

Getting Inside Greg Heffley's Head

Materials Needed:

- A copy of a "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" book
 - Notebook or Journal
 - Pen or Pencil
 - Optional: Art supplies (markers, crayons)
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Lesson Activities:

1. Warm-up: Why Wimpy Kid? (10 minutes)

- Begin with a casual chat: What do you like most about the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books?
- What makes Greg Heffley funny or relatable?
- Have you ever felt like Greg in any situation? Share an example if comfortable.

2. Character Deep Dive: Analyzing Greg (20-25 minutes)

- Choose a specific event or chapter from the book to reread together or have the student read aloud.
- As you read, pause to discuss: What is Greg thinking or feeling here? How do you know? (Look for clues in his words, actions, and thoughts).
- In the notebook, create a 'Character Profile' for Greg. Write down:
 - **Key Personality Traits:** (e.g., selfish, imaginative, lazy, insecure). Find at least 2-3 traits.
 - **Evidence:** For each trait, write down a specific quote or describe an action from the book that shows this trait.
 - **Motivations:** What does Greg *want* in this situation or chapter? (e.g., to be popular, to avoid effort, to get something).
- Discuss: Do Greg's actions match his thoughts or feelings? Is he always honest with himself or the reader?

3. Author's Toolbox: Style & Humor (15 minutes)

- Look closely at *how* the book is written and presented:
 - **Diary Format:** How does writing it like a diary make it feel different from a regular story? Does it make Greg seem more real or relatable?
 - **Humor:** Find an example of something funny. *Why* is it funny? (Is it exaggeration? Sarcasm? An awkward situation? The drawings?)
 - **Illustrations:** How do the simple drawings add to the story? Do they show something the words don't, or just make the funny parts funnier?
- Discuss how Jeff Kinney uses these tools to make the books so engaging.

4. Your Turn: Wimpy Kid Style! (15-20 minutes)

- Think of a simple, G-rated, everyday event from your own life (or make one up) that could be funny, awkward, or annoying – something Greg might experience (e.g., a chore mishap, a misunderstanding, a school cafeteria incident).
 - In the notebook, write a short diary entry about this event *in the style of Greg Heffley*. Try to capture his voice (his way of thinking and talking).
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- Include at least one simple drawing (stick figures are perfect!) that adds to the entry, just like in the books.
- Focus on showing, not just telling, the feeling (e.g., instead of 'I was embarrassed,' describe the situation that *made* you feel embarrassed).

5. Wrap-up & Share (5-10 minutes)

- Share the diary entry (if comfortable).
- Discuss: What was easy or hard about writing like Greg?
- Quick review: What's one key thing Greg wants? What's one tool Jeff Kinney uses to make the books fun to read?
- Connect: How does understanding the character and the author's style help you enjoy or understand the book more?