NOVELUNITS
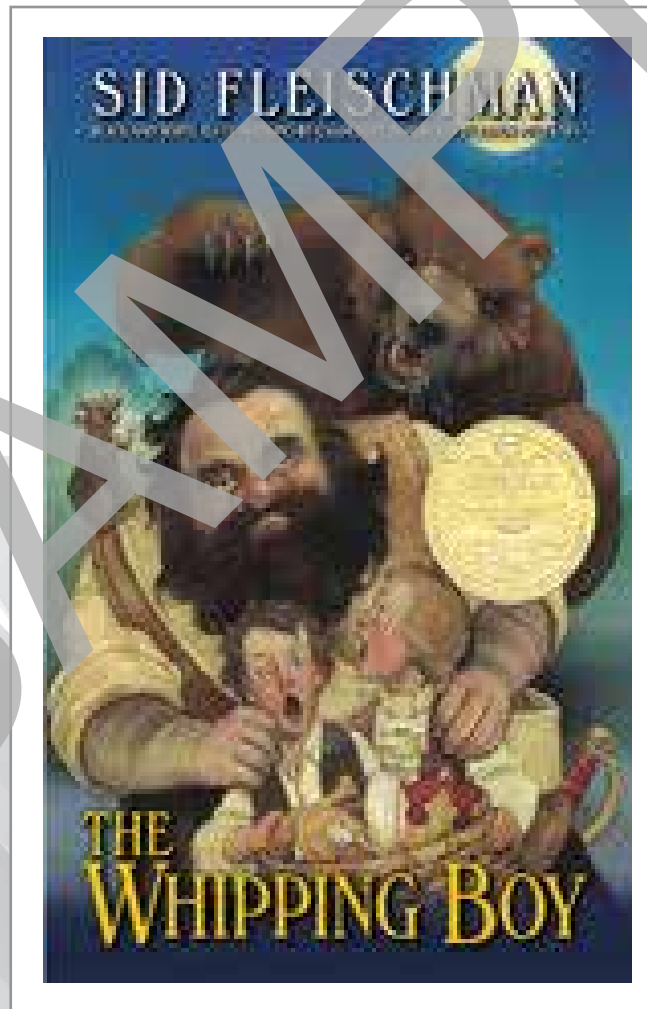
The Whipping Boy

Sid Fleischman

READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Whipping Boy

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STUDENT PACKET

Name_____

Activity: To attribute thoughts to Jemmy

Gaw!

" 'Gaw!' thought Jemmy. 'He's going back on his word!' And so it went for more than a year. The prince learned nothing. The whipping boy learned to read, write, and do sums." (page 6)

What do you imagine Jemmy is thinking during this time, as he learns and the prince does not?

Make an illustration that shows Jemmy with the prince in a specific situation, such as when they are with the tutor, with the king, in court, eating, and so forth. Is the prince able to get along satisfactorily? Might something happen because he does not know how to read, write, or to do sums? Place Jemmy's thoughts in a thought balloon.

Activity: To make a creepy thing; to follow written directions

Hopelessly Lost

"A thick fog had swirled in, they'd strayed from the road, and trees had closed in on them. 'Forests is creepy things,' said Jemmy." (page 9)

Make A Creepy Thing of the Forest

Materials:
colored construction paper
tempera paint
drinking straws, cut in half
newspaper

Process:
a) Cover the work area with newspaper.
b) Place materials needed on the newspaper.
c) Place a blob of paint on a piece of construction paper.
d) Hold the end of a drinking straw almost into the paint.
e) Blow briskly (paint will spread in jagged lines in all directions).
f) Move the straw to another area where the paint has collected.
g) Blow again.
h) Repeat the process until pleased with the design.
i) Place finished painting in an area to dry.
j) Clean up work area.
k) When paint is dry, crayon and/or chalk details may be added to the design, to transform it into a creepy thing, if you wish.

Activity: To use personification

The Fog

"A plan had been tumbling about in his head. Here's your chance, Jemmy, he told himself."
(page 9)

When a writer attributes human characteristics to those things which are clearly not human, the technique is called <u>personification.</u>

When YOU write about objects, things, ideas and animals as if they were human, YOU are using <u>personification.</u>

Here are some of Sid Fleischman's examples on pages 9 & 11:

"A low branch almost swept them off the saddle."
"A plan had been tumbling about in his head."

Write a paragraph in which you use personification. Make "it" come alive! Illustrate your work.

Activity: To use negative statements to list universal truths

Crows

" 'But I can't write!' blurted out Prince Brat. 'And crows can't fly!' erupted the big outlaw with a blast of garlicky breath." (page 20)

Billy replies in disbelief to the "can't" statement of the prince with a "can't" statement of his own that he knows to be untrue.

A "can't" statement is effective if it is understood to be untrue by all who hear it.

Write down some "can't" or "isn't" or "don't" statements that could be used to replace "and crows can't fly."

For example:

and rain isn't wet   _____

and a polar bear isn't white   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

Use one of your statements in a sentence.

_____

_____

Illustrate a different one of your statements. Write the statement below the picture. Use the back of your paper for the picture and statement.