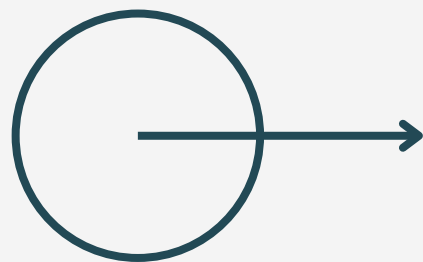




SMUDGE K-3

EPISODE GUIDE

Integrating SEL, ELA, and Creative Expression





OVERVIEW

In Episode 1, Smudge, an unfinished character, ventures into the Inklings Society, a gathering place for authors, with the dream of sharing their own story. Despite being told that characters aren't meant to write, Smudge bravely pushes forward, navigating challenges to prove their creativity deserves recognition.

- Key Themes:
 - Resilience: Smudge faces doubt and obstacles but remains steadfast in their mission.
 - Creativity: Smudge's story, "The Brave Teapot," symbolizes the power of unique ideas.
 - Courage: Smudge's journey encourages students to believe in themselves, even when others don't.



EP 1

READ MORE



LEARNING PATHS

With our comprehensive set of resources, teachers can focus on three key paths to maximize engagement with Smudge Episode 1:

1

ELA

- Focus: Strengthen understanding of story structure, character analysis, and symbolism through engaging narrative activities.

2

SEL

- Focus: Develop students' self-confidence, resilience, and empathy by connecting them to Smudge's journey and challenges.

3

Creative Expression

- Focus: Encourage visual storytelling and imaginative thinking as students interpret and expand on Smudge's world.

PRE-WATCH DISCUSSION

These questions encourage students to actively listen for key literary elements, identify story themes, and reflect on character motivations, sparking discussions on creativity, storytelling, and perseverance.

Prompts:

- What makes a character special in a story?
- What do you think might be hard about writing a story?
- Has anyone ever told you that you couldn't do something? How did it make you feel?

BEFORE



DURING-WATCH DISCUSSION

Prompts:

- The Authors Only Sign – Why might Smudge feel a little scared when they see this sign? How do you think they feel about going in anyway?
- Authors Laugh at Smudge’s Story – How do you think Smudge feels when people laugh? Why might it feel hard to share their story?
- Approaching the World Book – Why do you think this moment is special for Smudge? What do you think makes Smudge want to keep going?

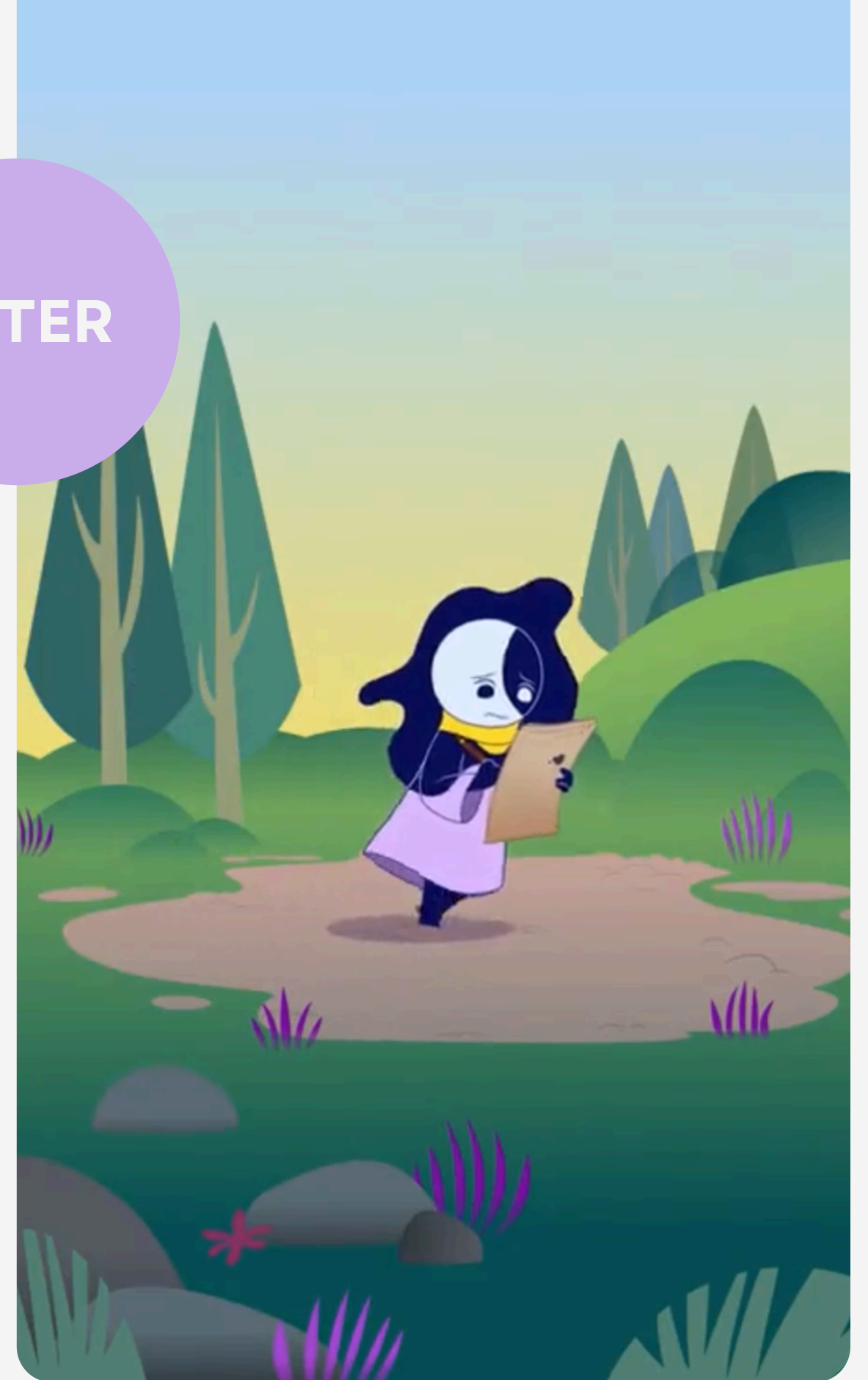


POST-WATCH DISCUSSION

Prompts:

- Why did Smudge want to put their story in the World Book?
- How did Smudge show they were brave?
- What does Smudge's journey tell us about who can make stories?

AFTER



CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS



- **Smudge:** A creative but timid creature determined to share their story, representing resilience and self-expression.
- **Edgar:** Smudge's creator, a kind but skeptical author who symbolizes the authority of storytelling.
- **Wendell, Aziz, Clarissa:** Fellow authors, each displaying different reactions to Smudge's ambitions, representing the varied perspectives of criticism.
- **The Bird:** Acts as a gatekeeper, embodying the challenge of reaching one's dreams despite opposition.

PLOT BREAKDOWN



- **Introduction:** Smudge enters the author's lair, hoping to gain respect and to get their story, "The Brave Teapot" into the World Book where all the important stories are held.
- **Conflict:** Smudge faces resistance and skepticism from the authors.
- **Climax:** Smudge bravely attempts to add their story to the World Book, overcoming obstacles like a mischievous ink creature and the authors' pens.
- **Resolution:** Edgar takes and reads Smudge's story without knowing who wrote it, Smudge feels pride in having it appreciated, marking a small victory.



K-3 ELA RESOURCES



Name: _____ Date: _____

The Author's Lair

Draw a picture of the Authors Lair. Then, write three sentences describing it, including details about its magical elements.



SETTING

Name: _____ Date: _____

Smudge Story Starter

Using the provided story starter, write a short story about Smudge facing a new challenge and finding a creative solution.




In a mysterious cave, Smudge discovers a faint glow revealing a hidden book, promising a forgotten treasure. With some new friends, they embark on an unexpected adventure...

STORY STARTER

Name: _____ Date: _____

Story Elements: Characters

Draw a line to match the character with what describes them.

 Hero	Best friend of the hero
 Villain	Helps people
 Sidekick	Tries to stop the hero

Think of a hero from a story you like and draw them below.

Tell us about your hero:
What do they look like? _____

What kind of person are they? _____

CHARACTER TYPES


K-3 SEL RESOURCES



Name: _____ Date: _____

Use Your Voice Like Smudge!

When we meet a new person, it's nice to learn many things about them. Sometimes, if we are too shy to talk to a new person, we might make up a story about who they are and what they like. When you meet Smudge in this story, what details did you learn about Smudge and their life? Write 2 things that you learned next to Smudge's picture.



Imagine that you were going to write a story about your own life to share with people that you meet! Write that story below and use details about what makes you special and important things from your life.

USE YOUR VOICE

Understand what it is like to meet new friends and be unique.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Smudge's Feelings

Understanding feelings helps us follow a story by showing us how characters change. How did Smudge feel throughout the story? Draw a picture and write a sentence.

Beginning _____

Middle _____

End _____


FEELINGS MAP

Understand the character's journey and reactions to events.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Kindness With Smudge!

Look at the picture below from Smudge's story. How do you think the bird made Smudge feel?



Think of a time when someone did something kind for you. Use that to give the Bird some advice, and let's help them learn how to be nicer to Smudge!

KINDNESS

Understand and relate to different perspectives and feelings within a story.

K-3 CREATIVE RESOURCES



AUTHORS LAIR

Design an ideal writing space, imagining where they'd feel most inspired to write their stories



Name: _____ Date: _____

Create Your Own Author's Lair

Imagine a magical place where you can write stories like Smudge. Draw a picture then write three rules for this place.

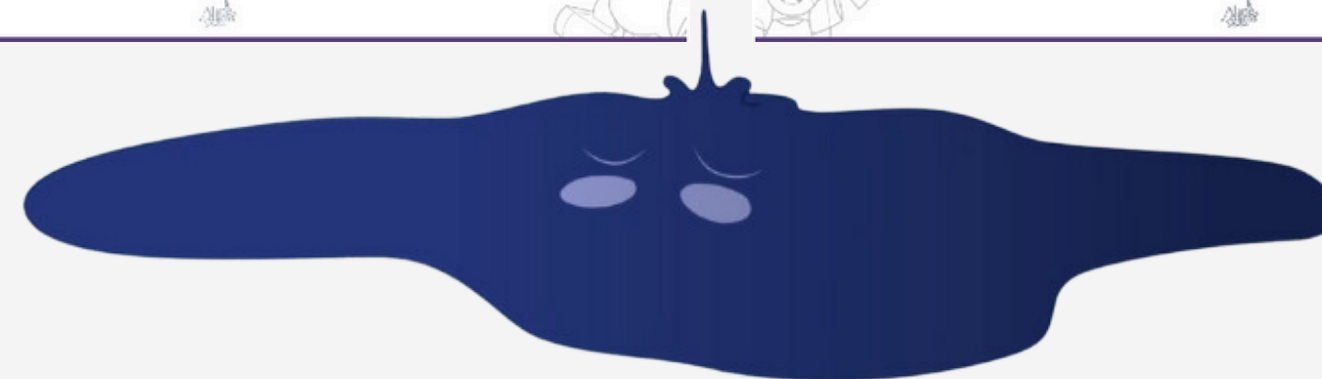
Name: _____ Date: _____

LET'S DRAW SMUDGE!

To match the grid on the left, draw what you see in each square of the pre-made grid on the right, doing one box at a time until you finish. Then, color all four drawings.

DRAW SMUDGE

Guide to draw different versions of Smudge using a grid system.

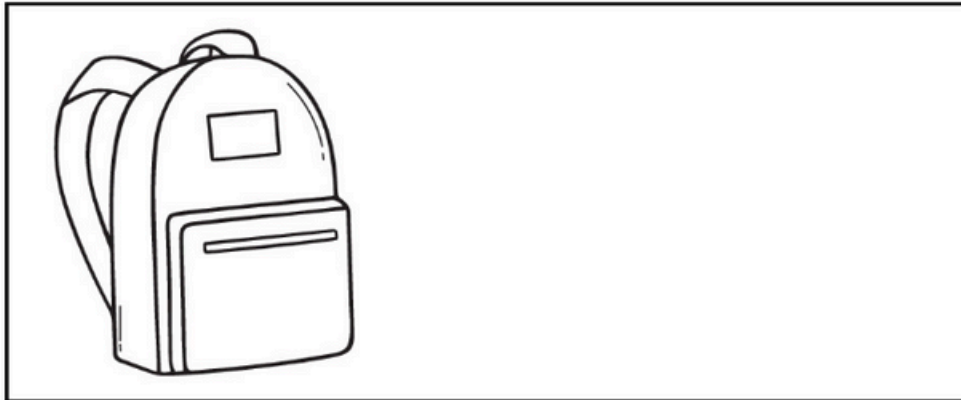


ADVANCED ELA CHARACTER RESOURCES

Name: _____ Date: _____

What's In The Backpack?

Think about what a character in your story would carry in their backpack. Draw and label each item, then describe why each item is important and how it shows something about their personality.



Item 1: _____
Description of why it's important: _____
How it reveals the character's personality: _____

Item 2: _____
Description of why it's important: _____
How it reveals the character's personality: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Character Spy Kit

You are a secret agent on a mission to discover the most interesting details about a character in your future story! Create a "Spy Profile" by filling out the information below.

Name of character you're observing: _____

Spy Profile Section 1: Physical Appearance

- Hair color and style: _____
- Eye color: _____ Height: _____
- Any special features (scar, freckles, etc.): _____

Spy Profile Section 2: Personality Quirks

What makes this character unique? List two or three interesting personality traits.

Spy Profile Section 3: Goals and Motivations

What drives this character?

- Main Goal: _____
- Why is this important?: _____

Spy Profile Section 4: Secrets

What secrets does this character keep?: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Story Elements: Characters

Fill in three personality traits for each of the following types of characters:

Protagonist (Hero) _____

Antagonist (Villain) _____

Sidekick _____

Using the personality traits above, complete the following prompts to create a backstory for a protagonist:

Where are they from? _____

What is their biggest fear? _____

What do they want most in life? _____

What secret are they hiding? _____







ADVANCED ELA SETTING RESOURCES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Setting: Create a Comic Strip

Imagine how the setting in a story changes as the plot progresses. Draw a four-panel comic strip, showing how the setting looks at different points in the story. In each panel, add a short caption to explain how the setting feels and how it affects the mood of the story at that point.

	
_____	_____
_____	_____
	
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Setting: Recipe Card

Think about a future story setting and imagine it as a recipe. List the "ingredients" you'd need to create this setting. Then, write a "recipe" for putting these ingredients together, describing how they work together to build the setting's mood.

Setting Name (e.g. Mysterious Forrest): _____

Ingredients List
List the ingredients that make up this setting, using descriptive language (e.g., 2 cups of fog, 1 tablespoon of silence, a pinch of moonlight).

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Write a few sentences explaining how to "combine" the ingredients. Describe how the setting should feel and look.

How does this setting affect the characters or story?



ADVANCED ELA CONFLICT RESOURCES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Conflict Swap

Think about a conflict from a story or movie you know well. Imagine if this conflict were swapped for a different type of conflict. How would the story change?

Original Conflict Information

Story/ Movie Title: _____

Conflict Type: (circle one)

Character vs. Character Character vs. Nature. Character vs. Self

Character vs. Society Character vs. Technology Character vs. Supernatural

Description of Original Conflict: _____

Conflict Swap

New Conflict Type: (Circle one that is different from above)

Character vs. Character Character vs. Nature. Character vs. Self

Character vs. Society Character vs. Technology Character vs. Supernatural

Imagine how the story/ movie might play out with this new conflict. Write a short story that shows the swapped conflict.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Conflict Dice Roll

Roll a dice to discover the type of conflict you'll explore! Each number represents a different kind of conflict. Use the guide below to see what each number represents.

- Roll a 1: Character vs. Character
- Roll a 2: Character vs. Nature
- Roll a 3: Character vs. Society
- Roll a 4: Character vs. Self
- Roll a 5: Character vs. Technology
- Roll a 6: Character vs. Supernatural



Roll Result: _____

Write Your Story

Using the type of conflict you rolled, write a short story below that describes the conflict. Include details that show what is at stake for the character(s) and how the conflict affects them.

How did this type of conflict change how the character acted?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Conflict: Create a Comic Strip

Think of a conflict in a story you know, or create a new one. In the comic strip boxes below, show how the conflict unfolds and how it is resolved. Use dialogue and captions to describe each character's actions and how they lead to a resolution.

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