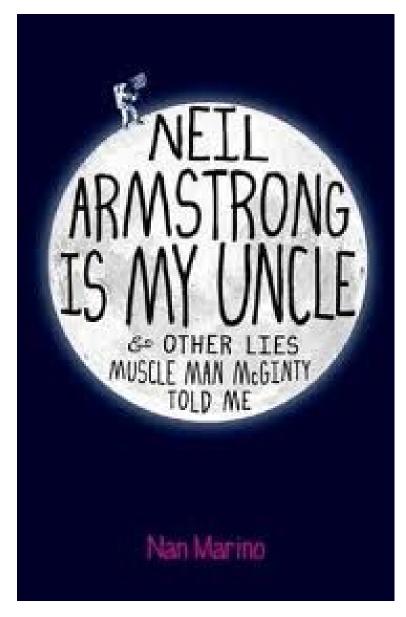
# Neil Armstrong is My Uncle and Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me

By Nan Marino

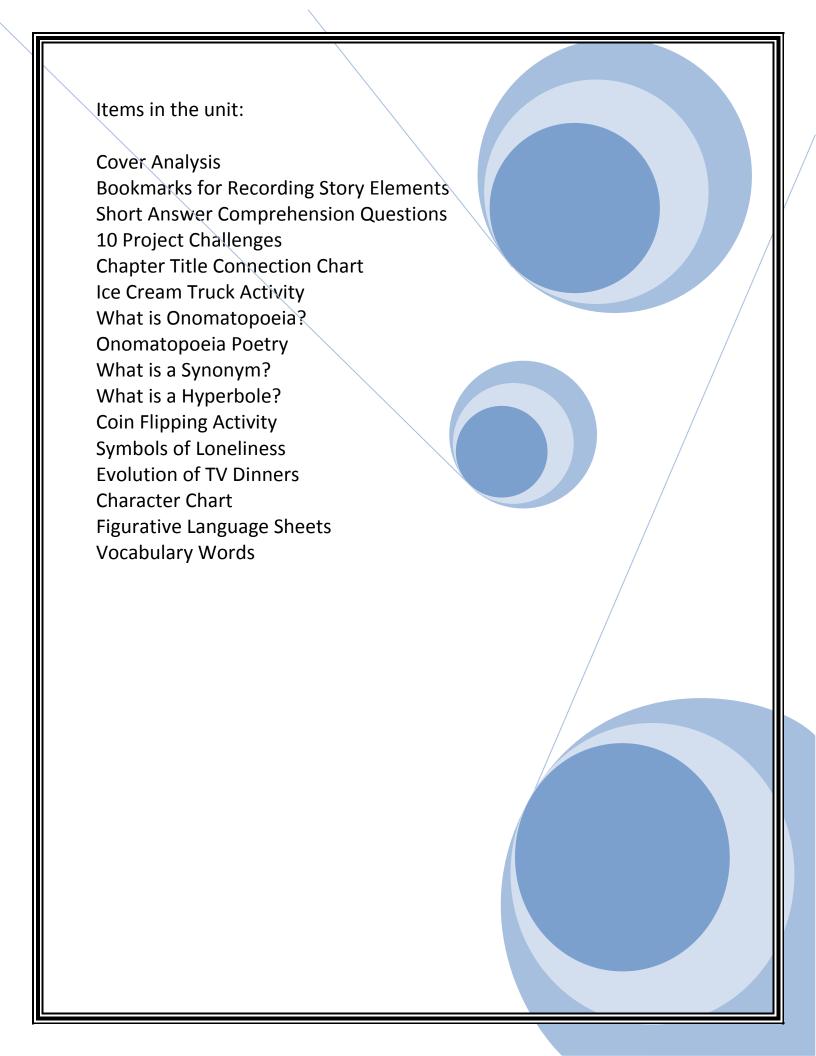
Literature Unit Resources

Created by:

Tracey K. Graham



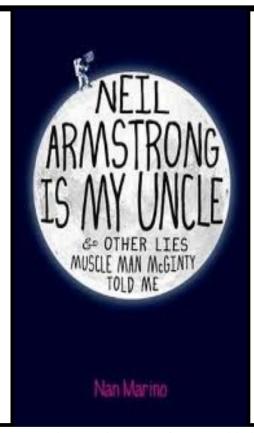
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# C O ver Analysis

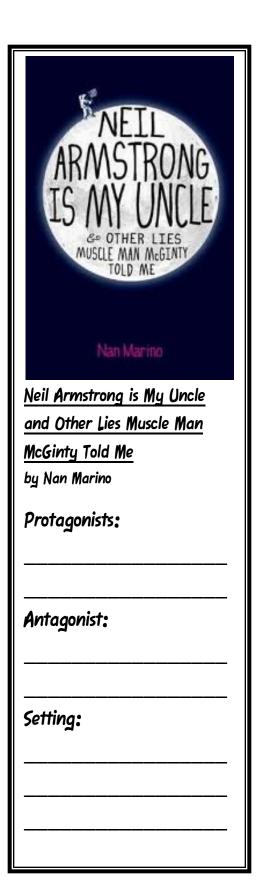
What color scheme is used in the cover art? Why do you think the publisher chose this color scheme?

What items are included on the cover? Why do you think these items were chosen?



Where is the title located? What size, font, and color are used for the title? Why do you think the title was done in this way?

Do you think this cover fits the story? Why or why not? If you could change anything about the cover art, what would it be? Why? Create a new cover design on a separate sheet of paper.



Initiating Conflict:
Resolution:
 Themes:
Genre:

#### Directions for Bookmark:

- 1. Copy onto cardstock or copy paper, one per student.
- 2. Students need to fill in the information on the bookmark after they have read the book.
- Protagonist: The main character the story is about.
- Antagonist: The characters or forces acting against the protagonist.
- Setting: The where and when the story takes place.
- Initiating Conflict: The event that sets the story in motion.
- Climax: Critical moment in the story, usually a turning point for the protagonist.
- Resolution: The end of the story, most problems are resolved by this time.
- -Themes: Lessons learned or what the story is generally about: family, friendship, adventure, etc.
- Genre: The type of book and why it is in this genre.
- 3. Glue the two sides together with a glue stick. You can laminate the bookmarks if you want to make them last.
- 4. A great way to check overall comprehension of the book!

**ENJOY!** 

Ch. I-4	
I. Why	does Tamara describe Muscle Man as "wormy"? What affect does he have on her? Why?
2. Wha	t whopper does Muscle Man tell Big Danny? Why do you think he does this?
3. Wha	t affect does Muscle Man have on other people (not includingTamara)? Why do you think this is?
<b>4</b> . Wha	t does Tamara plan to do to Muscle Man? Why?
5. Who	is Kebsie Grobser? What does she have to do with how Tamara feels about Muscle Man?
6. Wha	t does Muscle Man give Tamara in Ch. 3? Why can't she say, "thank you"?
7. Whe	re does Tamara like to go most of all? Why?
8. Wha	t qualities did Tamara like most about Kebsie? Why?

Ch. 5-8	ong is My Uncle" by Nan Marino  Name  mara feel silly writing a letter to Kebsie? What would she rather do? Why?
2. What did T	Tamara do with the letter? Why?
3. Why doesr	n't anyone know where Kebsie and her mother are now? Is this a good reason? Why or why not?
4. How does	Muscle Man help Tamara in Ch. 6? Why do you think he offers to do this for her?
5. What is a "	"gripe"? How do the kids of Ramble Street deal with a gripe?
	e does MaryBeth have against Tamara? Who is right, in your opinion? Why?
7. What puni	ishment did Tamara have to serve? How did she feel about it? Why?
8. Why did Ta	amara give Douglas the nickname, "Muscle Man"? Is it a good one, in your opinion? Why or why not?

"Neil Arms Ch. 9-12	etrong is My Uncle" by Nan Marino Name
I. What is a	an LEM? What does it have to do with MaryBeth?
2. What ch	nallenge did Muscle Man make to the group of kids? Why do you think he would do this?
3. What tw	vo types of people are there in the world, according to Tamara? Which is she? Why?
4. Who is T	Tim? Where is he? Why isn't he coming home?
5. What is	the weather like in Ch. II? How does Tamara feel about it? Why?
6. Why is T	Tamara so upset that no one else bothered to show up for the game?
7. What se	ecret does MaryBeth let slip to Tammy in Ch. 12? Why do you think she does this?
8. Are you	u surprised Muscle Man showed up for the game? Why or why not?

Ch	Neil Armstrong is My Uncle" by Nan Marino Name n. 13-16
L	Why is Ch. 13 called, "Nothing to Smile About"? Give examples from the text.
2.	What does John tell Tammy to do at the end of Ch. 13? Why? How does she react to his request? Why?
3.	Why do they have to deviate from the normal kickball rules for this game? Is it fair? Why or why not?
4.	. Why is the game called for the day?
5.	What does Muscle Man give Tamara in Ch. 15? Does this change how she feels about him? Why or why not?
6.	. What does Big Danny save Tammy from at the end of Ch. 15? How does he do it?
7.	How does Tammy feel about the game in Ch. 16? How is Muscle Man feeling? Why is she so bothered by him?
8.	Why does Tammy say, "The kid doesn't even lose when he's losing"? What was she referring to?

1. Why does Tammy wait so long before she reads Kebsie's letter? Why is she so surprised when she finally reads it?  2. How does Tammy feel about Kebsie after she reads the letter? Why have her feelings changed?	
2 What does the town of Towns to do in Ch. 192 Why do you think they do this 2 How does the process Why 2	
2 What does the trees and Tarrey, to do in Ch. 192 Why do you think they do this 2 Hay, does also need 2 Why 2	
3. What does the team ask Tammy to do in Ch. 18? Why do yo∪ think they do this? How does she react? Why?	
4. Why is Ch. 18 called, "The War Comes Home to Ramble Street"? What happened?	
5. Why do you think Tammy wrote to Kebsie again, even though she said she wouldn't? What type of response do you think sl	he'll
get? Why?	
C. What lie did Tommy tall to her brother. Time Why 2 Should she have tald the truth 2 Why or why not?	
6. What lie did Tammy tell to her brother, Tim? Why? Should she have told the truth? Why or why not?	
7. Why is Tammy upset there is laughter at Vinnie's funeral? Do you think it is ok to laugh at a funeral? Why or why not?	
8. Why is Tammy the only one not crying at the end of Ch. 20? What is she waiting for?	

"Neil A Ch. 21-	rmstrong is My Uncle" by Nan Marino Name
I. Why	does Tammy think Kebsie "is turning into one giant disappointment"? (p. 112)
2. Wha	t one word from the letter does Tammy hold on to? Why?
3. Whe	ere does Tammy go for advice about Kebsie's letter? Why? What is she told?
<b>4</b> . Wha	at does Shirley tell Tammy about notes? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
5. How	is the Simpson cookout different than the Grabowsky cookout? Which one would you rather attend? Why?
6. Why	y does Tim leave so suddenly? Why are he and Marshall so upset with each other?
7. Why	does the kickball game against Muscle Man end? What does Tammy think about the group's decision? Why?
8. Wha	at does Muscle Man do to help Mr. Pizzarelli? Why? How does Tammy react to what she finds out about Muscle Man?

Ch	Neil Armstrong is My Uncle" by Nan Marino  Name  1. 25-29  Why did Tammy punch Muscle Man? Is she justified in doing this, in your opinion? Why or why not?
1-	with the training portain models many 20 one governed in doing this, in your opinions with the second
2.	What is going on at the Grabowsky house? Why? Why can't Tammy go?
3.	Why does Tammy wish she was a Grabowsky?
4.	. What does Muscle Man ask Tammy in Ch. 27? How does she respond? Why?
	Where does Tammy watch the first moon walk? Why? Do you think this will change the way she feels about Muscle Man? Why or hy not?
6.	. What does Neil Armstrong say when he steps on the moon? What does Buzz Aldrin say?
7.	What does Tammy want to remember from this night? Why? (p. 148)
8.	How does Tammy feel about Muscle Man at the end of the book? Why?

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

# Write a RAFT:

Role: You

Audience: Potential Best Friends

Format: Job Application

Topic: Create an application for potential best friends to fill out. Think carefully about the qualities you want in a

best friend as you create the application.

Challenge #2

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Reading Response:

Do you have a nickname? If you do, where did it originate, who gave it to you, and why? What nickname would you like to have? Why?

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Create your own kickball rule book. You should include information about positions, game rules, equipment, etc. Make sure you also include a section for unusual circumstances (like in the book). Add illustrations to make your rule book more eyecatching to readers.

**Challenge #4** 

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Reading Response:

What do you personally think of Muscle Man McGinty? Why? Would you want to be friends with him? Why or why not?

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Write an obituary for Vinnie Pizzarelli based on the information you know about him and his family and friends from the book. Be sure to include as many details as you can about him. You may want to consult a newspaper for real obituaries to use as a guide.

#### Challenge #6

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Create a present day advertisement for the drink,
Tang. You will need to look up this product on the
Internet to find out more about it. It was sold as a
drink for astronauts that regular people could buy.
You must use this information in your
advertisement. You can make up your own slogan,
or use theirs.

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

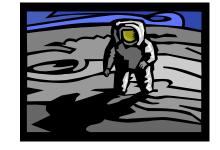
# Write a RAFT:

Role: MaryBeth Grabowsky

Audience: Invitees to her Moonwalk Party

Format: Party Invitation

Topic: You are invited to our Moonwalk Party



rmstrons

Use the information from the book so you can use the correct date, time, and location. You may also want to include some of the dishes that will be served during the party.

## **Challenge #8**

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Create a Biography Board about an Astronaut! This poster should contain information about their life from birth to present day. Add photographs to fill space and to create a well-balanced layout.

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Write a newspaper article about a memorable event from space travel, space exploration, or a tragedy in space. Your article should contain the: who, what, when, where, why, and how of the event. You will need to research a topic using books or the Internet. Add a photograph, headline, etc. to your article. Be sure the date of the newspaper is accurate!

# Challenge #10

(Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...)

Make an interactive timeline of space exploration that contains at least 15 important dates. You must include interactive elements, like (but not limited to): flaps to lift up, 3D objects, and pop-ups.

"Neil Armstrong is My Uncle", by Nan Marino Connecting Chapter Titles to the Story	Name	
For each of the chapter titles, write a connection to	·	In doing

this, you will be actually identifying the main idea of each chapter.

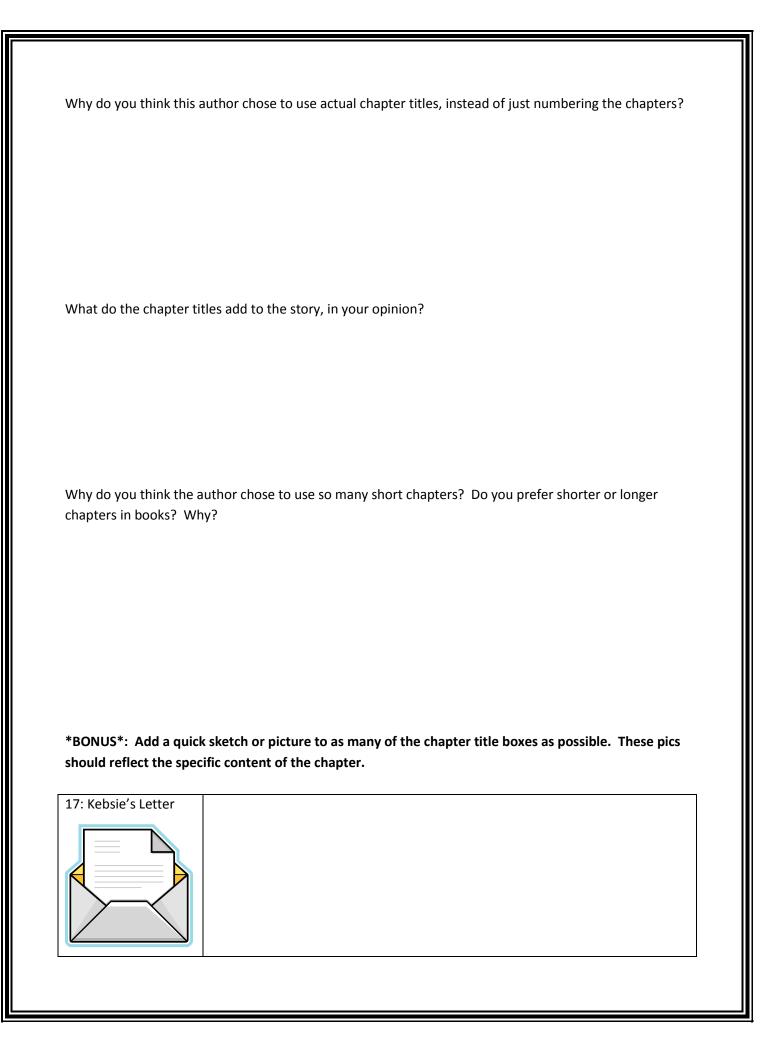
Chapter Title	Connections
1: The Blizzard of	
<b>'</b> 69	
2: Just Plain Wrong	
3: Barbies Are A	
Girl's Best Friend	
4: Full Moons, New	
Moons, Waning Gibbous	
Gibbous	
5: An In-Person	
Friend	
C =1	
6: The Battle of Life	

7: Banned		
8: The Fourth of		
July		
9: When You Can't		
Eat Ice Cream, Eat		
Your Words		
10: Secret Powers		
11: Just My Luck		
12: Let the Game		
Begin		
13: Nothing to		
Smile About		

14: New Rules	
15. Like Cold	
15: Like Gold	
16: Not Feeling It	
17: Kebsie's Letter	
17. Neusie 3 Lettei	
18: The War Comes	
Home to Ramble	
Street	
19: Shink. Shink.	
Shink.	
20: Vinnie Pizza	
zo: vininie Pizza	

21: One Single Word	
vvoiu	
22: Who Says You	
Can't Learn from	
Television	
23: When You Can't	
Stomach the Truth,	
Try Some Cheese	
Fondue	
24: I Never Asked	
25: The Last Note	
26: Tang	
27: Almost Reached	
the Moon by	
Myself	

28: One Small Step					
29: One Giant Leap					
Which was your mo	st favorite chapter of	the book? Whv?			
Willen was your mo	st ravorite enapter or	the book. Why.			
Which was your lea	st favorite chapter of	the book? Why?			
Which was your lea	st favorite chapter of	the book? Why?			
Which was your lea	st favorite chapter of	the book? Why?			
Which was your lea	st favorite chapter of t	the book? Why?			
Which was your lea	st favorite chapter of t	the book? Why?			
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			ed? Why?		
			ed? Why?		



Design Your Own Ice Cream Truck



Why was the ice cream truck so important to the kids in the story?

Design your own ice cream truck below.



Why did you decide to design your ice cream truck in this way?

What is Onomatopoeia:	What	is O	nomat	topo	eia?
-----------------------	------	------	-------	------	------

"Neil Armstrong is my Uncle..." Ch. I



Onomatopoeia is the use of words to imitate sounds.

On page I, the word *Shink* is used to show the sound a Slinky toy makes as well as a sound the main character hears "creeping around inside my brain".

Create your own word list	with as many examples of o	onomatopoeia as you can find

Why would the author use onomatopoeia in their writing, in your opinion?

Onomatopoeia Poetry	Name
•	opoeia. Your poem should contain at least 8 lines an your word list when you are writing the poem.

What is a synonym? "Neil Armstrong is My Uncle"	Name
A synonym is a word that h	as the same meaning as another word.
Write a list of synonyms for	r the word LIES. There are several given throughout
the book (look on page 3).	
Write a list of synonyms for	r the word LITTLE.
Write a list of synonyms for	r the word LITTLE.
Write a list of synonyms for	
Write a poem Using either lie	
Write a poem Using either lie	es or little and the synonyms that you found.
Write a poem Using either lie	es or little and the synonyms that you found.

What is hy	•	Name	
"Neil Armstr	ong is My Uncle"		TE TE
A hyperbol	le is an extreme over-exa	aggeration of a statement.	The state of the s
There are	many examples of hyperi	bole in the story. On page 5,	when Muscle Man
claims then		ons in Tamara's yard, is an exa	ample of a
	nny examples of hyperbold the page number.	e as you can in the book. Writ	ce each one below

Cain Elinning Probab	sili+s ,		Name		
Coin Flipping Probab	•		Name	·	
"Neil Armstrong is	my uncle				
The kids traditiona	The kids traditionally flip a coin to see which team kicks first in their kickball games.				
	have a 50% chance o flip a coin 50 times?		a tails. Do you think	this is what will	
-	ility of getting head head or a tail in the	•	-	TRY IT! Record	

What were your results?		
# of heads	# of tails	
% of heads	% of tails	
Were you surprised by your result	s? Why or why not?	At .
Did your classmates get similar res	sults?	
Based on your results, guess what	t you will get (heads or tails) if you flip the co	oin one more time.
Guess	Actual Result	
Did you guess correctly?		
Is the probability of flipping a coin	predictable, in your opinion? Why or why no	t?
On page 70 in the book, the kids de	ecide not to flip the coin. Why do they make or why not?	this decision? Do
,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

Symbols of Lonelines	SS	Name	-
"Neil Armstrong is A	My Uncle"		
three of them. Writ	•	ent the feelings of loneliness. Here are examples nd its role in the story. Choose one to write a p d in your poem.	
		n the lawn of the Grabowsky family.	
	The two men standi	ing on the moon so far from earth.	
		one in the rain on the kickball field.	

\*Don't forget to write a poem about one of these scenes or another scene that depicts loneliness.

The Evolution of TV Dinners	
"Neil Armstrong is My Uncle	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The TV Dinner has been around for a long time. When, where, and how did this iconic item from the 1950's and 1960's originate? Research the history of the TV dinner and create an informational poster that displays your information. Include the following information on your poster:

- When were TV dinners invented?
- Why were TV dinners invented?
- Who invented TV dinners?
- What is the most popular TV dinner?
- How have TV dinners changed over the years?
- What are some of your favorite TV dinners?
- When were TV dinners at the height of their popularity? Why?
- Are TV dinners healthy to eat? Why or why not?

Try to include some interactive elements in your poster display. These interaction elements could include: flaps, clay models, etc. You should also include eye catching titles! Be sure to cite your sources!

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

based on the context of the book as well as your own inferences.			
Motivation:	What was each of	he story? Why did the author include the character's actions motivated by? the have on the story and on the main cl	
		der to complete the chart. You may nee der to decide what you should write in e	
Name	Role	Motivation	Impact
Tamara			
Muscle Man McGinty			
Kebsie Grobser			

There were many characters in the book who impacted the main characters, Tamara and Muscle Man McGinty, during the story. Fill in the chart for each of these characters, as well as the main characters,

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_

"Neil Armstrong is My Uncle...", by Nan Marino

Character Motivations/Roles

Mary Beth Grabowsky		
Big Danny		
Shirley		
Tim		
Mr. Pizzarelli		

Mrs. Kutchner				
John Marcos				
Billy Rattle				
Which characte	r played the most p	ivotal role in the story	, in your opinion? Why?	
Which characte	r(s) had the greates	st impact on the event	s in the story, in your opin	nion? Why?

Why do you think Tamara and Muscle Man were able to finally become friends? What obstacles did they have to overcome to do this?	′
Which of these characters was your most favorite? Why?	
Which of these characters was your least favorite? Why?	
Was the antagonist in the story a person or a force acting against the main character, in your opinions	0
Why?	

Character Descriptions "Neil Armstrong is My Uncle"	Name
The author describes Muscle Man McC eyes of others in their neighborhood.	Ginty throughout the book, both through the eyes of Tamara and the
• •	a squirrelly runt, a lying snake, and a pitiful excuse for a ten-year- opery, slimy, lying weasel of a boy", on page 33.
Why does Tamara feel this way about your opinion? Why or why not?	t Muscle Man McGinty? Are her feelings towards him justified, in
Find some additional descriptions of I	Muscle Man and write them below as you read the book.
from Tamara's?	od feel about Muscle Man? Why are their opinions of him so different
What do you think of him? Why?	

	That's because the truth has a way of seeping under your skin and wrapping itself around you,
pg. 1	
	like a coiled-up Slinky.
Туре:	
pg. 5	Like snowflakes, the seeds twist and tumble before they find their way onto the lawns of Ramble Street.
Type:	
pg. 8	Mr. Grabowsky grabs onto each girl's hand, holding them tight, like they're precious butterflies about to fly away.
Type:	
pg. 8	He glances nervously at his front lawn, where perfect blades of grass stand like soldiers in formation.
Type:	

"Neil Armstro	ng is My Uncle" Figurative Language Analysis #2	Name
	he examples. Explain what type of figurative language is bein eaning of the sentence and its place in the story. You can also e.	
pg. 10  Type:	I shrug like I don't care, but my shoulders feel heavy from	the weight of all those stares.
pg. 14  Type:	"How many do you have, Tamara?" she asks in a voice swe	eeter than hot fudge.
pg. 18  Type:	I hold back about a million tears, making sure that not a si face.	ngle one escapes and runs across my
pg. 20 Type:	My first try sounds like a squeaky sneeze.	
*Cl	of these to illustrate on the back of this page.	

"Neil Armstron	ng is My Uncle" Figurative Language Analysis #3 Name
	ne examples. Explain what type of figurative language is being used in each example and then aning of the sentence and its place in the story. You can also tell why you think the author chose to .
pg. 27	I seal up my misery the same way that I seal the envelope.
Type:	
pg. 40  Type:	The way everyone is staring, you'd think the hole was as big as the Grand Canyon.
pg. 49	The other kids don't notice the two of us staring at their cones like they're worth a million bucks
pg. 49	"The surface of the moon could be as mushy as ice cream."
Type:	
*Choose one o	f these to illustrate on the back of this page.

"Neil Armstr	ong is My Uncle" Figurative Language Analysis #4	Name
	the examples. Explain what type of figurative language is beaning of the sentence and its place in the story. You can ne.	
pg. 53	A delicious feeling creeps into me, like I'm suddenly fil cones.	led with dozens of Mr. Softee's swirly
Type:		
pg. 55	Shirley waves her hand at the window, and I have to a water.	dmit I can't see a thing but gray sheets of
Type:		
pg. 73	His words are like gold.	
pg. 78	This pitch barely crawls over home plate.	
Type:		
	of these to illustrate on the back of this page.	

"Neil Armstro	ong is My Uncle" Figurative Language Analysis #5	Name
	the examples. Explain what type of figurative language is leaning of the sentence and its place in the story. You can le.	
pg. 87	No, he is worse than that. He is burnt toast.	
Туре:		
pg. 99	A ball about the size of the one I'm holding forms in th	ne pit of my stomach.
туре:		
pg. 100	Sometimes Billy Rattle has gravel for brains.	
Type:		
pg. 112	A hundred million bits of happiness wash over me.	
Type:		

"Neil Armstron	ng is My Uncle" Figurative Language Analysis #6	Name
	ne examples. Explain what type of figurative language is be aning of the sentence and its place in the story. You can al	
pg. 147	We all sit down, facing the television, in a wooden boot	hone that seems as sticky as the floor.
Type:		
pg. 147-148	As much as I want to stay awake, my head feels as heav	y as a twelve-pound bowling ball.
Type:		
pg. 151	Instead, the moon is being shy, hiding in the clouds.	
Type:		
pg. 152	Mr. Pizzarelli grabs our hands and holds us tight, like we	e're precious butterflies about to fly away
Туре:		

## Vocabulary Words



"Neil Armstrong is My Uncle..."

By: Nan Marino

S

Write a definition for each word using your own words based on the context within the book. Choose words from the text for the blank boxes and include a definition in your own words.

phony	Page	puny	Page
solemn	Page	ricochets	Page
rummąge	Page	Interchangeable	Page

gripe	Page	coincidence	Page
flaunt	Page	gape	Page
ousted	Page	crooning	Page
encore	Page	\$nicker	Page

sacred	Page	bellowing	Page
summon	Page	measly	Page
torrential	Page	smirk	Page
trounced	Page	humiliation	Page

collide Page	respectable Page
strategy Page	repulsive Page
technique Page	snivels Page
exaggerated Page	anxious Page

amnesia	Page	lame	Page
captivated	Page	sanitary	Page
tuition	Page	obsessed	Page
regret	Page	pummel	Page

replica	Page	excursion	Page
trellis	Page	compulsive	Page
desolation	Page		Page
	Page		Page

Page Page Page

## Vocabulary Word Locations in the Book Ishn #978-0-545-23997-4

Phony	pg.	1
puny	pg.	3
solemn	pg.	11
ricochets	pg.	14
rummage	pg.	25
interchangeable	pg.	33
gripe	pg.	36
coincidence	pg.	38
flaunt	pg.	39
gape	pg.	41
ousted	pg.	44
crooning	pg.	45
encore	pg.	46
snicker	pg.	50
sacred	pg.	52
bellowing	pg.	56
summon	pg.	57
measly	pg.	63
torrential	pg.	66
smirk	pg.	69
trounced	pg.	73
humiliation	pg.	74
collide	pg.	79
respectable	pg.	87
strategy	pg.	87

repulsive	pg.	88
technique	pg.	90
snivels	pg.	90
exaggerated	pg.	91
anxious	pg.	98
amnesia	pg.	104
lame	pg.	112
captivated	pg.	116
sanitary	pg.	119
tuition	pg.	120
obsessed	pg.	121
regret	pg.	127
pummel	pg.	131
replica	pg.	136
excursion	pg.	137
trellis	pg.	142
compulsive	pg.	146
desolation	pg.	147