

Inkheart

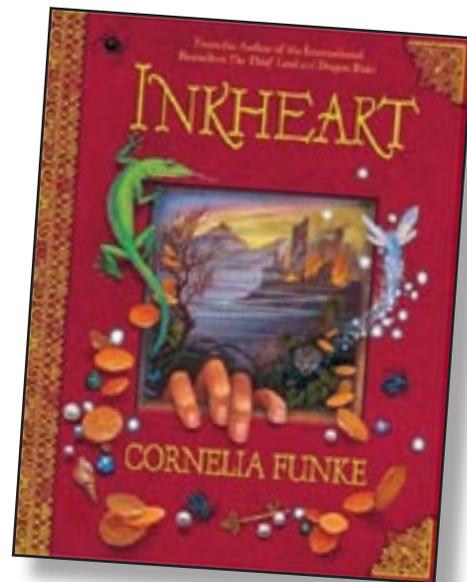
Grades
3–6

• Library Lessons •

by | Lynne Farrell Stover

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
Translated from the German by Anthea Bell

Twelve-year-old Meggie Folchart lives in Italy with her father, Mortimer, also known as “Mo.” Mo is a book restorer with a special talent. He has the fantastic ability to read characters and objects right out of books and into the real world. Meggie is unaware of her father’s unusual gift until a melancholy stranger, Dustfinger, shows up at their home. Soon after Dustfinger’s appearance, Mo whisks Meggie to her great-aunt Elinor’s book-filled house. While there, Mo and the mysterious book *Inkheart* are snatched away by a group of thugs. These are the henchmen of the evil Capricorn, who nine years ago was inadvertently “read” into this world by Mo. Capricorn’s goals are to destroy the last copy of *Inkheart* so that Mo will not be able to return him to his fictional life and to have Mo read the wicked entity Shadow into existence. After many harrowing adventures Meggie, Mo, and Elinor reunite and embark on a quest to find the author of *Inkheart*, hoping to convince him to write another ending for his problematic book.



Notes: The following lessons and activities are appropriate for students in grades 3–6, but may be adapted for older students. The lessons need not be taught in sequence, as each one stands alone. Students do not need to be familiar with the book to successfully complete the lessons.

Lesson I: Round Table (Parts of a Book)

Inkheart, a fantasy novel celebrating all books, is a story within a story. From Mo, twelve-year-old Meggie’s book restorer father, to Great-Aunt Elinor, an avid book collector who likes books more than most people, the characters are compelling and well written. Throughout the story, readers are treated to information concerning the history of book making, the care of books, and book collectors and collections.

Suggested Grade Level: 4–6

Time Required: 20–30 minutes

Objectives:

- The student will review the parts of book including: cover, copyright page, dedication,

table of contents, forward, spine, body, glossary, index, bibliography, and appendix.

- The student will participate in a prepared question and answer activity focusing the parts of the book and on the book *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke.

Materials:

- Parts of a Book Round Table cards (ideally copied on colored paper, glued onto 3x5 index cards, and laminated)
- Parts of a Book Round Table Answer Grid for teacher use
- *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke for display (optional)

Procedure:

1. Prepare Parts of a Book Round Table cards before class. Each card should have a question and an answer. The front and back of each card are directly across from one another and

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should be created as one card. For example, the first card should have the question: “Mortimer Folchart, also known as Mo, repairs old and damaged books. What is a good title for what Mo does for a living?” on one side and the answer to another card’s question, “An appendix is located in the back of a book and contains extra information such as charts, lists, and tables” on the other side.

2. Say to the students, “Today we will be doing an activity based on *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke. You do not have to have read the book to participate in the activity, but you do need to be a good listener because this lesson focuses the definitions for the parts of a book.”
3. Distribute the prepared cards to the students.
4. Instruct the student with the card labeled “First Question Asked” to read his card to the class. (“Mortimer Folchart, also known as Mo, repairs old and damaged books. What is a good title for what Mo does for a living?”) Tell the students to study the answer side of their cards to see if they have the answer. Then the student with the card that states, “There are several good titles for what Mo does for a living. He could be called a book restorer, book binder, or book doctor” replies. That student then turns the card over and asks the question, “One of the first things Mo does to help a book look better is to give it a new outside. What is another name for a book’s outside?” This continues until the student who asked the first question answers the last one.
5. Review the activity by holding up a book and asking the students to name the various parts of the book.

McREL Standards

Language Arts

Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process

Level II

- 1) Previews text (e.g., skims material; uses pictures, textual clues, and text format)
- 2) Establishes a purpose for reading (e.g., for information, for pleasure, to understand a specific viewpoint)

Lesson II: Decoding Famous Quotations

Cornelia Funke begins each chapter of *Inkheart* with a quote from a famous person. These quotes relate to the chapter’s content and are often worth revisiting upon completion of the chapter. Students will enjoy discovering insightful quotations about books and may wish to create quotation puzzles of their own.

Suggested Grade Level: 3–6

Time Required: 25–30 minutes

Objectives:

- The student will decode famous quotations
- The student will discuss the meaning of these quotations

Materials:

- Decoding Famous Quotations visual
- Decoding Famous Quotations activity sheet
- writing tools
- transparency marker
- *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke (to display quote on page 278)

Procedure:

1. Prepare materials prior to class.
2. Introduce the lesson by displaying a copy of *Inkheart*. Tell the students that this is a book about books and each chapter begins with an interesting quote.
3. Turn to the beginning of Chapter 28 on page 278. Read the quote at top of the page, “My library was dukedom large enough.” William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*. Ask the students if they know what Shakespeare may have meant by this statement. (Possible student responses may include: “He thought he was as rich as a



duke if he had a library.” “His library contained travel books.” “A library full of books makes you feel like royalty.”)

4. Display the visual. Read the directions to the students. With the students’ input, decode the quote. It should read, “A house without books is like a room without windows.”
5. Explain that Horace Mann was a nineteenth century American educator. Ask the students what he may have meant by this quote. (Possible responses may include: “Books are like light.” “Every house should have books so the people living there can see things outside the house.”)
6. Distribute the activity sheet. (Two quotes are included to help facilitate time management.)
7. Check for understanding. Decoding Famous Quotations #1 “I cannot live without books.” Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to John Adams, was explaining how important books were to him. Decoding Famous Quotations #2 “A Book that is shut is but a block.” Thomas Fuller, a Seventeenth Century English clergyman and historian, used this metaphor to say that a book unread has little merit.

Extension Activities:

Cryptographs. Students who would like to create their own cryptographs may find these Web sites useful: puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/cryptogramSetupForm.asp or www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com/cryptomaker.html.

Quotations. Students who would like to learn more quotes about books and reading may wish to visit these Web sites:

- Books: www.quotationspage.com/subjects/books/
- Books: www.famousquotes.com/search.php?cat=1&search=Book
- Books, Libraries, and Reading: www.deblogan.com/quo2

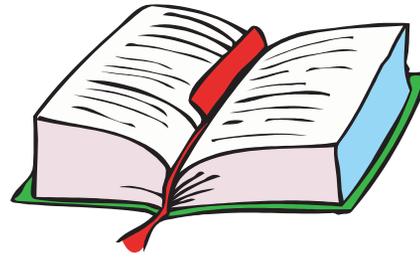
McREL Standards

Language Arts

Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process

Level II

10. Understands the author’s purpose (e.g., to persuade, to inform) or point of view



Lesson III: Fantastic Heroines & Vile Villains

Meggie Folchart is smart, curious, and brave. She is not alone. There are many heroines in children’s literature.

Suggested Grade Level: 3–6

Time Required: 15–20 minutes

Objectives:

- The student will demonstrate knowledge of literary characters.

Materials:

- Fantastic Heroines & Vile Villains activity sheet
- writing tools
- copies of featured books for students to checkout (optional)

Procedure:

1. Prepare and collect materials prior to class.
2. Introduce the lesson by telling the students that today’s activity will feature children’s books that have girls as main characters.
3. Distribute activity sheets. Read the introduction and directions to the students. Students may work individually or in groups. **Note:** All of the featured heroines and villains have appeared in popular movies and should be recognizable by many of the students.
4. Check for understanding:
 - 1-H Wendy Darling & Captain Hook [*Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie]
 - 2-D Violet Baudelaire & Count Olaf [*A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket]
 - 3-B Lucy Pevensie & The White Witch [*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis]
 - 4-J Alice & The Queen of Hearts [*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll]

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5-G Meg Murry & IT [*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle]

6- E Lyra Belacqua & Mrs. Coulter [*The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman]

7-C Matilda Wormwood & Headmistress Agatha Trunchbull [*Matilda* by Roald Dahl]

8- I Mallory Grace & Mulgarath [*The Spiderwick Chronicles* by Toni DiTerlizzi and Holly Black]

9-A Hermione Granger & Lord Voldemort [the Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling]

10-F Dorothy Gale & The Wicked Witch of the West [*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum]

McREL Standards

Language Arts

Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process

Level II

10. Understands the author's purpose (e.g., to persuade, to inform) or point of view

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Lynne Farrell Stover has over thirty years of experience as an educator and is currently a Teacher Consultant at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She has taught many teacher workshops and won Teacher of the Year in 1999 from the Virginia Council of Economic Education and from the Virginia Association for the Gifted. She is the author of Magical Library Lessons, More Magical Library Lessons, Magical Library Lessons: Holiday Happenings, and From Snicket to Shakespeare from UpstartBooks.

“Parts of a Book” Round Table Answer Grid

<p>First Question Asked Question: Mortimer Folchart, also known as Mo, repairs old and damaged books. What is a good title for what Mo does for a living?</p>	<p>Answer: There are several good titles for what Mo does for a living. He could be called a book restorer, book binder, or “book doctor.”</p>
<p>Question: One of the first things Mo does to help a book look better is to give it a new outside. What is another name for a book’s outside?</p>	<p>Answer: A book’s outside is called a cover. (Mo knows you shouldn’t “judge a book by its cover,” but he likes his restored books to look good.)</p>
<p>Question: Mo’s daughter, Meggie, loves to read. She knows there are other names for the introduction of a book. What are those names?</p>	<p>Answer: A book’s introduction explains what the book is about. An introduction can also be called the forward, prologue, or preface of the book.</p>
<p>Question: A book’s dedication is a message from the author expressing thanks to someone for his or her help. What might be the dedication for a book entitled <i>The Best Books in the World</i>?</p>	<p>Answer: The dedication for a book entitled <i>The Best Books in the World</i> might be, “To Mrs. Reed the librarian who helped me find all the great books.”</p>
<p>Question: Where would Meggie look to find out how many chapters were in a book?</p>	<p>Answer: Meggie would look at the book’s table of contents to find out how many chapters were in the book.</p>
<p>Question: Why does Mo write the title of a book on its spine?</p>	<p>Answer: Mo writes the title of the book on its spine because it’s the part of the book seen when it’s on the shelf.</p>
<p>Question: What is the story or text of a book called?</p>	<p>Answer: The story or text of a book is called the body of the book. It’s the biggest part of a book.</p>
<p>Question: Where would Mo look to find out the year a book was published?</p>	<p>Answer: To find out the year a book was published, Mo would look in the front of a book on the copyright page.</p>
<p>Question: One of Meggie’s favorite science books has an excellent glossary. What is a glossary?</p>	<p>Answer: A glossary is list of the special words and their definitions found in a book.</p>
<p>Question: Meggie discovered her favorite book also contained a bibliography. Why did this discovery make Meggie happy?</p>	<p>Answer: Maggie was happy because a bibliography is a list of books that the author used to find information to help write the book. Now she knows the titles of some other books she would like to read.</p>
<p>Question: Mo is repairing a rare book that contains a detailed appendix. What is an appendix?</p>	<p>Answer: An appendix is located in the back of a book and contains extra information such as charts, lists, and tables.</p>
<p>Question: What part of Meggie’s favorite book would list all the topics the book contained as well as the pages where the information could be found?</p>	<p>Answer: The index can be found in the back of a book and lists the book’s topics and page numbers.</p>

Parts of a Book Round Table

[First Question Asked]

Question: Mortimer Folchart, also known as Mo, repairs old and damaged books. What is a good title for what Mo does for a living?

Answer: The **index** can be found in the back of a book and lists the book's topics and page numbers.

Question: One of the first things Mo does to help a book look better is to give it a new outside. What is another name for a book's outside?

Answer: There are several good titles for what Mo does for a living. He could be called a book restorer, book binder, or "book doctor."

Question: Mo's daughter, Meggie, loves to read. She knows there are other names for the **introduction** of a book. What are those names?

Answer: A book's outside is called a **cover**. (Mo knows you shouldn't "judge a book by its cover," but he likes his restored books to look good.)

Question: A book's **dedication** is a message from the author expressing thanks to someone for his or her help. What might be the **dedication** for a book entitled *The Best Books in the World*?

Answer: A book's **introduction** explains what the book is about. An introduction can also be called the **forward**, **prologue**, or **preface** of the book.

Question: Where would Meggie look to find out how many chapters were in a book?

Answer: The **dedication** for a book entitled *The Best Books in the World* might be, "To Mrs. Reed the librarian who helped me find all the great books."

Question: Why does Mo write the title of a book on its **spine**?

Answer: Meggie would look at the book's **table of contents** to find out how many chapters were in the book.

<p>Question: What is the story or text of a book called?</p>	<p>Answer: Mo writes the title of the book on its spine because it's the part of the book seen when it's on the shelf.</p>
<p>Question: Where would Mo look to find out the year a book was published?</p>	<p>Answer: The story or text of a book is called the body of the book. It's the biggest part of a book.</p>
<p>Question: One of Meggie's favorite science books has an excellent glossary. What is a glossary?</p>	<p>Answer: To find out the year a book was published, Mo would look in the front of a book on the copyright page.</p>
<p>Question: Meggie discovered her favorite book also contained a bibliography. Why did this discovery make Meggie happy?</p>	<p>Answer: A glossary is list of the special words and their definitions found in a book.</p>
<p>Question: Mo is repairing a rare book that contains a detailed appendix. What is an appendix?</p>	<p>Answer: Maggie was happy because a bibliography is a list of books that the author used to find information to help write the book.</p>
<p>Question: What part of Meggie's favorite book would list all the topics the book contained as well as the pages where the information could be found?</p>	<p>Now she knows the titles of some other books she would like to read.</p> <p>Answer: An appendix is located in the back of a book and contains extra information such as charts, lists, and tables.</p>

Decoding Famous Quotations

★ Using the symbol keys below, decode this famous quotation. Be prepared to discuss what you think **Thomas Jefferson** meant by this statement.

A= ➡	H= ₤	N= =	U= ⌘
B= A	I= ⊗	O= 👉	V= ✖
C= ☒	K= B	S= 😊	W= ⚡
E= ⚙	L= □	T= ▲	

⊗ ☒ ➡ = = 👉 ▲ □ ⊗ ✖ ⚙

⚡ ⊗ ▲ ₤ 👉 ⌘ ▲ A 👉 👉 B 😊

★ Using the symbol keys below, decode this famous quotation. Be prepared to discuss what you think **Thomas Fuller** meant by this statement.

A= ➡	H= ₤	L= □	T= ▲
B= A	I= ⊗	O= 👉	U= ⌘
C= ☒	K= B	S= 😊	

➡ A 👉 👉 B ▲ ₤ ➡ ▲ ⊗ 😊

😊 ₤ ⌘ ▲ ⊗ 😊 A ⌘ ▲

➡ A □ 👉 ☒ B

Fantastic Heroines & Vile Villains

Meggie Folchart is brave, strong, and resourceful. She is the heroine in *Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke. Another character in the same book is Capricorn who is cruel, horrible, and selfish. He is the villain.

Directions: Match the literary heroines on the left to their corresponding villains on the right.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Wendy Darling | A. Lord Voldemort |
| ___ 2. Violet Baudelaire | B. The White Witch |
| ___ 3. Lucy Pevensie | C. Headmistress Agatha Trunchbull |
| ___ 4. Alice | D. Count Olaf |
| ___ 5. Meg Murry | E. Mrs. Coulter |
| ___ 6. Lyra Belacqua | F. The Wicked Witch of the West |
| ___ 7. Matilda Wormwood | G. IT |
| ___ 8. Mallory Grace
(sister of Jared & Simon) | H. Captain Hook |
| ___ 9. Hermione Granger | I. Mulgarath |
| ___ 10. Dorothy Gale | J. The Queen of Hearts |

