

A Teaching Unit
For
Joey Pigza
Swallowed the Key



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

A Teaching Unit For *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* Jack Gantos

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Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key Teaching Unit

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Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Pre-Reading Activity

Name _____

Date _____

Directions: Read each statement. Next, mark either agree or disagree for each statement. (Before reading) After reading the novel, reread the statements and again mark agree or disagree (After reading).

We will discuss the anticipation guide responses as a class.

Before Reading			After Reading	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Everyone is capable of controlling his/her own behavior at all times.		
		If someone is hurt, no mater if it is an accident, the person causing the harm must be punished.		
		With hard work and determination, anyone is capable of change.		
		Parents, under no circumstance, should leave their child for someone else to take care of.		
		Students who are disruptive in the classroom should be sent to an alternative classroom or school so that the others can learn and work to their potential.		

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapter Title Analysis

Name _____

Date _____

As you read the novel, complete the following chart.

Chapter #	Chapter title	Why is this title effective for this chapter?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

Chapter 1

Introducing Joey & Author's Style

Name: _____

Introducing Joey

Read the first two paragraphs in chapter one. Then answer the following questions.

1. From what point of view is this story told? _____

2. What is revealed about Joey in these first two paragraphs?

3. Do you think you would want Joey as a friend? _____ Why or why not?

Author's Writing Style

A style is a way of writing. It involves how something is said, not what is said. Many elements contribute to style, including word choice, sentence length, tone, and figurative language. Two elements that Jack Gantos uses are evident in the very first chapter: long sentences and the use of figurative language.

Read the following long sentence that is written on page 4. Notice how long it is.

So I went and stood in the hall for about a second until I remembered the mini-Superball in my pocket and started to bounce it off the lockers and ceiling and after Mrs. Deebs in the next class stuck her head out the door and yelled, "Hey, cut the racket," like she was yelling at a stray cat, I remembered something I wanted to try.

Find one other place in chapter one where the author uses a long sentence. Write the page number and paragraph number. Page _____ Paragraph _____

Why are these long sentences effective? _____

Read the following similes that Gantos uses in chapter one.

"Okay, Joey," she'd say, calling on me and staring hard at my face as if her eyes were long fingers that could grip me by the chin.

Why is this simile effective? _____

"I had seen the Tasmanian Devil on TV whirling around like a top so I unbuckled my belt and pulled on the end really hard."

What two things are being compared in this simile? _____

Find three similes on page five in chapter one.

Chapter 2

Similes to create Imagery & Meet the Family

Meet the Family.

In chapter two, we are introduced to Joey's mom, grandmother, and father. Complete the following chart for each of those three family members.

	Grandma	Mom	Dad
Two Facts that you have learned about this person			
Two descriptive words that seem right for this person			
For Mom and Grandma, identify one or two quotes from the story so far that help show each of their personalities.			

Imagery

Imagery consists of words and phrases that appeal to readers' senses. Writers use sensory details to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. In this chapter, Gantos uses similes to help him create imagery. Read the following excerpt from page ten, and notice the imagery and the underlined similes.

A jigsaw puzzle of ancient Egypt outlined the dining room table with the extra pieces piled up like pyramids spilling over onto the floor. I had stacks of homework I had forgotten and drawings of my grandmother's face on big locust bug bodies all taped to the floors as if she'd been squashed by a truck. I stuck wet leaves over the windows, glued my stuffed animals to the chairs, hid all the oven knobs in the dead plant pots, and made huge string spider webs...

How do the similes help create imagery?

Find another example of imagery in this chapter. Page # _____ Does this example contain a simile? _____ What picture is in your head as you read this? Draw a picture on the back of this page of the image in your head.

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Chapter 3
Conflict & Figurative Language

Name: _____ Date: _____

There are two types of conflict: internal and external. An internal conflict is a conflict that a character has within him/herself. (man vs. himself) An external conflict is a conflict that a character has with someone or something else (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, etc.)

Complete the following chart to help you analyze the conflicts Joey faces.

<i>Text</i>	<i>Summary of conflict</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>
"I don't get how they think I'm such a pain," I said to her. "And I didn't, because most of the time I wasn't even in the classroom."		
Maria kept frowning at me and then she pulled out a little pad from her desk and wrote down four letters I couldn't see but figured spelled J-O-E-Y.		
She stopped a moment to be real careful. "And no one at the school wants to be hurt by you."		

Complete the following chart to help you analyze the figurative language found in chapter three.

Text	Type of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or idiom)	What does it mean?
<i>"I got my eye on you."</i>		
<i>I watched the second hand sweep around and around.</i>		
<i>Sharp as a needle</i>		
<i>The beauty parlor was a zoo today.</i>		

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapter 4
Point of View & Flashback

Point of View

This novel is written in the first person point of view. That is an advantage because we really get to know Joey. However, it is a disadvantage because we never get to know what the other characters are thinking and feeling. The story would be much different if it were told in another point of view.

In chapter four, Joey swallows his key and gets sent to the special ed. classroom. Let's take a look at how different the story would be if it were told in another point of view.

Reread page 33 in chapter four. Then complete the following activities.

1. Rewrite the action from this passage from the point of view of Seth Justman.

2. Rewrite the action from this passage using the third person omniscient point of view.

3. Rewrite the action from this passage from the point of view of Mrs. Maxy.

Flashback – When a character remembers something from the past.
Find the flashback that Joey has on page thirty-one.

1. What is the flashback about? _____
2. What causes Joey to have this flashback? _____
3. What words signal the flashback? _____

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Quiz chapters 1-4

Name _____

Date _____

1. Which of the following is true about the author's style?
 - a. Gantos uses a sarcastic tone and lots of personification.
 - b. Gantos uses short, choppy sentences to create a suspenseful tone.
 - c. Gantos uses long sentences and lots of figurative language.
 - d. Gantos uses onomatopoeia and foreshadowing on every page.
2. Which of the following best describes Grandma?
 - a. strict and organized
 - b. wired and often angry
 - c. mean, but encouraging
 - d. calm and timid
3. Which of the following is a phrase that Joey asks over and over again?
 - a. I know it, and I know it well!
 - b. I can't help that I'm wired.
 - c. Can I get back to you on that?
 - d. Do you think I want to act this way?
4. What type of figurative language is used in the following sentence? *"Now get inside and stay inside," she said with the ketchup bottle still spinning around her feet like a bowling pin.*
 - a. simile
 - b. metaphor
 - c. idiom
 - d. hyperbole
5. How does the above passage create imagery?
 - a. The figurative language allows the reader to hear what is going on in Joey's kitchen.
 - b. The figurative language allows the reader to visualize how the ketchup bottle looks as it spins.
 - c. The figurative language allows the reader to imagine what will happen next.
 - d. The figurative language allows the reader to visualize how the ketchup feels on the floor.
6. What type of figurative language is used in the following sentence? *It is always in her hand, like she is some kind of magic Pez meds dispenser.*
 - a. simile
 - b. metaphor
 - c. personification
 - d. idiom
7. Which of the following is an internal conflict with which Joey struggles?
 - a. trying to convince Grandma not to make him get inside the refrigerator
 - b. cutting his finger in the pencil sharpener
 - c. wanting to behave but not being able to
 - d. trying to beat Grandma to the telephone
8. What happens to Grandma?
 - a. She really got washed down the sewer grate.
 - b. She got put in an mental hospital.
 - c. She finally got her own meds.
 - d. She goes to live with Joey's father.

9. From what point of view is this novel told?
- First person – Mrs. Maxy is telling the story.
 - First person – Joey is telling the story.
 - Third person limited – Focus is on Joey
 - Third person omniscient
10. Why did Joey's mom give him a house key?
- because his grandma wasn't around and he got home two hours before she did
 - because she wants Joey to become more responsible
 - so that Joey could go home in the middle of the day if he started feeling too wired
 - so that Joey could practice swallowing it
11. Read the following passage from the novel. Which of the following words are strong verbs?
- I was still fishing and wondering if I could pull my liver up, or my kidney, or some organ we had studied in science when suddenly Mrs. Maxy swooped down on me. With one hand she yanked the string out of my mouth, which really hurt because the key was about halfway down my throat. Then with her other hand she took her sharp "teacher only" pointy scissors and cut the string off the key and put the key in my T-shirt pocket.*
- halfway, sharp
 - pointy, suddenly
 - liver, kidney
 - yanked, swooped
12. What color does Grandma want to paint Joey's room?
- blue
 - pink
 - red
 - green
13. Why does Grandma want to paint Joey's room that color?
- to make the house pretty
 - to cover markings on the wall
 - to calm Joey down
 - to make Joey appreciate the color
14. Who calls Joey "Zippy"?
- Maria Dombrowski
 - Mrs. Maxy
 - kids on Joey's street
 - older students at school
15. Based on the following passage, what can you infer about Joey's family?
- All the way home in the car Mom had borrowed I kept picking it out of the tiny hole I had worked in my pocket and slowly tossed it out the window.*
- They are well educated.
 - They are poorly educated.
 - They have a lot of money.
 - They have little money.
16. When does a flashback occur?
- when a story is interrupted for a character to remember something
 - when an author gives clues or hints for what is to happen later
 - when an author says one thing but means another
 - when an author provides lots of figurative language

**Answer Key for
Quiz chapters 1-4**

Question #	Answer
1	C
2	B
3	C
4	A
5	B
6	A
7	C
8	D
9	B
10	A
11	D
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	C
16	A

**Chapter 5
Tone & Idioms**

Tone: the attitude that a writer takes toward the audience, a subject, or a character.

What is the overall tone of Joey Pigza so far? _____

The tone in this chapter changes dramatically from the beginning of it to the end. This chapter begins with a humorous, lighthearted tone.

Reread page 49. The tone is much different here. What is the tone on this page?

Reread page 42. This part of the book has a very humorous tone. Try rewriting the action on this page using one of the following different tones: sad, angry, sarcastic.

Idioms

This chapter is full of idioms. An idiom is a phrase, saying, or expression that says one thing but means another.

Explain what the following idioms from chapter five mean.

1. The next morning, nature took its course.

2. "Smart enough to know how to press my buttons."

3. Harold kept trying, and still he had no wind in him...

*** Find other idioms on the following pages: 43, 48, 50, 53**

Chapter 6

Writing Assignment

“For a moment I thought how it would have been so funny if kids took a field trip to my house when me and my grandma were living together. We’d step out the front door and say, “Welcome. Our place looks like a tornado’s just hit. Run around inside like we do and have a blast!”

Tell a story about you and your classmates visiting Joey Pigza’s house at the time that he lived with his grandma. Describe what his house looks like and make up a conflict that you face while there. Make sure you have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

You may use this page to complete a prewriting graphic organizer to gather your thoughts.

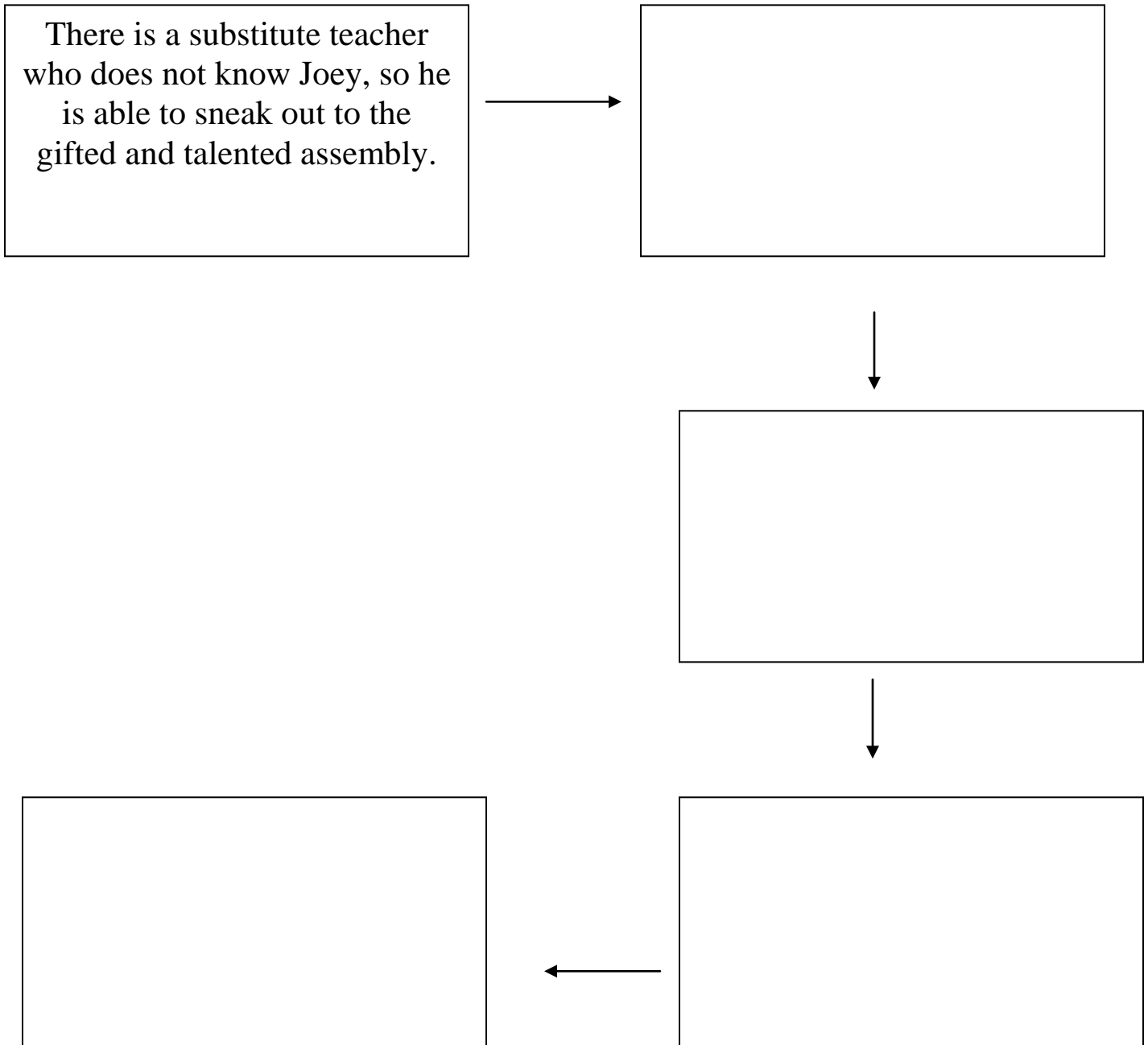


Chapter 7 Cause & Effect

Name _____

Date _____

This chapter perfectly illustrates how cause and effect relationships work. The entire chapter follows a cause/effect pattern. Complete the following cause/effect chart.



Discussion:

How does this cause/effect pattern influence Mrs. Maxy's view of Joey?

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapter 8
Discussion

- 1. Do you think Joey should receive punishment for what happened to Maria? Why or why not?**

Mr. Jarzab had already put the Kleenex away, and Mom reached for her own purse. When she unsnapped it, I could smell the makeup and lipstick and perfume, especially perfume, and I wanted to leap onto her lap and bury my head against her neck where she always put a dab of something extra nice and when I smelled it, I just imagined following it to a safe, soft, warm mom place that would protect me from everything bad and I could protect her.

- 2. Underline the imagery that is included in this passage.**

- 3. What does this passage reveal about Joey?**

- 4. Look at the sentence fluency in this passage. There are only two sentences. The second one is very long. Why do you think that the author made this sentence extra long?**
 - The long sentence adds suspense.
 - The sentence is long to show that Joey has wanted to cry for a long time.
 - Joey wants to escape, and the long sentence seems to mimic his desire because there are no pauses.
 - Joey wants to run away, and the long sentence seems to run on forever.

- 5. At the end of this passage, Joey says, "and I could protect her." From what does he need to protect his mother?**

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapters 5-8 Quiz

Name _____

Date _____

1. "I heard splash-clunk as the key fell out of my butt and hit the porcelain bowl..."
What sound device is used in the above sentence?
 - a. alliteration
 - b. meter
 - c. onomatopoeia
 - d. rhyme
2. What does Joey do that results in Mrs. Howard putting him in the Big Quiet Chair?
 - a. pulls the fire alarm
 - b. hits Maria
 - c. sneaks into the assembly
 - d. blows out Harold's candles
3. What does Joey mean when he says, "I couldn't see her face, but it was like I could see her voice..."
 - a. He could see the words floating from her mouth.
 - b. She was not speaking at all, only looking very angry.
 - c. He could tell that she was upset by the tone of her voice.
 - d. He could tell that her face was mad because he could imagine it.
4. Where did Joey's class go on their field trip?
 - a. the bus depot
 - b. an Amish farm
 - c. a pumpkin patch
 - d. a bakery
5. What did Joey steal and eat while on the field trip?
 - a. a pumpkin
 - b. an apple
 - c. a pie
 - d. molasses
6. What type of figurative language is used in the following?
They were huddled together like a circle of mushrooms after a rainstorm.
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
7. *...My feet were moving a mile a minute and I opened a side door and headed out...*
 - a. hyperbole
 - b. idiom
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
8. What type of figurative language and sound device are used in the following?
...down into my belly like a slippery sugary snake, and when it was almost finished, I bent the tin pie plate in half.
 - a. alliteration and simile
 - b. alliteration and metaphor
 - c. onomatopoeia and simile
 - d. onomatopoeia and metaphor

9. What did Joey land on when he jumped from the top of the barn?
- Seth Justman
 - a ladder
 - a pumpkin
 - hay
10. Joey hurt his _____ while on the field trip.
- knee
 - ankle
 - arm
 - back
11. "*The cream of the crop*" she called them. This is an example of a(n) _____.
- hyperbole
 - idiom
 - metaphor
 - simile

12. What is Joey's mom's name?
- Miss Adams
 - Maria
 - Fran
 - Mrs. Maxy

13. "*It seems some secret admirer of mine left me a slice of cinnamon apple in my drawer.*"
- What can you infer from this passage?
- That Joey put cinnamon on an apple for Mrs. Maxy.
 - That it is the same apple that Mrs. Maxy gave Joey on the field trip.
 - That Joey's mom had left-over apples from dinner the night before.
 - Apples are Mrs. Maxy's favorite food.

14. *Mrs. Maxy yanked me away from Maria, and I went spinning around like a top, screeching and hopping from desk to desk yelling, "Sorry! Sorry!" Then I tried to wrestle the scissors from Mrs. Maxy who had taken them from me because I wanted to cut my whole nose off to show just how sorry I was...*

What is the tone of this passage?

- upbeat
 - stern
 - melancholy
 - frantic
15. What happens to Joey after his accident in the classroom?
- He has to spend the rest of the year in Mrs. Howard' s class.
 - He has to go to a special ed. center downtown.
 - He is placed on homebound.
 - He will be home-schooled.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

**Answer Key for
Quiz chapters 5-8**

Question #	Answer
1	C
2	D
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	D
7	A
8	C
9	D
10	B
11	B
12	C
13	B
14	D
15	B

Chapter 10

Writing Opportunity & Realistic Characterization

As Joey looks at the special ed. bus, he is paying careful attention to the mirror. He describes to us what he can see in the mirror. At one point, Joey wishes he could look into the mirror and “see into tomorrow and the next day”. If this could be possible, predict what Joey would see. Describe the things he may see and do. Keep in mind that he will be at the Special Ed. Center surrounded by new things and new people.

Realistic Characterization

In this chapter, Gantos introduces several new characters. He uses imagery and dialogue to make these characters very “real” to us as the readers. Pretend that you are to add a new character here. Who would you add to this group of passengers on the bus? On the lines below, include imagery and dialogue as you have Joey meet the new bus rider.

Chapter 11

Strong Verbs

Verbs are words that describe the action in a sentence. Some verbs are said to be stronger than others, and these are the ones that tend to make your writing more effective. Here's how it works: take a verb like fall and another verb with a similar meaning like plunge. Now, compare these two sentences: (1) I watched the rock fall into the water. (2) I watched the rock plunge into the water. In the first sentence, you learn that the rock fell, but in the second sentence you also learn *how* the rock fell. The word plunge means "to enter quickly and forcibly into something". So, when I say plunge, I get all the meaning of the verb fall, plus the additional meaning that explains *how* the rock fell as well. That is what makes it stronger! Strong verbs SHOW, not just TELL!

Read the following passages. Underline each strong verb, and then complete the chart.

A. *"Calm down. You don't have to shout, and stop picking at your head," she said, and glanced over her shoulder to see if the neighbors were listening. "Let's go inside and take some medicine and talk about it. And who is he anyway?"*

"Special Ed," I replied.

"Oh yeah. The guy with the two names," she muttered.

B. *She whipped around with the Amaretto bottle in her hand. "And what did you tell him?"*

C. *"You are such an imp," she growled.*

D. *And she was smiling, too, which was a good thing or I would have turned right around and dashed into the house and locked the door.*

E. *As soon as she left I wiped my hands on my pants and dumped all the stuff she brought me inside the house.*

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice
A	
A	
A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
E	

Strong Verbs Answer Key

Strong Verb Used	Explain why this is an effective verb choice (These are not the only answers, suggestions only.)
A picking	Picking implies that he is somewhat playing.
A glanced	She looks quickly, hopeful that no one has seen or heard them.
A muttered	She is not happy and is speaking somewhat to herself.
B whipped	She moved it quickly, angrily.
C growled	Speaking in an angry way; Joey has chafed her.
D dashed	Moved very quickly.
E wiped	He just swiped his hands on his pants, not really carefully.
E dumped	Got rid of his things in a quick way.

Note: Some students may have different responses and still be correct.

Chapter 12

Writing Opportunity

Respond to the following prompt.

Joey needs your help. Special Ed has given him an assignment to write a letter to his mom, dad, and grandma. In his letter, he must give his perception of the treatment each of the three adults has given him as well as his feelings about the treatment. Write the letter for Joey.

- You may make a graphic organizer.
- You may use a dictionary or thesaurus.
- You must write only one letter.
- You should read over your final draft and make neat changes.
- Make sure your response is long enough for the reader to understand your ideas.

Does your response

- have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion?
- stay on topic?
- answer all parts of the prompt?
- have interesting and clear ideas?
- use details and vivid descriptions?
- have correct spelling and punctuation?

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Letter Writing Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria				
Content and Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately expresses the relationship Joey has with each of the adults • All parts of the prompt are addressed. • The letter holds the reader's attention. • The letter remains on topic. 	16	12	8	4
Organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear introduction with an effective lead and topic sentence. • The body includes three well written paragraphs. • The conclusion is evident and leaves the reader thinking. • Transition words are used effectively. 	8	6	4	2
Voice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative • Uses strong verbs and other effective vocabulary • The letter has personality (in this case it reflects Joey's). 		6	4	2
Conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalization is correct in all sentences. • Punctuation is correct. • Spelling does not interfere with the writer's meaning. • Rules of standard English are applied. • Sentences are not run-ons or fragments. 	4	3	2	1

Total Points Earned _____ **X 3 =** _____ **(A)**

Prewriting	5	4	3	2
-------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Total (A) _____ **+** _____ **Prewriting Points =** _____ **(final grade)**

Comments:

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapters 9-12 Quiz

Name _____

Date _____

Read the passage and answer questions 1. – 3.

"I'm here to say I'm sorry," I said and I smiled like I had just stepped on the toe of a three-hundred-pound gorilla.

1. This simile helps the reader to picture the look on Joey's face. Which of the following best describes the look the simile puts in the reader's mind?
 - a. He had a big, totally carefree smile on his face.
 - b. His smile was somewhat small and also showed a bit of fear.
 - c. His smile looked like a frown because his apology was not his best effort.
 - d. His smile was crooked because his apology was not his best effort.
2. Which of the following best describe Maria's father?
 - a. patient and kind
 - b. timid and quiet
 - c. gentle and anxious
 - d. angry and violent
3. The exchange between Joey and Maria's dad is a(n) _____ conflict.
 - a. internal
 - b. external
 - c. both a and b
 - d. none of the above

Read the passage and answer question 4.

And it wasn't until I went all the way back home and sat on the porch and remembered that I'd no longer be going back to my regular school that I got scared. I'd be somewhere else, with a lot of strange kids and teachers, and I have to tell you that all of this worried me so much that I went inside the house and tried to find my meds...

4. Joey's struggle with fear of going to a new school is a(n) _____ conflict.
 - a. internal
 - b. external
 - c. experimental
 - d. none of these
5. What was Joey's first present from his mom?
 - a. a book
 - b. advice
 - c. a dog
 - d. a scrapbook
6. What does Joey's mom suggest to him?
 - a. not to think of anything good at all
 - b. to be sure to think two good things if he thinks of a bad one
 - c. to think of a bad thing only if he is in a bad mood
 - d. to think of a good thing, then a bad one, then another good thing and so on

7. Joey finds the _____ of the bus to be very interesting.
- a. windows
 - b. doors
 - c. mirrors
 - d. lights
8. The bus driver thinks that Joey is a(n) _____.
- a. high school student
 - b. foster kid
 - c. exchange student
 - d. student teacher
9. Joey's mom promises him a(n) _____ if he does well in special ed.
- a. a new jacket
 - b. a kitten
 - c. a dog
 - d. a dinner in a nice restaurant

Read the passage and answer questions 10. – 13.

There was a loud hissing and suddenly the side door slapped open and a tiny platform lowered to the ground as the entire bus leaned to one side like an elephant kneeling down on one knee.

10. Which word is the strongest, most vivid verb in the above passage?
- a. was
 - b. leaned
 - c. slapped
 - d. open
11. Why is the verb *kneeling* so effective?
- a. It helps the reader "hear" the sound the bus is making.
 - b. It helps the reader "see" exactly how the bus moved.
 - c. It helps the reader "feel" the texture of the bus.
 - d. It helps the reader "smell" the bus' exhaust.
12. What type of figurative language is used in the passage?
- a. idiom
 - b. hyperbole
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile
13. Which word is an example of onomatopoeia?
- a. tiny
 - b. ground
 - c. suddenly
 - d. hissing

Read the passage and answer questions 14. – 16.

She pulled my hands away. "Sometimes you really get under my skin," she said. "Sometimes I think it was easier chasing after your dad than it is chasing after you."

14. What type of figurative language is found in the passage?
- a. idiom
 - b. hyperbole
 - c. metaphor
 - d. simile

15. What words form this example of figurative language?
- pulled my hands away
 - get under my skin
 - easier chasing
 - after you
16. What does the figurative language mean?
- to move quickly
 - to annoy
 - to go first
 - to go behind
17. Why does Joey ask his mom to order vegetables on their pizza?
- He thinks his mom is about to have a heart attack.
 - He needs the vegetables for a science experiment.
 - He wants to take them to Maria.
 - He was told he should eat better foods.
18. Where does Joey place the Band-aids he gets in the doctor's examination room?
- on his legs and feet
 - on his arms and elbow
 - on his chest and belly
 - on his forehead and cheeks
19. How do Joey and his mom get to Pittsburg to the Children's Hospital?
- a train
 - a bus
 - a taxi
 - a borrowed car
20. Which of the following is an internal conflict?
- Joey vs. his own lack of control
 - Joey vs. Mrs. Maxy
 - Joey vs. the neighborhood kids
 - Joey vs. his grandma

**Answer Key for
Quiz chapters 9-12**

Question #	Answer
1	B
2	D
3	B
4	A
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	C
10	C
11	B
12	D
13	D
14	A
15	B
16	B
17	D
18	C
19	B
20	A

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Irony

Verbal irony is a contradiction between what is said and what is actually meant.

Example: *My alarm clock battery dies, so I was late for school. When I opened my bookbag in first period, I realized my homework folder was still on the kitchen counter. And, to make it even better, my teacher, Mrs. Temperland, called on me to give the answer for the first vocabulary word on our homework sheet! It did not take me long to realize that the day was going to be perfect!*

What is ironic about the passage? _____

Why is this ironic? _____

Dramatic irony is when the reader is aware of something that a character or characters is not.

Example: *A reader thinks: I still can't believe she opened that closet door! I knew that monster was in there!*

What is ironic about the passage? _____

Why is this ironic? _____

Situational irony is contradiction in what actually happens to what is expected to happen. It is a twist of fate.

Example: Paul handed Sue a brightly covered package in hopes of helping her to forget about her best friend's recent move. When he placed the gift in her hand, instead of smiling, Sue burst into tears!

What is ironic about the passage? _____

Why is this ironic? _____

On the back of this page, describe a situation that includes one of the three types of irony described above.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chapter 13
Figurative Language & Irony

Figurative Language

Complete the following chart.

Passage	Type of figurative language used	Analysis (What insight does this figurative language give the reader?)
<i>...she kept squeezing my arms and legs and shoulders into place as if I were made out of Silly Putty until I was just the right shape.</i>		
<i>"Now hold still and play like an Egyptian mummy," she said.</i>		
<i>...my brain tingled as if it were a honeycomb full of bees.</i>		
<i>I kept spinning the rack faster and faster until it was a postcard tornado and the cards were sailing out of their holders and...</i>		
<i>He could be drunk, he could be sober, he could be nice, or he could be as mean as a snake.</i>		

Irony

A door opened and I heard footsteps coming my way. "You can open your eyes now," the nurse said. "And wiggle your eyeballs." She reached into my mouth, pulled out the rubber mouthpiece, and put it in a small white bag. "Hop up, you were great. No twitching, no coughing or sneezing. You're a real pro at being still."

What type of irony is employed in the passage? A. Verbal B. Situational C. Dramatic

Why? What makes this passage ironic? _____

Chapter 14

Allusion & Characterization

Allusion: an implied or indirect reference especially in literature. For example, describing someone as a "Romeo" makes an allusion to the famous character in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

"Come on, Joey," Mom said, and tugged at my arm because the elevator doors began to close. I snapped out of it and stood between the doors and held them open with my arms stretched open like Samson. She ducked under my arm and through and I jumped out right behind her.

What is the allusion in this passage?

Characterization: the creation of imaginary persons so they seem lifelike.

Jack Gantos is a master at characterization! One way he achieves this with Joey is through Joey's dialogue. As we discussed earlier, one thing we notice is the length of the sentences Gantos uses when Joey speaks. The sentences are very l-o-n-g and we can almost "hear" Joey talking faster and faster as he gets more and more excited. Now, look back in the novel and find three quotes that you think are effective at showing the "real Joey".

Quote 1: _____

Why I selected this quote: _____

Quote 2: _____

Why I selected this quote: _____

Quote 3: _____

Why I selected this quote: _____

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Extended / Constructed Response Tips

On tests, you will often have some questions that will require you to write a response. The difference between a low scoring response and a high scoring response is sometimes determined by a few words.

Extended Response Test-Taking Tips:

- Read through the question two times.
- Underline all of the things the question is asking you to do.
- When you begin your answer, reword the question.
- As you write your answer, make sure that you answer every part of the question.
- Support your answer by “pulling out” something from the text.
- Provide a wrap-up sentence at the end to conclude your response.

Let’s look at this process together and practice what we have learned:

Passage: One day Shan led her three friends on an escapade through the woods on a pretend treasure hunt. Exhausted from walking, the group decided to take a break. Pieces of bark began to fall to the ground as they sat on an old log. Suddenly, Shan heard a humming sound. Before the group knew what was happening, armies of yellow jackets were swarming around them. Without hesitation, the kids threw their water canteens to the ground and took off running. Branches slapped their faces and briars scratched their arms and legs as they tore through the woods looking for an escape. The bees dug their needle sharp stingers into their flesh over and over, making it even harder to run. They could hear the screams behind them and the buzz of the bees in their ears, but their legs kept pumping.

Question: Locate one example of descriptive language and one example of sensory language and explain how they were used.

Student Response: “Pieces of bark began to fall to the ground” is an example of descriptive language. “The bees dug their needle sharp stingers into their flesh” is an example of sensory language.

What is wrong with this response?

How should the response be written?

Question: What point of view has the author used in this passage? Explain one advantage and one disadvantage of using this point of view.

Student Response: Third person point of view because none of the characters are telling the story.

How should the response be written?

Chapter 15

Extended /Constructed Response Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: After reading and discussing the handout your teacher provided on open ended/constructed response questions, answer each of the following.

Then she said the nicest thing a non-family person has ever said to me. She said, "You know, Joey, the medication has helped settle you down, but you have been a good kid all along. You are naturally good. I hope you know that about yourself. You have a good heart."

1. What do you think about what Harold's mom said to Joey? Do you agree with her or disagree? Why?

2. Someone may suggest the following as a theme for this novel: ***Never give up on yourself.*** Do you agree or disagree that this is a possible theme? Why or why not?

3. What point of view does the author of *Joey Pigza Swallowed a Key* use in his novel? Is this effective? Why or why not?

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Rubric for Scoring Extended / Constructed Response Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

1.

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response is well written and is logical ○ All sentences are complete and are easy to understand ○ Includes support from the text that is relevant and specific ○ Each part of the question is completely answered ○ Spelling and grammar mistakes, if any, do not distract the reader 						

2.

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response is well written and is logical ○ All sentences are complete and are easy to understand ○ Includes support from the text that is relevant and specific ○ Each part of the question is completely answered ○ Spelling and grammar mistakes, if any, do not distract the reader 						

3.

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response is well written and is logical ○ All sentences are complete and are easy to understand ○ Includes support from the text that is relevant and specific ○ Each part of the question is completely answered ○ Spelling and grammar mistakes, if any, do not distract the reader 						

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Name: _____

Date: _____

Below is a list of words found in the novel. Circle the prefix in each word. Then, complete the remainder of the chart.

Word	Prefix's meaning	Definition
Malnutrition		
Bilingual		
Cooperate		
Hyperactive		
Triangle		
Preheat		
Repay		
Submerge		
Transform		
Photograph		
Deformed		
Automatically		

Transdermal

- What is the prefix in this word? _____
- What is the root? _____
- What does this root mean? _____
- After determining the meanings of the prefix and root, what does transdermal mean? _____
- List at least two other words that have the same root word.

Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes

Name: ANSWER KEY

Date: _____

Word	Prefix's meaning	Meaning
Malnutrition	bad	poor nutrition because of an insufficient or poorly balanced diet
Bilingual	two	successfully speaking two languages
Cooperate	together	to act together
Hyperactive	above or beyond	more active than is usual or desirable
Triangle	three	polygon having three sides
Preheat	before	heat before cooking
Repay	again or back	to pay back
Submerge	under or below	to put under water
Transform	over or across	to change over into something else
Photograph	light	an image taken by the action of radiant energy and especially light on a sensitive surface (as film or a CCD chip)
Deformed	away, off	not shaped normally
Automatically	self	a self-acting or self-regulating mechanism

Transdermal

- What is the prefix in this word? **trans**
- What is the root word? **derm**
 - What does this root mean? **skin**
- After determining the meanings of the prefix and root, what does transdermal mean? **providing medication through the skin**
- List at least two other words that have the same root word.

dermatologist; dermatology hypodermic, epidermis, taxidermy

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Writing Opportunity

Cinquain: a poem containing five lines

Write a cinquain poem using a character or object found in the novel as the basis of your poem. The cinquain format and topic suggestions are listed.

Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

Possible Topics:

Joey

Grandma

Fran (Joe's mom)

Special Ed.

Charlie

Mrs. Jarzab

Maria

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
The ABCs of Joey Pigza

Name(s): _____

Directions: Think of words that are important to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. Then, place the word in the appropriate box. Make sure you are able to explain why each word relates to the novel.

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	WX	YZ

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Book Review

Name: _____ Date: _____

My overall opinion of the book was:

- This was an excellent book.
- This book was pretty interesting.
- This was just an OK book.
- This book was not great.

Explain your opinion. Why do you feel this way about the book? Make sure you use specific details to support your opinion.

I think _____ would enjoy this book because _____

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Chihuahua Informational Text

Name _____

Date _____

The Chihuahua is the smallest breed of dog in the world. This dog is named after the state of Chihuahua in Mexico where it was first discovered in 1850. A Chihuahua weighs between two and twenty-one pounds and is six to nine inches in height. These very active dogs have an average life span of fifteen years.

Chihuahuas are well known for their total devotion, small size, curious nature, and personality. Chihuahuas are often stereotyped as hyper. However, it has been shown that with correct training, Chihuahuas can be outstanding companions and pets.

However, Chihuahuas are not always the perfect pet. They are not well-suited as small children's pets because of their size, temperament, and tendency to bite when frightened. And, many Chihuahuas focus their devotion on one person, becoming overly jealous of that person's human relationships. Because Chihuahuas seem to have no concept of their own size, they may fearlessly confront larger animals, which can result in injury.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Chihuahuas were first discovered in Mexico.
 - b. Although they are not perfect, Chihuahuas can make good pets.
 - c. Chihuahuas may not make the best pets for young children.
 - d. Chihuahuas often become devoted to one person.
2. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
 - a. to entertain the reader with a Chihuahua tale
 - b. to describe the Chihuahua to the reader
 - c. to persuade the reader to have a Chihuahua for a pet
 - d. to inform the reader about Chihuahuas
3. On the back of this sheet, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the positive aspects of owning a Chihuahua with the negative aspects.
4. Based on what we have learned about Joey, is a Chihuahua the best choice of a pet for him? Why or why not? _____

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
Final Test

Name _____

Date _____

1. What point of view does Gantos use in *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*?
 - a. first person
 - b. second person
 - c. third person limited
 - d. third person omniscient

2. What genre is this book?
 - a. science fiction
 - b. realistic fiction
 - c. historical fiction
 - d. nonfiction

3. The protagonist is the main character of a story. Who is the protagonist in this novel?
 - a. Mrs. Maxey
 - b. Maria
 - c. Grandma Pigza
 - d. Joey Pigza

4. The setting of the novel is _____.
 - a. during the distant past, in various parts of Pennsylvania
 - b. present day times, in various parts of Pennsylvania
 - c. in the future, throughout the United States
 - d. present day times, throughout the United States

5. Which of the following is a theme of the novel?
 - a. Special Education centers help some people.
 - b. Everyone is capable of change.
 - c. Joey should try and try again to improve his behavior.
 - d. Beauty is not only in the way someone looks but also in the way they act.

6. Who is Pablo?
 - a. Joey's dad
 - b. Joey's best friend
 - c. Joey's principal
 - d. Joey's dog

7. All of the following words describe Joey except _____.
 - a. caring
 - b. impulsive
 - c. hateful
 - d. overactive

8. Which of the following describes an internal conflict from the novel?
- Maria's dad refuses to allow Joey to apologize to Maria.
 - Grandma requires Joey to sit in the chair and wait on his mom.
 - Joey worries about his mom being taken from him.
 - None of these
9. Which of the following sentences from the novel contains an idiom?
- He made little dialing motions with his finger.
 - I could feel myself winding down like I was on a swing that was slowly stopping.
 - Then snap a rubber band around its snout.
 - I didn't make my own bed, but it's mine anyway whether I like it or not.
10. What does the idiom found in the above question mean?
- Even though Joey has not caused his own problems; he will have to deal with them.
 - It is best to always do things in a small way.
 - Joey is being compared to a swing that is stopping.
 - It is making too much noise and needs to be quite.
11. Which of the following characters was injured by Joey?
- Mrs. Maxey
 - Maria
 - Grandma Pigza
 - Charlie

Because he has injured another student he has to be suspended for six weeks and receive mandatory counseling. That is school policy. But given Joey's record, he was bound to end up at the center anyway, so maybe this is a blessing in disguise.

12. What type of figurative language is found in the passage?
- an hyperbole
 - an idiom
 - personification
 - a simile
13. What does the figurative language mean?
- Joey is being compared to a gift.
 - Joey has to be suspended for a month and the principal just says six weeks.
 - It is a misfortune that Joey has to go to the center, but it will most likely be useful to him.
 - It is a prediction that Joey will have fun at the center.
14. Which words form the example of figurative language in this passage?
- He has to be suspended for six weeks.
 - That is school policy.
 - He was bound to end up at the center anyway.
 - Maybe this is a blessing in disguise.

15. Which of the following is the overall tone of this novel?
- Serious and mournful
 - Humorous and encouraging
 - Offbeat and factual
 - Stern and profound

With her other hand she reached for me as if she were searching for something in the dark.

16. What type of figurative language does Gantos use in the above passage?
- hyperbole
 - idiom
 - metaphor
 - simile
17. When Joey returned to school, he was able to use the microphone to say the morning pledge. If the prefix *micro* means small, what does the root *phone* mean?
- boy
 - sound
 - solution
 - school
18. What did the doctor use to finally help Joey become "calm"?
- acupuncture
 - isolation
 - pills
 - a transdermal patch

Discussion Questions. Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.

19. Joey wants to find his dad, but his mom thinks that Joey is better off without his dad in his life. Who do you think is right in this situation? Why?
20. Joey is very proud when he returns to his regular school. Do you think he is right to feel this way? Why or why not?

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

**Answer Key for
Final Test**

Question #	Answer
1	A
2	B
3	D
4	B
5	B
6	D
7	C
8	C
9	C
10	A
11	B
12	B
13	C
14	D
15	B
16	D
17	B
18	D
19	Accept reasonable answers.
20	Accept reasonable answers.

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