



STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 3-5

The Janitor's Boy

Andrew Clements

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Janitor's Boy

Andrew Clements

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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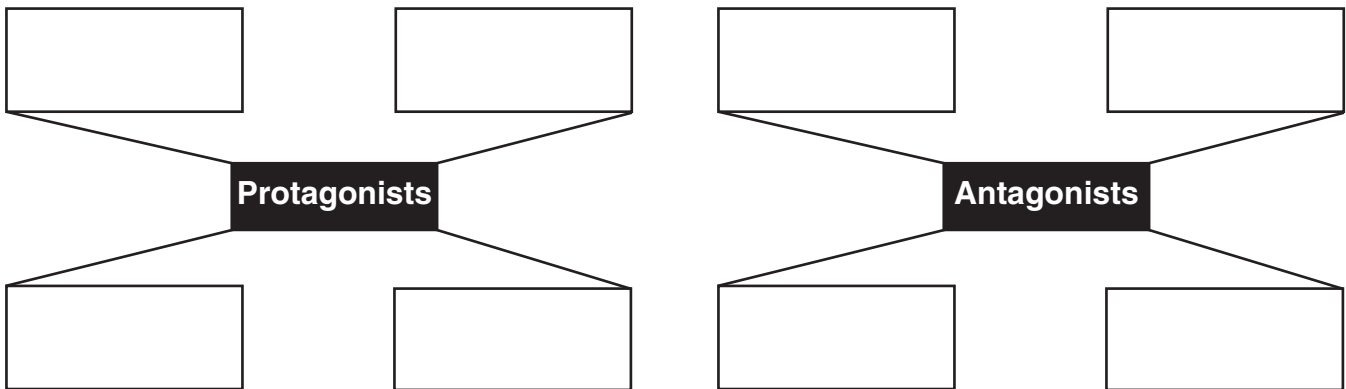
Name _____

The main character in a story is called the **protagonist**. Sometimes we call the protagonist the hero or heroine (the “good” person). The character who opposes the hero in a story is called the **antagonist**. Sometimes we call the antagonist the villain (the “bad” person).

Directions: Think about stories you have read. Who were some of the protagonists (heroes/heroines) in these stories? Who were the antagonists (villains)? List some of the protagonists and antagonists and the stories in which they appeared.

Protagonists	Antagonists	Story

Complete the chart below by listing some common characteristics of protagonists and antagonists. For example, a protagonist is often brave. An antagonist may be cunning or cruel. Sometimes the antagonist is not just a person but a belief or custom.



As you read *The Janitor's Boy*, decide who is the protagonist and who or what is the antagonist. Notice their characteristics and compare/contrast them to the characters you listed in the chart above.

Name _____

Chapters 16–18, pp. 97–119

1. Why does Jack think that Mr. Ackerby is waiting for him in the workshop?
2. What reason does Mr. Ackerby give for letting Jack quit work at 3:00 instead of 3:30 on this particular day?
3. Why will working on the seats in the auditorium be a big job for Jack?
4. Why does Jack decide to turn on the lights in the auditorium?
5. What does Jack trip over while searching backstage for the lights?
6. What is the best thing Jack finds backstage?
7. What is the strange scent Jack smells coming from the tunnel?
8. What does Jack take from his father's desk drawer?
9. What extra job does Lou tell Jack his father wants him to complete?
10. How is Jack trapped in the steam tunnel?
11. What does Jack think he smells in the tunnel?
12. Why does Jack decide to turn off his flashlight?

Chapters 19–21, pp. 120–140

1. Who does Jack find in the little apartment in the steam tunnel?
2. Why is Eddie living in the tunnel?
3. Who put the refrigerator and the furnishings in the tunnel?
4. Who gave the boy permission to stay in the tunnel?
5. What is the first name on the guest list?
6. Where does the opening Eddie uses to get in and out of the tunnel lead?
7. Why does Jack rush back to the school?
8. Who does Jack see as he makes his way to the school?
9. Who does John say put the furnishings in the tunnel?
10. How does John compensate for the electricity used by the guests in the tunnel?

Name _____

Characters With Character

Directions: A person's **character** is evaluated by his or her actions, statements, and the way he or she treats others. For each of the attributes listed in the center of the page, write the name of one character from the novel who has that trait, and the name of a character who does **not** have that trait. After each character's name, give an example of an action or statement which proves you have properly evaluated the character.

Has This Trait		Doesn't Have This Trait
	tells the truth	
	keeps promises	
	considers consequences of actions	
	sacrifices for others	
	listens to others without pre-judging them	
	is a good person	
	is kind and caring	