

# Lesson Plan: The Frindle Effect - The Power of a Single Word

## Materials Needed:

- A copy of the book *Frindle* by Andrew Clements
- A notebook or several sheets of paper
- Pencils, pens, and colored markers or pencils
- A dictionary (optional, but helpful for inspiration)
- Sticky notes

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the main message of *Frindle* about creativity, challenging norms, and the power of ideas.
2. Create a new, original word, complete with a definition and an example sentence.
3. Reflect on and articulate a personal experience where they felt like the main character, Nick, by taking a risk or expressing a unique idea.

## IB Learner Profile Focus

- **Risk-taker:** We will explore how Nick took an intellectual risk and how we can do the same.
- **Communicator:** We will practice expressing ideas confidently and creatively, just like Nick did when he introduced his new word.
- **Principled:** We will discuss how Nick stood by his idea even when it was difficult, showing integrity and honesty to his own creativity.

## Lesson Activities (Total Time: 60 minutes)

### 1. Introduction: What's in a Name? (5 minutes)

- **Teacher's Prompt:** "Let's look around the room. Everything has a name: 'desk,' 'lamp,' 'book.' But who decided on those names? What if we could invent a new word right now? In *Frindle*, Nick Allen did just that. He proved that even one small person with a creative idea can make a big change."
- **Discussion Question:** "Why do you think Nick's idea of 'frindle' became so popular in his school? What does that tell us about the power of an idea?"

### 2. Activity 1: The Word Factory (25 minutes)

**Goal:** To explore the creative process of inventing language, connecting directly to the book's central theme.

#### 1. Brainstorming (10 mins):

- Ask the student to think about an object that has a long name, a funny sound, or an action that doesn't have a perfect single word to describe it. (Examples: The plastic thing at the end of a shoelace is an 'aglet'. What could be a new word for the feeling of waking up five minutes before your alarm goes off? Or the sound a dog's claws make on a

wooden floor?)

- Write down all ideas, no matter how silly they seem. Encourage creative thinking.

## 2. Word Creation (15 mins):

- The student chooses their favorite concept from the brainstorm list.
- Guide them to invent a new word for it. They can combine sounds from other words, make up a sound, or change an existing word.
- On a clean sheet of paper titled "My Official Dictionary Entry," the student will:
  1. Write their new word in large, bold letters.
  2. Write a clear definition for the word.
  3. Use the word correctly in an original sentence.
  4. Draw a picture of the word or the action it describes.

**IB Connection (Communicator & Thinker):** "You are being a great **Communicator** by creating a new way to express an idea. You are also being a **Thinker** by using your imagination to solve a problem: 'this thing needs a better name!'"

## 3. Activity 2: Your "Frindle" Moment (20 minutes)

**Goal:** To draw a personal comparison with the main character, focusing on identity and self-expression.

### 1. Discussion (10 mins):

- **Teacher's Prompt:** "Nick took a big risk when he started using the word 'frindle.' His teacher, Mrs. Granger, challenged him, and other kids sometimes made fun of him before it became popular. But he was **Principled**—he stuck with his idea because he believed in it. Being a **Risk-taker** isn't about doing something dangerous; it's about being brave enough to share your unique ideas, even if you're a little scared."
- Ask the student: "Can you think of a time when you had an idea that was different from everyone else's? Maybe it was a different way to play a game, a story you wanted to write, or an opinion you had. How did it feel? Were you nervous to share it?"

### 2. Reflection Journal (10 mins):

- Give the student a new sheet of paper titled, "My Frindle Moment."
- Ask them to write or draw about their experience. They don't have to have changed the world like Nick, but simply had a moment of being brave with their own thoughts.
- Prompts if needed:
  - "What was my unique idea?"
  - "How did I feel before I shared it?"
  - "What happened after I shared it?"
  - "What did I learn from being a risk-taker in that moment?"

## 4. Conclusion & Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

- **Share and Celebrate:** Invite the student to share both their new word and their "Frindle Moment" reflection. Offer positive and specific feedback, such as, "I love how your new word sounds, it's so creative!" or "That was very brave of you to share your idea with your friends."
- **Final Thought:** "The main message of *Frindle* isn't just that you can invent a word. It's that your ideas matter. Your voice is powerful. Like Nick, you have the ability to see the world a little differently and share that vision with others."
- **Sticky Note Challenge:** End by having the student write their new word on a sticky note and place it on the object it renames. Encourage them to try and use it for the rest of the day!

## Check for Understanding (Informal Assessment)

Assess learning through observation and conversation:

- Did the student successfully create a new word with a logical definition and sentence? (Objective 2)
- Was the student able to articulate a connection between Nick's struggles and a personal experience? (Objective 3)
- In the final discussion, can the student explain the main message of the book in their own words? (Objective 1)

## **Adaptations & Extensions**

- **For a student needing more support:** Provide a list of objects or concepts to choose from for the "Word Factory" activity to reduce the pressure of brainstorming from scratch.
- **For an advanced challenge:** Have the student write a short paragraph arguing why their new word should be added to the dictionary. Or, have them create an "origin story" for their word, explaining how it came to be.
- **Follow-up Activity:** Start a family "dictionary" in a notebook to add other new words over time.