



Earth's Secret: Educator's Guide

... an instructional manual and resource guide for *Earth's Secret: Voices in the Dark*, and *Earth's Secret: Making Connections Activity Book* that allows educators to optimize their use.

“... Teachers will be amazed at the complete educator's guide. It covers the core subject areas, numerous internet sites to enrich student learning, strategies for effective teaching, and supplemental resources that incorporate the multiple intelligences.”

Elin Orman

5th Grade Teacher, Honeoye Elementary School, Honeoye, NY

“... What an educator's treasure! ... *Earth's Secret Educator's Guide* is extremely well-organized, comprehensive and contains many strategies to help students become self-guided learners ...”

Lee Janowsky

Elementary Educator and Consultant, Mansfield, PA

Price: \$37.95

Type: paperbound

Pages: 431

Size: 8.5 x 11

Grades: 4 – 6

Co-authors: Diane Janis
and D.L. Hoobler

BENEFITS of *Earth's Secret: Educator's Guide*

- Organized for quick reference
- Stated in clear, concise language for ease of use
- Well-researched and designed for educator accountability
- Uses a step-by-step creative and effective educator approach for student enthusiasm and optimal learning
- Contains planning strategies (essential idea, level/s of difficulty, novel connection, curriculum subjects and activity tasks) for each activity in *Making Connections Activity Book*
- Provides answers for each activity
- Offers detailed preparation, presentation, completion, and/or follow-up suggestions for individual activities
- Supplies follow-up suggestions and supplemental resources for use with the novel and throughout the school-year, including a “Cosmic Passport” and “Global Warming Unit”
- Contains novel chapter summaries for *Voices in the Dark*
- Provides skill and concept charts corresponding to activity book pages and novel chapters for each subject in the curriculum
- Shows detailed intercurricular lesson plans
- Includes rubric assessment samples for each curriculum subject
- Offers internet websites for student and educator research
- Supports the concept that students benefit from intercurricular connections
- Promotes the idea that students can be active, aware, and self-directed

The following is a sample from *Earth's Secret: Educator's Guide*. It correlates with the "Chapter 1: Vocabulary" sample from *Earth's Secret: Making Connections Activity Book*.

Chapter 1: VOCABULARY (activity p. 2)

Note: Each chapter-based activity titled *Vocabulary* contains a selection of words from the novel to aid students' language expansion. Science words are written with their definitions. Other vocabulary words are written in context, using sentences from the novel. Reading sentences from the next chapter is like a "coming attraction," piquing students' curiosity about what might happen. To aid students' understanding and enjoyment of the novel and subsequent activities, it is recommended that each chapter-based vocabulary activity be completed and reviewed with the educator before students read its corresponding chapter in the novel.

▶ PLANNING CONNECTIONS

Essential Idea: Utilize a reference text to define a word and its part of speech. . . . Practice with vocabulary words expands language usage and concept understanding.

Levels of Difficulty: Easy, Average (Refer to guide pp. 338 - 340.)

Novel Connection: The activity focuses on vocabulary from the current chapter.

Curriculum Subjects: ELA, Science

Activity Tasks: (1) Students enhance understanding and memory of science words by underlining key words in their definitions. (2) Students develop dictionary and grammar skills by determining the definition and part of speech for each vocabulary word as it appears in context from the novel.

Procedure and Follow-Up Suggestions:

☺ Preview the activity with students **before** it is assigned. Students can pronounce words, read science definitions, use context clues in the sentences to infer meanings of vocabulary words, and discuss possible ways the science words and sentences will become a part of the story in the next chapter.

☺ Pair low-performing students with high-performing students, and have each pair complete this activity on a separate sheet of paper. Then, share answers as a class, and students can copy the definitions on the activity book page.

Chapter 1: VOCABULARY (continued)

- ☺ Instead of assigning each chapter-based vocabulary page to every student while reading the novel, have a different student, pair, or group complete a vocabulary activity for each novel chapter and share or teach the definitions they found to the rest of the class. Make sure everyone in the class gets a chance to do this.
- ☺ For memory strategies, students can make a collection of 3 x 5 cards containing words and definitions to practice with a partner or at home. Students can also draw pictures on the cards to tap into visual aptitude ability and/or simulate meanings of vocabulary words to tap into body movement aptitude ability.
- ☺ After the activity, students can refer to definitions while reading the novel to aid comprehension.
- ☺ Encourage students to use new vocabulary in all of their writing.
- ☺ Students can use new vocabulary (including as many science words as possible) to write science fantasy stories and plays.
- ☺ Vocabulary is important! Register in the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge each year. This nationwide vocabulary contest, for grades 4 - 8, has four levels: classroom, grade, state, and national. First place is a \$25,000 college scholarship, second place a \$15,000 college scholarship, and third place a \$10,000 college scholarship. Winning students' schools will also receive Reader's Digest products. For more information, google "Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge" for most current updates.

▶ ANSWERS

Accept appropriate underlined key words for science definitions.

desperately (desperate) ... having little chance of hope (adverb)

haunting (haunt) ... to happen often; coming unasked and unwanted (adjective)

intrusive... getting in the way where one is not welcome or invited (adjective)

responsible... deserving credit or blame (adjective)

torrential (torrent) ... heavy downpour (adjective)