Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Teacher's Resource Material:

Introduction 2
Suggestions for Using the Unit 2
Objectives and Skills 4
Student Tracking Sheets 5
Teacher's Record Sheets 7
Evaluation Sheet 14
Peer Evaluation Sheet 15
Self Evaluation Sheet 16
Blank Venn Diagram 17
Story Synopsis & Characters 18

Student Activities:

Vocabulary and Comprehension Sheets 19

Activity Cards:

Creative Writing 28
Grammar 33
Elements of the Novel 45
Integrated Activities 49

Answer Key 54

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VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Chapters 1 - 10

A. Vocabulary

Make sure you understand the meaning of these words before beginning to read.
You may use a dictionary to help you.

image averted emotion unique compel deadline

emphatically winced diatribe illogical

B. Read Chapters 1 to 10

C. Understanding the Novel

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Refer to the novel for help if necessary.

1. Why was Martha surprised by the entry in Olive's journal?

2. How did Martha commemorate Olive when she reached the site of the accident?

3. What was Holly's attitude when Martha spoke to her on the phone?

4. What was Martha's mother's occupation?

5. Explain how Martha felt about Vince.

D. Thinking About the Novel

Theses questions ask for your opinion. Therefore there are no correct or incorrect answers. You must, however, justify your opinions.

1. Martha was surprised that Olive had written about her in the journal.
   How did she feel about the entry?
   How do you think you would feel if this happened to you?
   Do you keep a journal? Why or why not?

2. When discussing Olive, Holly said,

   *" . . . . . We weren't **not** nice."*

   What did she mean?
   Olive joined the class in the middle of the year. How could her classmates have made her feel more welcome?
   If you have had to change school, how did you feel? How were you treated?

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Grammar & Punctuation
Activity 6

The *tense of a verb* tells the reader *when* an action took place.

The *present tense* tells when something is happening *now*.

Father works on his novel every day.

Father is working on his novel every day.

The past tense tells when something happened earlier.

Martha pushed her book into her backpack.

Martha was pushing her book into her backpack.

The *future tense* tells when something will happen *later*.

The family will leave for Nantucket tomorrow..

A. Write two sentences that are examples of each tense.

Usually the letters *-ed* are added to the present form to create the past tense of a verb. Sometimes the final consonant is doubled.

Examples: help - helped work - worked slip - slipped

However, some verbs use a different form in the past tense.

Examples: fight - fought run - ran drink - drank

B. Write the past tense of the following verbs.

1. eat 2. write 3. speak 4. do 5. come
6. give 7. bring 8. go 9. drink 10. begin

C. Rewrite these sentences in the indicated tense. Some other words will have to be changed so that the sentence makes sense.

1. Martha feels sorry that she has not made Olive feel welcome at school. (Past)
2. Martha packed the journal page and her notebook in her backpack. (Present)
3. Godbee enjoyed having her family visit her in Nantucket. (Future)
4. Jimmy is using the members of his family to illustrate parts of his film. (Past)
5. Martha felt betrayed when Jimmy told her about the bet. (Present)
6. Tate feels sorry for Martha and vows to help her. (Past)

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Creative Writing

Activity Card 3

In this novel one even leads to another.

How might the conclusion be different if one event had been changed?

Choose one event that is important to the plot and change it in some way. Rewrite this in paragraphs.

Then write a brief outline telling how this change would alter the rest of the novel.

Creative Writing

Activity Card 4

Unlike Olive, Martha didn't keep a journal.

Pretend you are Martha and create three or four entries that she might have made in a journal during the vacation on Cape Cod.

The journal should not just tell about what she did, but how she felt about what she did and what happened.

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Elements of the Novel

Activity Card 7

Conflict

All novels contain examples of conflict.
It is this conflict that makes a novel interesting to read.

Conflict can be divided into three categories:

a) Man against Man
b) Man against Nature
c) Man against Himself

Find examples of each type of conflict in the novel, "Olives Ocean."

Elements of the Novel

Activity Card 8

Foreshadowing

Authors sometimes gives clues about events that will happen later in the book.

This is called foreshadowing.

List examples of foreshadowing from the novel.

Were there any events in the novel that you were not expecting?

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