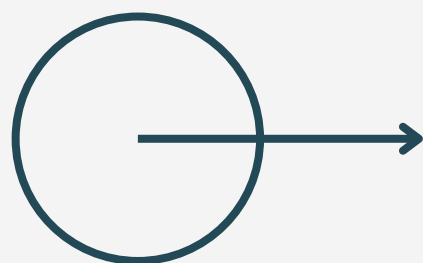




SMUDGE EPISODE 3

K-3 GUIDE

Integrating SEL, ELA, and Creative Expression





OVERVIEW

In this episode, Smudge explores the “Unfiniverse”, a place of unfinished stories. Here, Smudge meets the Inkompletes, who might be new friends. Together, they must get through tricks and challenges so they can hopefully escape. With lots of new characters, and a little magic, this episode explores the power of thoughts, friends, and storytelling in Smudge’s world.

Key Themes

- The Power of Imagination: Imagination is shown as a magical force that shapes stories and brings them to life.
- Teamwork and Respect for Others: Smudge’s interactions with the Inkompletes explore the impact of working together, even when opinions differ.
- Importance of Perseverance: Smudge’s actions demonstrate that mistakes can lead to new knowledge and adventures.





LEARNING PATHS

With our comprehensive set of resources, teachers can focus on three key paths to maximize engagement with Smudge Episode 3:

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 story special? Can you think of a favorite story you've heard or read?
- Why do you think people tell stories?
- Have you ever created a story or drawing that felt important to you? How did it make you feel?



DURING-WATCH DISCUSSION

DURING

Prompts:

- Pause after Hocus explains Neverwood and Grimshadow Howllo and ask students:
 - What books can you think of that would fit into these different lands of the Unfiniverse?
- When Fleck says, “My name’s Fleck, hero in the making and leader of the Inkompletes,” pause and ask:
 - How do you think Smudge feels when they meet Fleck in the Thicket of Thoughts?
- As Fleck explains, “We need someone to write our stories before its too late!” ask:
 - Which Inkomplete could you write the best story for?



POST-WATCH DISCUSSION

AFTER

Prompts:

- Why do you think Fleck, Dot, and Iggy want to bring Smudge along to find the Storyteller?
- What might happen if Smudge and the Inkompletes find the Storyteller?
- Who do you think Calumbra might be in the Unfiniverse?



CHARACTER PROFILES



- **Smudge:** A creative but timid creature determined to share their story, representing resilience and self-expression.
- **Hocus:** A tricky creature who sends Smudge down a shadowy path at the entrance of the Unfiniverse
- **Fleck:** The brave leader of the Inkompletes who is looking for a story that needs a hero
- **The Inkcompletes:** Spinks, Dot, Iggy and Fleck- a team of characters without stories stuck in the Unfiniverse
- **Calumbra:** A mysterious, shadowy character who does not seem very friendly

PLOT BREAKDOWN



- **Introduction:** Smudge falls through the nexus and finds themselves in the Unfiniverse. After a quick chat with Hocus, Smudge sets off towards the Thicket of Thoughts to find new ideas and stimulate creativity.
- **Conflict:** Smudge is determined to find their own way out of the Unfiniverse, even though Hocus said it was impossible. Deep in the Thicket of Thoughts, Smudge discovers the magic and mystery of this place, and ends up in a sticky situation.
- **Climax:** With some luck, and a little help from Fleck, Smudge finds the Inkompletes and a chance to escape the Unfiniverse. The Storyteller, Creator of the World Book, holds the power to set them free, if Smudge and the Inkompletes can find him in time. Could Smudge be the one to help the Inkompletes find him?
- **Resolution:** Just as Smudge decides to join the Inkompletes, Calumbra arrives. Now, the Inkompletes face an uncertain, shadowy path ahead in hopes of finding a way to escape the Unfiniverse and finish their stories.











K-3 ELA RESOURCES



Name: _____ Date: _____

Story Matches

Smudge and the Inkcomplete need the Storyteller to finish their stories. What type of story, or genre, would each of the Inkcomplete fit into the best? Write the name of the Inkcomplete that would most like to be a part of each story below:


 Iggy	 Smudge	 Sphinx	 Fleck	 Dot
 MYSTERY	 ADVENTURE	 ACTION		
 DRAMA	 FAIRY TALE			

GENRES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Thoughts About the Thicket

Smudge wanders into the Thicket of Thoughts to find new ideas. What Smudge found was a setting that changed their feelings very quickly. Can you answer these questions about the Thicket of Thoughts?



How does the Thicket of Thoughts make Smudge feel in this part of the story?

What 3 details from the picture of this setting show you this?

1. _____

2. _____






3. _____

SETTING

Name: _____ Date: _____

Who Are the Inkcomplete?

The Inkcomplete are just like Smudge, characters without stories. Can you match each Inkcomplete to the correct character description?

 Iggy	 Smudge	 Sphinx	 Fleck	 Dot
_____ is determined to be an author and find a way out of the Unfiniverse		_____ is a meant o be a main character, maybe in a story about knights or kings.		
_____ is a hero in the making and rescues Smudge from the Thicket of Thoughts.		_____ is not very friendly to Smudge and doubts if Smudge can help them find the Storyteller		
_____ is nice to Smudge and remembers what it is like to be new to the Unfiniverse		I am most like _____, because I _____		

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Story Matches

Explain your story choices for 2 of the Inkcomplete below. Be sure to use details from the episode to explain your choices.

I think _____ would be a great character in this kind of story _____.
These are two reasons why:

1. _____

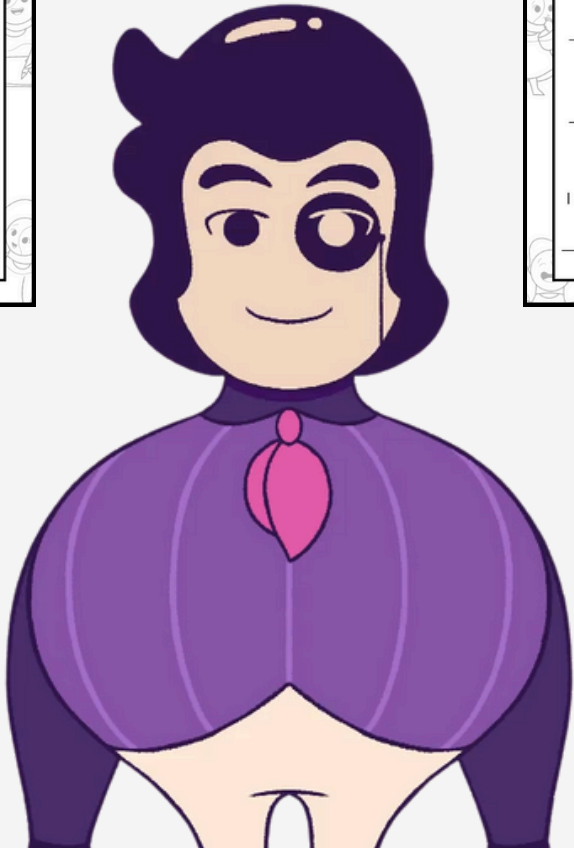
2. _____

I think _____ would be a great character in this kind of story _____.
These are two reasons why:

1. _____

2. _____

STORY MATCHES





K-3 ADDITIONAL ELA RESOURCES



Name: _____ Date: _____

Share Your Thoughts

This part of Smudge's story is packed with important moments. Use details from Smudge's story to answer the question with each picture.



Do you think Smudge should trust Hocus? Why?

Where did Smudge go after meeting Hocus? Which part of the Unfiniverse would you visit first?





In the Thicket of Thoughts, what trouble does Smudge find? How does Smudge escape?

STORY COMPREHENSION






Name: _____ Date: _____

Smudge's Story Matching

The word bank lists important parts of any story. Use the word bank to complete the definitions.

Character	Setting	Problem	Hero
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

There are lots of important parts in a good story. Do you them all? Match the words below with their meanings by drawing a line to connect each pair.





 Smudge	The problem that Smudge needs to solve
 Unfiniverse	The villain, or character that causes trouble in the story
 Calumbra	The main character, who the story is all about
 Leave the Unfiniverse	A sidekick the helps Smudge and is ready to be a hero
 Fleck	Where Smudge's story takes place

STORY VOCABULARY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Map the Story

Smudge goes on quite the journey in the Unfiniverse. Can you match these parts of a story to their definitions?

 Introduction	The moment when the characters solve the problem
 Conflict	The end of the story after the characters solve the problem
 Climax	Beginning of a story when readers meet the main character
 Resolution	The problem or challenge the main character has to solve

For each of these parts of a story, use the boxes to map out Smudge's story. Describe or draw important details from the story for the introduction, conflict, climax, and resolution.

Introduction- What important things happen to introduce you to Smudge?

STORY MAPPING



K-3 SEL RESOURCES



NEW FRIENDS

Explore how to be a good teammate

POSITIVE THINKING

Practice reframing worries into positive thoughts.

GOAL SETTING

Figure out what steps to take to accomplish a task

Name: _____ Date: _____

Smudge's New Friends

When Smudge meets the Inkcompletes, they do not seem ready to let Smudge join their team at first. What great things about Smudge would you tell each of the Inkcompletes about Smudge? Finish the letters to convince the Inkcompletes to let Smudge join their team.

Dear Dot,

I think Smudge would be a great friend to you, because Smudge _____

Dear Iggy,

Smudge would be a great teammate to have, because Smudge _____

Dear Fleck,

When you search for the Storyteller you need Smudge on your team, because Smudge _____

Dear Sphinx,

It is important to have friends to help you do challenging things. Smudge would be a great friend because _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Happy Thoughts


In the Thicket of Thoughts, Smudge finds ideas and happy thoughts in bubbles. Soon, Smudge finds a darker part of the Thicket of Thoughts, and here the bubbles are filled with worries and questions without answers. Can you help Smudge rewrite these negative thoughts so they are happy?

"Being an author is too hard."

"What if my story never makes it into the World Book?"

"What if I never find my story?"

"The Unfiniverse is scary when you are by yourself."




Name: _____ Date: _____


Finding the Storyteller

Smudge and the Inkcompletes need to find the Storyteller to escape the Unfiniverse. They need help figuring out how to do that! Can you write 3 goals for Smudge and the Inkcompletes that will help them find the storyteller?


Goal #1




Goal #2



Goal #3





K-3 CREATIVE RESOURCES


Name: _____ Date: _____

Predict the Story

This episode ends on a cliffhanger, just as Calumbra arrives in the Thicket of Thoughts. Can you predict what happens next for Smudge, Calumbra, and the Inkcompletes?

Introduction- How does the story start?

Conflict- What problem do the Inkcompletes have to solve to defeat Calumbra?



PREDICT THE ENDING


Name: _____ Date: _____

Complete the Inkcompletes

The Inkcompletes are in the Unfiniverse until an author finishes their stories. Can you come up with a story idea for Iggy, Fleck, and Smudge? Write a summary of a new story featuring each Inkcomplete. Then, draw a setting for your story idea behind each character.


Describe a new story idea for Fleck: _____

Draw a setting for this story behind Fleck



Describe a new story idea for Iggy: _____

Draw a setting for this story behind Iggy



STORY IDEAS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Where in the Unfiniverse?

Hocus describes a lot of different places in the Unfiniverse for Smudge. Can you match his descriptions with each land? Write the name of each part of the Unfiniverse next to the correct description.

Word Bank


☆Thicket of Thoughts

☆1/2 Way Haven


☆Neverwood

☆Grimshadow Hollow


The home of monstrous beasts that attack small villages



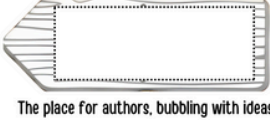
A gloomy place for dark deeds



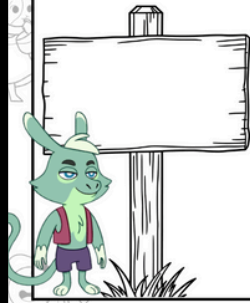
A place for half finished stories that need better endings



The place for authors, bubbling with ideas



Now, create your own land in the Unfiniverse! Write its name on the signpost and describe who or what lives there:




EXPLORE THE UNFINIVERSE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Heroes in the Making

Fleck is a "hero in the making" and proves it in the Thicket of Thoughts. What other things could Fleck do or say to be a good hero? Draw or write answers about Fleck in the bubbles!

A skill Fleck has



Heroic act Fleck does

A trait Fleck has

Heroic act Fleck does

A trait Fleck has

DESIGN A HERO

