

Word Nerd

by Susin Nielsen

Attribute Web: Ambrose

Fill in as much information as you can about Ambrose on the attribute web. As you continue reading, keep filling in the web. By the end of the book, it should be full!

Looks:

Acts:

Ambrose

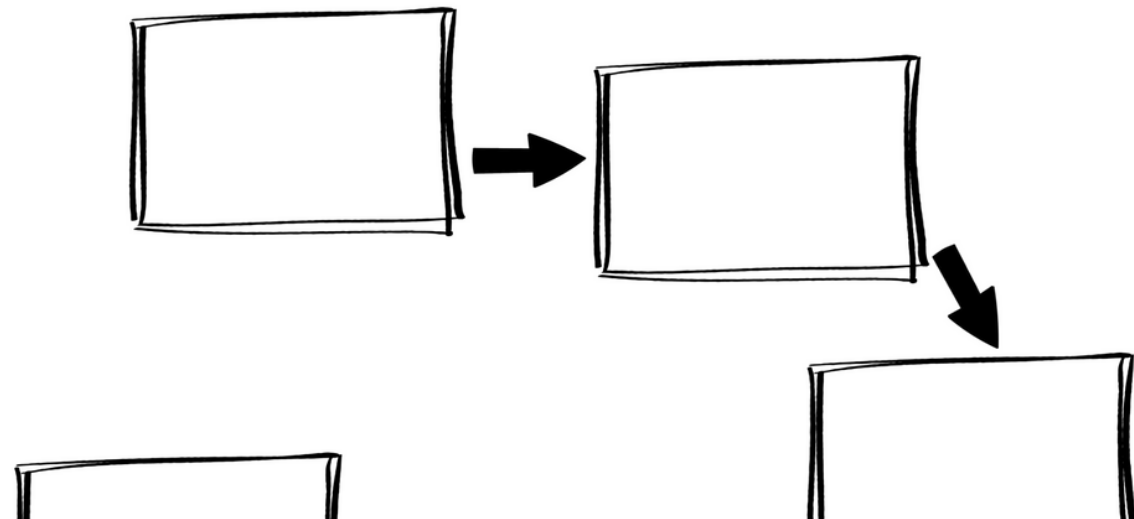
Feels:

Sequencing and Transition Words

Here is a list of transition words to use when retelling the events of a story.

first	to begin with	in the morning	also
finally	lastly	second	third
next	now	later	at noon
after that	then	first of all	

Use some of these transition words to retell the main events of Chapters 15 and 16.



Check for Understanding - Chapters 3 and 4

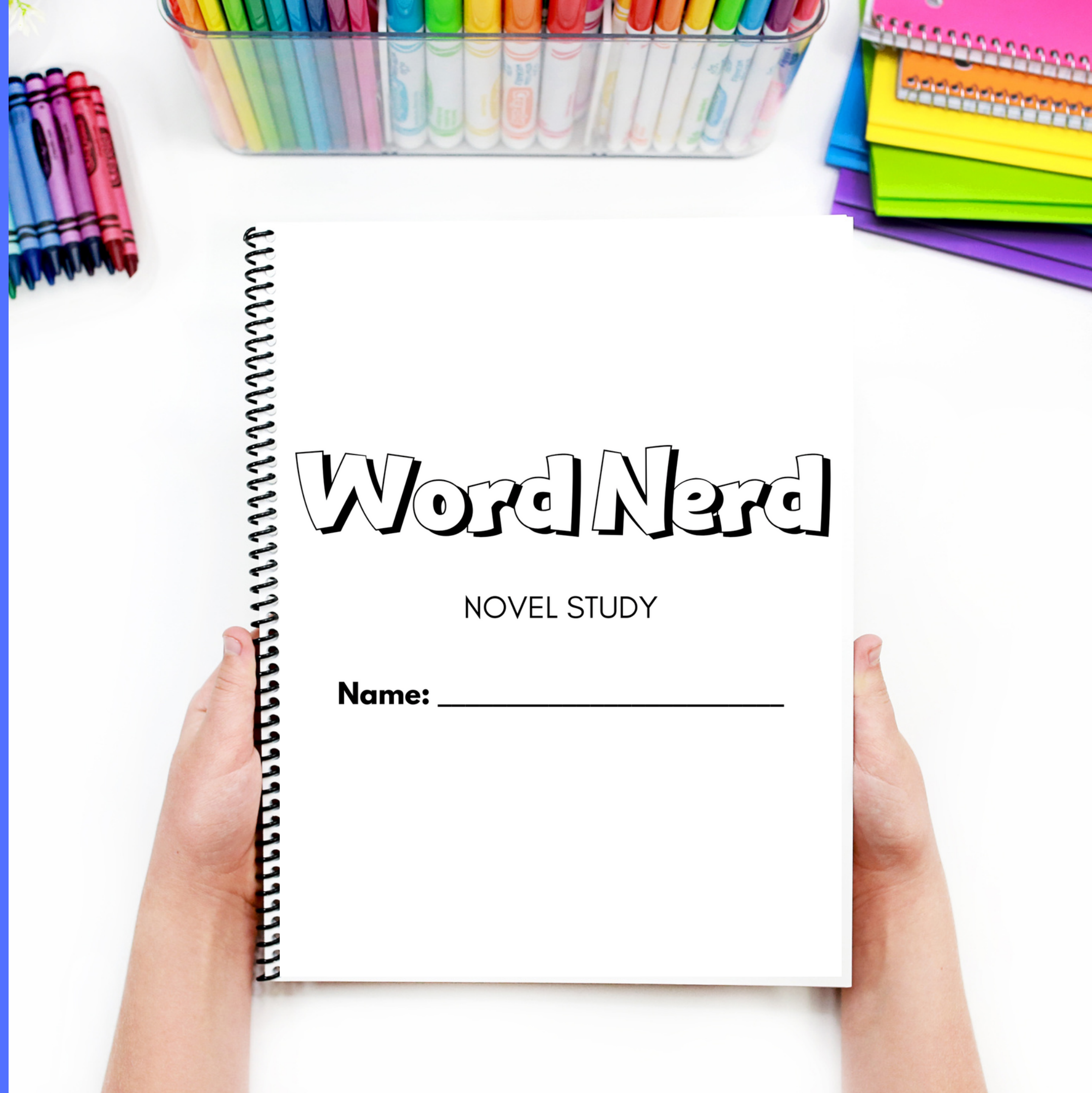
1. Why did Ambrose's mom stop sending him to Betty Spooner's? _____

2. Do you agree or disagree with parents who put harnesses on their children in public places? Explain your opinion using persuasive language. _____

NOVEL STUDY

This novel study is the perfect companion to *Word Nerd* by Susin Nielsen.

Pick and choose the pages that support your classroom goals, or create student booklets with all the activities and have students work through them as they read.



In this novel study, you'll find end-of-chapter comprehension questions that will help students build their understanding as they read. They'll also make predictions and make important connections.

Use these as written activities or for oral discussion.



Check for Understanding - Chapters 1 and 2

1. Explain your understanding of the statement: "Sometimes a guy could feel lonelier surrounded by people than he could when he was alone," on page 2. _____

2. Who is the main character in this story? From what you have read so far, what are three adjectives that describe him? _____

3. Why did Ambrose decide to tell his mom that everything is working out well in his new school? _____

4. How did Ambrose's mother find out what really happened? _____

Predict - How has Ambrose been lying to his mom? _____

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Check for Understanding - Chapters 5 and 6

1. If you were Ambrose, would you have told your mom the truth about the boys not really being your friends before the meeting? Why or why not? _____

2. Ambrose had told the Three Stooges many lies about himself, including that he was rich and had a chalet at Whistler. Can you understand why Ambrose would have lied? Can you blame him? Explain. _____

3. On page 33, Ambrose explains his bottle cap collection: "I've managed to find some really unique ones, maybe because I'm always looking at the ground when I walk." Explain the significance of this sentence. How does it make you feel? _____

4. Describe the physical appearance of Ambrose's dad before he died. _____

Make a Connection - Have you ever had to switch schools? What was the best and worst part about switching? If you have not had the experience, think about what the best and worst parts would be. _____

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Check for Understanding - Chapters 11 and 12

1. In your opinion, why did Nana Ruth pause after Ambrose asked her to visit? _____

2. Do you find it odd that Mom and Mr. Acheson called each other by their first names? Why or why not? _____

3. When Ambrose was being beat up, Cosmo came to his rescue and defended him. If you saw someone being bullied, what would you do? _____

4. List three adjectives that you would use to describe Cosmo after reading Chapter 12. _____

Predict - How do you think Ambrose will feel after reading Chapter 12? _____

Wonder - What question do you have about the story? _____

Check for Understanding - Chapters 19 and 20

1. How do you think Cosmo felt when he discovered that Ambrose was hiding in the backseat of his car? Was he upset, disappointed or relieved? Explain. _____

2. Explain Ambrose's Scrabble analogy as it relates to telling his mom the truth: "Scrabble wasn't just about having a good vocabulary; it was also about which letters you held on to and which you dumped." (p. 155) _____

3. How do you feel about Ambrose's decision to forge his mom's signature and continue going to the Scrabble Club? _____

4. Explain the metaphor used near the end of Chapter 20: "He's dead because of a time bomb in his brain." (p. 162) _____

Predict - Who threw the rock through the window? _____

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You'll also find a wide variety of engaging activities to reinforce other skills such as cause and effect, punctuation, character attributes, transition words, and more!



Cause and Effect

Fill in the empty boxes to show cause and effect. In the last set of boxes, add your own cause and effect situation from *Word Nerd*.

CAUSE	EFFECT
<input type="text"/>	Ambrose was able to go to Milestone's after all and meet up with some other from the Scrabble tournament. (p. 192-193)
When Ambrose came back from the bathroom, his seat was taken so he sat beside <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Venn Diagram

Although Ambrose and his mother seem very different sometimes similarities. Use the Venn diagram below to compare Ambrose and his mother. You may keep filling in the Venn diagram as you continue to read.

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Pre-Reading Activity - Map of Canada

The setting of *Word Nerd* is Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Use an atlas or the internet to fill in the corresponding numbers from below for the Canadian provinces/territories and nearby oceans. Then place a star where the city of Vancouver is located.

1 - Nova Scotia	9 - Northwest Territories
2 - Manitoba	10 - Ontario
3 - Alberta	11 - Newfoundland and Labrador
4 - Yukon	12 - British Columbia
5 - New Brunswick	13 - Nunavut
6 - Saskatchewan	14 - Atlantic Ocean
7 - Quebec	15 - Pacific Ocean
8 - Prince Edward Island	★ Vancouver

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Take the guesswork out of planning your next literature unit with this complete, comprehensive novel study!

