chapter Two:

1. Describe the events in Ross' history class. The students are studying World War II and are watching a film about the atrocities in the Nazi concentration camps.
 2. Are Ross' troubled thoughts about Robert Billings justified? What does he think is Robert's basic problem? Explain your answer with details. Responses may vary. Ross is concerned because other students pick on Robert, he will not participate in class and faces failure. He feels he is living in the shadow of his outstanding older brother, so he won't try.
 3. How many men, women and children were murdered in the Nazi extermination camps? About ten million were murdered.
- Chapter Three:
1. Explain Laurie and David's summation of Robert Billings. He is Gordon High's "Untouchable," he has always been strange since they can remember. They can't understand how he and his brother are from the same family. He apparently has a normal IQ, but is very strange.
 2. What does David think is the primary problem with the Gordon High School football team? What is their next big challenge? David feels the team is disorganized, behind in their plays and some fail to show up to practice. The next big challenge is the game against Clarkston.
 3. Are Laurie and Amy secure in their friendship? Explain your answer with details. Responses may vary. They are best friends, but there is an underlying competition for grades, boys and popularity.

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STUDY GUIDE ANSWER KEY

Chapter Eight:

1. Has The Wave had a positive or negative effect on the football team? Explain with details. Responses will vary. Initially it has a positive effect on the team. The coach says they are like a new team.
2. Explain the new addition to The Wave requirements and its effects on the students. They received membership cards. On the small yellow cards, some are marked with a red X to indicate the students who would be hall monitors and they must report to Ross any Wave members who are not following the rules. Laurie questioned the point of the cards.
3. Name the two requirements for new recruits in The Wave. They had to demonstrate knowledge of the rules and pledge strict obedience to them.
4. What effect does The Wave have on Robert Billings? Robert says it is like being born again, he now feels part of the class.

Chapter Nine:

1. Identify the unexpected things that begin to occur due to The Wave. What troubles Ross? The size of his class is getting bigger, the students are answering questions by rote rather than by analysis of the questions, he is going through his lessons faster and his students do better on multiple choice questions, but not essays.
2. What is the biggest story in Gordon High School? Why is Laurie reluctant to print the story? What does she decide to do and why? The Wave is the biggest story. Laurie feels uneasy and cautious and asks her staff to find out details of The Wave from the students.

Chapter Ten:

1. Why does Principal Owens summon Ross to his office? What is the result? The principal has called him in because he wanted to discuss The Wave. Ross is concerned, but agrees to let him continue as he trusts Ross.
2. Why will Ross be relieved if Principal Owens tells him to stop The Wave? Ross has not expected The Wave to go as far as it has gone and to have reached so many students.

Chapter Eleven:

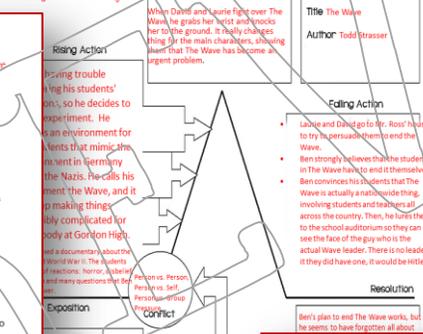
1. Sum up the anonymous letter Laurie receives about The Wave. Is the effect of the letter positive or negative? Explain your details. The letter accuses some members of The Wave of using threats and scare tactics in an attempt to recruit new members. It actually helps Laurie get her thoughts into focus. Responses may vary.
2. Why is Robert following Ross down the hall? What is Ross' response? Robert believes that Ross needs a bodyguard, Ross agrees.

Chapter Twelve:

1. Explain Laurie's decision about The Wave rally. Do you agree or disagree with her decision? Explain with details. Laurie decides not to go, she believes The Wave is taking over everything. Responses will vary.
2. Who joins Laurie in dissenting against The Wave? What do they decide to do? Alex and Carl join Laurie; they decide to call for a meeting of staff members who do not belong to The Wave.

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Plot Diagram Answer Key



Story Plot

Title: The Wave
Author: Todd Strasser

Plot: Laurie and Ben Ross are in Palo Alto, California, at Gordon High School. They are discussing the rise of Hitler and the Nazis.

Rising Action: Ben Ross decides to experiment with "The Wave" in his history class. He is an environment for events that mimic the movement in Germany. He calls his group "The Wave," and it is making things very complicated for everybody at Gordon High.

Climax: When David and Laurie fight over The Wave, he grabs her wrist and knocks her to the ground. It really changes their lives. The main characters, including Laurie, feel that The Wave has become an urgent problem.

Falling Action: Laurie and David go to try. Ross tries to try to persuade them not to join The Wave. Ben strongly believes that the students in the Wave have to end it immediately. Ben convinces his students that The Wave is actually a worldwide thing, involving students and teachers all across the country. Then, he tells them to the school auditorium so they can see the face of the guy who is the actual Wave leader. There is no leader, as they did have one, it would be better.

Resolution: Ben's plan to end The Wave works, but he seems to have forgotten all about it.

Symbols Answer Key

Symbol	What is it?	Illustration
The Wave logo	a circle with the outline of a wave inside. Both the symbol and the salute represent secrecy and isolation as they are known only by The Wave members.	
The Wave motto	The new motto becomes "Strength through discipline, strength through community"	Students can draw a flag, patch, badge, or something that incorporates the motto.
The Wave salute	you must cup your right hand in a shape of a wave, tap against the left shoulder and then hold it upright. Both the symbol and the salute represent secrecy and isolation as they are known only by The Wave members.	



An example of students might draw. Answers will vary

Themes: Teacher Notes and ANSWER KEY

Use these notes during direct instruction / pre-reading. You can have a class-wide discussion and present the notes on the projector or smartboard. Your students should use their flipbook-page labels "Themes and symbols"

FOCUS: What makes individuals want to become a part of a community that places an authoritarian state above all other concerns?

- The students at Gordon High feel like they are part of something.
- The students get so into it, that they feel the need to share it out of their own class.

EDUCATION: It centers on Gordon High School

- The students at Gordon High learn a lot about the days of the Wave experiment. Ben Ross learns a thing or two about pushing his crazy experiment onto his students.

POWER: Power corrupts people.

- Hitler: the background of the story involves one of the most well-known examples of corrupt power in history: Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.
- Ben: In teaching his students about the historical event, Ben accidentally abuses his power as a teacher by exposing the kids to a dangerous experiment.
- Students: The abuse of power goes down to the students.
- Laurie Saunders: The Editor of the school paper actually uses her power as a journalist to bring the truth of the Wave to light.

LEGACY: The members of The Wave give up their individuality in order to participate in the Wave. In the process they betray those they care about: Laurie Saunders' best friend and boyfriend both turn against her when she questions the Wave. Laurie Saunders, is the only throughout the novel who does not give in to leaders. She questioned everything and had a strong sense of individuality throughout the novel.

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Vocabulary Answer Key

- Vocabulary:**
- Perpetual (Adjective): Lasting or enduring forever or for an indefinitely long time; continuing indefinitely without interruption; ongoing
 - Deerly (Noun): Skill in using one's hands or body; adroitness; skill in using one's mind; cleverness
 - Charismatic (Adjective): Possessing great powers of charm or influence
 - Lackadaisical (Adjective): feeling or showing a lack of interest or enthusiasm
 - Atrocities (Noun): Atrocious behavior or conditions; brutality; cruelty
 - Quintessential (Adjective): the essence of a thing in its purest and most concentrated form
 - Emissiated (Verb): to waste away physically
 - Expoused (Verb): to express support for (a cause, belief, etc.)
 - Favorably (Adjective): used to describe speech that is meant to be funny but that is usually regarded as amusing, silly, or not proper
 - Permeated (Verb): to pass into or through and affect every part of
 - Intrigued (Verb): To excite the interest or curiosity of; fascinate
 - Skeptically (Adverb): With some doubt; not easily persuaded or convinced; doubting
 - Resurgence (Noun): a growth or increase that occurs after a period without growth or increase
 - Astute (Adjective): Having or showing a clever or shrewd mind; cunning; crafty
 - Detrimental (Adjective): Harmful, damaging
 - Ecstatic (Adjective): Elated; overjoyed
 - Indoctrinate (Verb): Cause to believe something, especially with the goal of discouraging independent thought
 - Atheist (Noun): A person who believes that there is no God
 - Utopian (Adjective): having impossibly ideal conditions especially of social organization
 - Disseminating (Verb): To scatter far and wide; spread abroad
 - Adamant (Adjective): Not giving in; unyielding; very determined
 - Compliance (Noun): Giving in to a request, wish, or demand; agreeing to do something
 - Simultaneous (Adjective): Occurring at the same time
 - Incoherent (Adjective): Incoherent; incoherent; incoherent
 - Usurp (Verb): to take and keep (something, such as power) in a forceful or violent way and especially without the right to do so
 - Rueful (Adjective): showing or feeling regret for something done

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