



**STUDENT PACKET**

**GRADES 6-8**

# Milkweed

Jerry Spinelli



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

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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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3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

## Note to the Teacher

Selected activities, quizzes, and test questions in this Novel Units® Student Packet are labeled with the following reading/language arts skills for quick reference. These skills can be found above quiz/test questions or sections and in the activity headings.

**Basic Understanding:** The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of written texts. The student will:

- use a text’s structure or other sources to locate and recall information (Locate Information)
- determine main idea and identify relevant facts and details (Main Idea and Details)
- use prior knowledge and experience to comprehend and bring meaning to a text (Prior Knowledge)
- summarize major ideas in a text (Summarize Major Ideas)

**Literary Elements:** The student will apply knowledge of literary elements to understand written texts. The student will:

- analyze characters from a story (Character Analysis)
- analyze conflict and problem resolution (Conflict/Resolution)
- recognize and interpret literary devices (flashback, foreshadowing, symbolism, simile, metaphor, etc.) (Literary Devices)
- consider characters’ points of view (Point of View)
- recognize and analyze a story’s setting (Setting)
- understand and explain themes in a text (Theme)

**Analyze Written Texts:** The student will use a variety of strategies to analyze written texts. The student will:

- identify the author’s purpose (Author’s Purpose)
- identify cause and effect relationships in a text (Cause/Effect)
- identify characteristics representative of a given genre (Genre)
- interpret information given in a text (Interpret Text)
- make and verify predictions with information from a text (Predictions)
- sequence events in chronological order (Sequencing)
- identify and use multiple text formats (Text Format)
- follow written directions and write directions for others to follow (Follow/Write Directions)

**Critical Thinking:** The student will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze written texts. The student will:

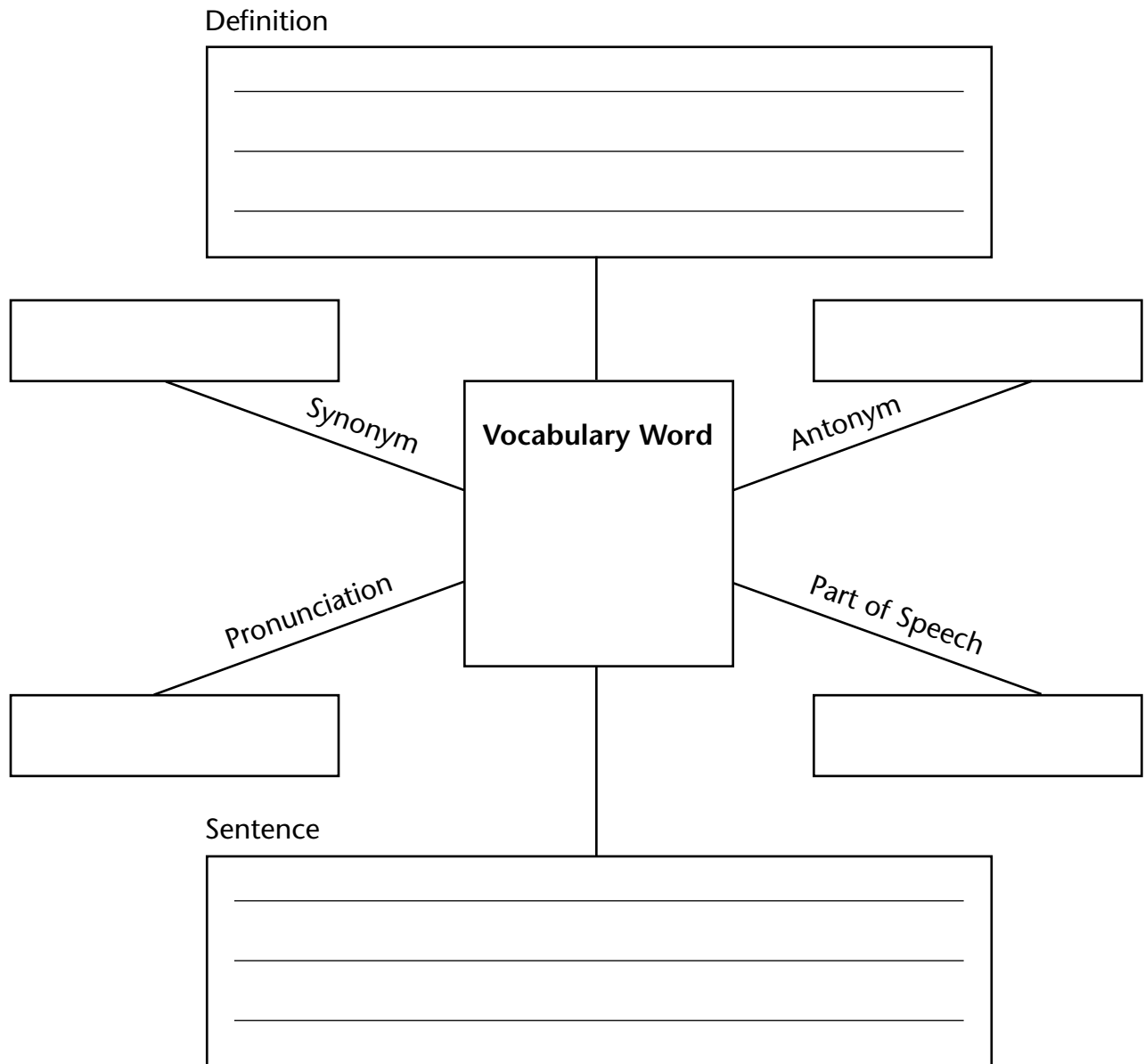
- write and complete analogies (Analogies)
- find similarities and differences throughout a text (Compare/Contrast)
- draw conclusions from information given (Drawing Conclusions)
- make and explain inferences (Inferences)
- respond to texts by making connections and observations (Making Connections)
- recognize and identify the mood of a text (Mood)
- recognize an author’s style and how it affects a text (Style)
- support responses by referring to relevant aspects of a text (Support Responses)
- recognize and identify the author’s tone (Tone)
- write to entertain, such as through humorous poetry or short stories (Write to Entertain)
- write to express ideas (Write to Express)
- write to inform (Write to Inform)
- write to persuade (Write to Persuade)
- demonstrate understanding by creating visual images based on text descriptions (Visualizing)
- practice math skills as they relate to a text (Math Skills)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary Word Map

artillery	bombardment	reality	boulevard
colossal			

**Directions:** Complete a word map for each of the vocabulary words from the list above. Share your completed maps with the class.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 39–45

1. Why can't Misha and Janina get back into the ghetto?
2. How do Misha and Janina get back into the ghetto the following night?
3. Where does Janina end up?
4. Who shoots Misha?
5. Where does Misha tell a boy he is going?
6. Where does the man with the donkey cart take Misha?
7. How long does Misha stay with the man and his wife?
8. To where does Misha immigrate?
9. Once there, what name does Misha take?
10. Whom does Misha marry?
11. Who "rescues" Misha from the Bag 'n Go?
12. What does Misha's granddaughter call him?
13. What middle name does Misha give his granddaughter?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Survival Chart

**Directions:** How does Misha survive in the ghetto and later in America? What needs does one have to meet in order to survive? Complete the chart below.

Needs	How Misha Gets Them
Food	
Water	
Warmth	
Shelter	
Love	
Companionship	
Mental Stimulation	