

Frindle

Recommended for Grades 3-6

Book Summary: Frindle

Nick Allen is known for starting trends and distracting teachers from assigning homework until he lands in Mrs. Granger's fifth grade class. She continually outsmarts him until he has a sudden good idea and renames "pen" to "frindle". At first, Mrs. Granger tries to convince him and his class to stop using the word by sending them to detention, but the word continues to grow until the entire school starts using it.

[SPOILER]

A reporter writes a news story about the "frindle" battle which spreads the story to even more people and results in TV broadcasts and a businessman patenting the word. He makes a deal with Nick's father and sets up an account for Nick, but the condition is Nick is not to know about all the money he's earned from his word so he doesn't stop trying to earn money from chores.

Frindle becomes a normal word, said as naturally as "pen" or "door". Nick becomes upset with all the attention and begins to keep his good ideas to himself until a chat with Mrs. Granger encourages him to be himself again.

Years later, Nick's word is added to the dictionary and made an official word. He learns that Mrs. Granger played the villain and was secretly on his side the entire time.

Author Biography: Andrew Clements

Andrew Clements was born May 29, 1949 in Camden, New Jersey. He grew up loving to read and in his senior year of high school he was handed back a poem with a note that it should be published. He graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and from National Louis University with a Master of Arts in Elementary Education. While teaching, he began to write songs. In 1996, he wrote his first novel, *Frindle*, which went on to receive numerous awards and publication in several languages. He lives in Westborough, Massachusetts with his wife Rebecca. They have four children: Charles, George, Nathaniel and John.



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Discussion Questions: Frindle

1. Nick has a talent for starting trends in his classes. He turned one classroom into a tropical island and began bird calling in another. Would you consider Nick to be creative or a troublemaker? Do you know anyone in school like Nick?
2. Mrs. Granger is considered to be one of the toughest teachers in the school. Why would the kids think she is mean? Have you ever had a teacher like her?
3. When Nick attempts to delay Mrs. Granger from assigning homework with a question, she not only assigns the homework but she tells him to do an extra assignment. Did Nick deserve the extra assignment? Why or why not?
4. Nick is inspired by Mrs. Granger to experiment with the origin of words by convincing people to use the word “frindle” instead of “pen”. Have you ever tried changing the name of something? What happened?
5. When Nick and the other kids start using the new word, Nick imagines them to be soldiers in a battle. How is their use of “frindle” a battle?
6. So many kids are sent to detention that it begins to affect the entire school. The principal talks to Nick and his parents about Nick being disrespectful to Mrs. Granger by encouraging the word “frindle”. Do you think Nick meant to be disrespectful? Would it be better to keep using “frindle” or to use “pen” again? Why?
7. Newspaper and TV reports are broadcast about the use of the word and even more people begin using it. How has “frindle” become a real word?
8. When Nick sees all the fuss that came from starting “frindle”, he starts to keep his good ideas to himself. Should Nick still share his ideas or should he stop and think about what could happen? Why?
9. Several years later, Nick’s new word is included in the dictionary. He also learns that Mrs. Granger was secretly proud of him the entire time. Why did Mrs. Granger pretend to be upset with him about “frindle”? Who really won the war?
10. Mrs. Granger claims that some things, like “frindle”, have to happen and all people can do is watch for them. What are some things today that had to happen? Can you think of anything that might have to happen in the future?



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