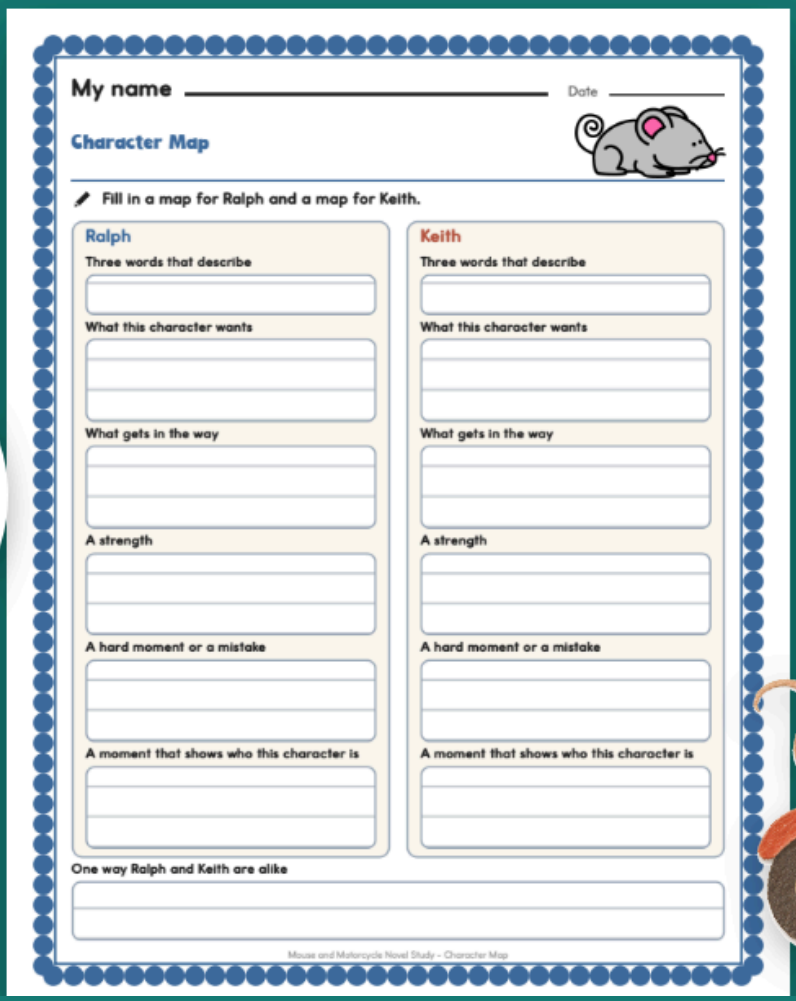
THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE NOVEL STUDY

QUESTIONS, VOCABULARY, ESSAY







25 STUDENT PAGES



Bright Path Sped

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Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it prints well on any printer.

About the novel

You need your own copy of The Mouse and the Motorcycle. All questions, words and pages here are original and contain no text from the book. This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by the author of The Mouse and the Motorcycle, the publisher, or the owners of the book.

Student work

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PREVIEW

How to Run the Novel Study

One plan for the whole book in 4 sections, a question page for each, and pages for the characters, the problems and the friendship. Chapter numbers differ by edition, so check the split below against your copy.

A plan for the whole book

Read	Part	Page	Talk about it
Chapters 1-4	Meet the Characters	6	What could a mouse and a boy have in common?
Chapters 5-8	A Friendship Begins	7	How can you tell if someone can be trusted?
Chapters 9-12	Trouble and Choices	8	When is a risk worth taking?
Chapters 13 to the end	What Changes	9	What changes when two people become friends?

The routine

- **Read a section** aloud, in small groups, or on their own. The questions are written for about four chapters at a time.
- **Students answer** that section's question page (pages 6 to 9). Each page has recall, think, prove-it and your-view questions.
- **Keep the character pages going** alongside: the character map (page 11), how they feel (page 13), cause and effect (page 16) and character change (page 17).
- **Talk about friendship and choices** with the problem-and-solution page (page 14), the cut-and-sort (page 15) and the guide (page 30).
- **Teach the vocabulary** with the three word pages (pages 20 to 22) and the match (page 23).
- **Finish** with the final review (page 26) and the essay (pages 27 to 29).

Ways to use it

- Whole class: read together, answer on paper, then talk.
- Literature circles: one group per character or per page.
- Independent or sub plans: a question page and a cause-and-effect page need no prep.
- More support: use the starters and talk it through with a partner first.

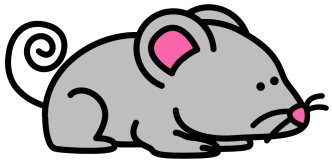
Spoilers and your answer key

The answer key (pages 31 to 34) gives away the ending. Keep it away from students until the book is finished. Most questions ask for an opinion or a detail from the student's own copy, so the key says Varies and tells you what to look for.

Chapter breaks and dates in my edition (your wording)

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Think about The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Then write your ideas.

1. Look at the title, The Mouse and the Motorcycle. What do you think this book is about?

2. Have you ever made a friend who is very different from you? What was that like?

3. What do you know about mice? What do you know about motorcycles?

4. Agree or disagree: a small creature can be a good friend to a person.

☐ I agree ☐ I disagree

Why do I think so?

5. What do you think will happen in The Mouse and the Motorcycle?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Chapters 5-8: A Friendship Begins



Read the chapters of The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Then answer each question.

Questions about The Mouse and the Motorcycle, Chapters 5-8.

1. Recall: Name the special toy in the story. Tell one thing about it from your book.

2. Recall: How do the two characters begin to understand each other? Retell it in your own words.

3. Think: Why might a mouse and a boy find it hard to trust each other at first? Give two reasons.

4. Think: Name one thing a character shares, gives or promises. Why does it matter to the other character?

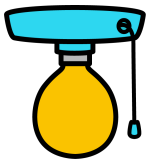
5. Prove it: Find a moment when one character is kind to the other. Use a detail from the text to show it.

6. Your view: What makes someone a good friend? Is each character a good friend so far? Explain.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Chapters 13 to the end: What Changes

Read the chapters of The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Then answer each question.

Questions about The Mouse and the Motorcycle, Chapters 13 to the end.

1. Recall: Retell how the story ends, in your own words.

2. Recall: What is the biggest problem in the story? Is it solved by the end? Explain.

3. Think: What does each main character seem to learn? Give one idea for each.

4. Think: Does a character keep a promise or break one in the story? What happens because of it?

5. Prove it: Choose a character who changed. Show the change with one early detail and one late detail.

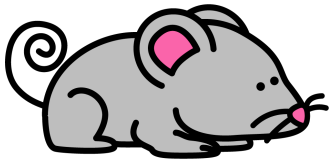
6. Your view: Would you change the ending? Tell what you would keep and what you would change.

Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____



Character Map

Fill in a map for Ralph and a map for Keith.

Ralph

Three words that describe

What this character wants

What gets in the way

A strength

A hard moment or a mistake

A moment that shows who this character is

Keith

Three words that describe

What this character wants

What gets in the way

A strength

A hard moment or a mistake

A moment that shows who this character is

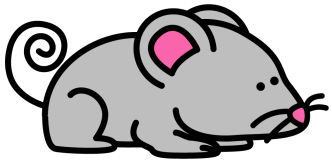
One way Ralph and Keith are alike

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

How They Feel



Write how Ralph and Keith feel in each part, and why.

Chapters	Ralph feels	Because...	Keith feels	Because...
1-4				
5-8				
9-12				
13 to the end				

Who changed more by the end? Show how.

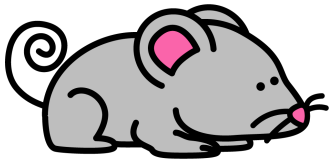
A word that shows how each one felt at the very end

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Friends and Trust



Cut apart the cards. Glue each card in the right box.

Helps a friendship grow	Hurts a friendship

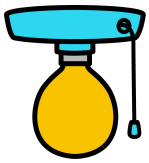
PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines. Glue each card in a box.

Tell a lie to look good	Keep a promise	Laugh at a friend's mistake	Share something you like	Say thank you
Take something without asking	Tell a secret you promised to keep	Listen when a friend talks	Leave a friend out on purpose	Say sorry and mean it

Preview - Bright Ideas Shed

My name _____ Date _____



Character Change

Write how Ralph and Keith change from the start to the end.

When	Ralph is...	Keith is...
Start of the book		
In the middle		
At the end		

What made each one change? Name a moment.

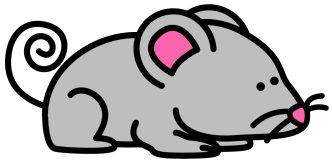
One word for how Ralph changed, and one word for how Keith changed

Which chapter shows the biggest change? Why?

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____



Write a Letter

Write a letter from one character to another.

From (a character) _____ To (another character) _____

Dear

My letter: tell what happened and how you feel

What I want that character to know, and why

Signed _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Words: Danger and Choices

Read each word. Write a sentence. Add a word that means the same.

risky (adjective)
likely to cause harm or trouble.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

cautious (adjective)
careful to stay out of trouble.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

trapped (adjective)
stuck in a place and not able to get out.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

rescue (verb)
to save someone from danger.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

escape (verb)
to get away from a place or from danger.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

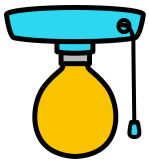
daring (adjective)
willing to do bold things.
My sentence

Same meaning _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____



Match the Meaning

Write the letter of each meaning.

1	**engine**	☐	A	to get away from a place or from danger
2	**speed**	☐	B	likely to cause harm or trouble
3	**swerve**	☐	C	staying true to a friend
4	**risky**	☐	D	the part of a machine that makes it go
5	**cautious**	☐	E	stuck in a place and not able to get out
6	**trapped**	☐	F	a strong belief that someone is honest and will not hurt you
7	**rescue**	☐	G	to turn quickly to one side
8	**escape**	☐	H	able to be trusted to do what you should
9	**promise**	☐	I	careful to stay out of trouble
10	**trust**	☐	J	words that say you will surely do something
11	**loyal**	☐	K	how fast something moves
12	**responsible**	☐	L	to save someone from danger

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____



Prove It With the Text

Make a claim. Back it up with evidence.

The question I am answering

My claim: my answer

Evidence 1. Chapter _____

The book says (a short phrase)

This shows

Evidence 2. Chapter _____

The book says (a short phrase)

This shows

My reasoning: how the evidence proves my claim

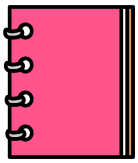
Starters: The book says ____. This shows ____. I think ____ because ____.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ever After

My name _____ Date _____

My Essay: Pick a Prompt



Check one prompt. Tell what you will write about.

☐ **Prompt A**

What makes a good friend?

Ralph and Keith become friends even though they are very different. What makes a good friend? Give at least three reasons with evidence from the book.

☐ **Prompt B**

Was it a good idea?

Choose one risky choice a character makes. Was it a good idea? Give at least three reasons with evidence from the book.

☐ **Prompt C**

How did a character change?

Choose Ralph or Keith. How did the character change from the start to the end? Use evidence from at least three different chapters.

What I am writing about

Chapters I will use

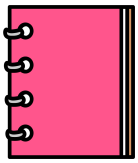
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

My Essay: Draft



Write your essay here.

Title of my essay _____

PREVIEW

Answer Key

Spoiler warning: this key gives away the ending. A sample answer is one acceptable answer, not the only one; where a question asks for an opinion or a detail from the student's copy, it says Varies and tells you what to look for. Chapter groups are a suggested split; check them against your edition.

Chapters 1-4: Meet the Characters (page 6)

1. **Recall: The two main characters.** Ralph, a mouse, and Keith, a boy.
2. **Recall: The setting.** A hotel. Varies for the description: accept any detail the student can point to in their copy.
3. **Think: Different worlds.** Sample: Ralph is a small mouse who lives in a mouse nest in a hotel, and Keith is a boy, so a mouse has to hide from people and a boy does not.
4. **Think: What they want.** Sample: a mouse wants food, safety and fun, and a boy wants a friend and something fun to play with. Accept any want with a reason.
5. **Prove it: A trait.** Varies. The phrase is short and copied exactly, and the explanation connects it to the trait.
6. **Your view: Meeting someone different.** Varies. Look for a feeling and a reason.

Chapters 5-8: A Friendship Begins (page 7)

1. **Recall: The toy.** A toy motorcycle. Varies for the detail: accept any accurate detail the student can find.
2. **Recall: Getting to know each other.** Sample: they start as strangers, learn to understand each other, and begin to help each other.
3. **Think: Trust.** Sample: a mouse is small and may fear being caught, and a boy may not be sure a mouse can keep a secret; they do not know each other yet.
4. **Think: Giving and sharing.** Sample: Keith shares the toy motorcycle, which matters to Ralph because it lets him do something he could not do before. Accept any accurate sharing, giving or promise.
5. **Prove it: A kind moment.** Varies. A detail from these chapters, named by chapter.
6. **Your view: A good friend.** Varies. Opinion with a reason.

Chapters 9-12: Trouble and Choices (page 8)

1. **Recall: A problem.** Sample: a character is in trouble, such as being stuck or in danger. Accept any accurate problem the student can point to in their copy.
2. **Recall: Who helps.** Sample: a friend steps in to help, for example Keith helping Ralph. Accept any accurate helper and action.
3. **Think: A risky choice.** Sample: riding a toy vehicle fast is fun but risky because the rider could crash or be caught. A good answer weighs the fun against the danger.
4. **Think: Cause and effect.** Sample: a risky choice (cause) leads to trouble or to help (effect). Accept any pair that is really connected.
5. **Prove it: A tense moment.** Varies. A feeling and a detail, named by chapter.
6. **Your view: What would you do.** Varies. A choice with a reason.

PREVIEW

Answer Key

The cut-and-sort, cause and effect, and character change.

Friends and Trust (page 15)

Helps a friendship grow: Keep a promise, Share something you like, Say thank you, Listen when a friend talks, Say sorry and mean it.

Hurts a friendship: Tell a lie to look good, Laugh at a friend's mistake, Take something without asking, Tell a secret you promised to keep, Leave a friend out on purpose.

Cause and Effect (page 16)

- Each row needs a cause and an effect that are really connected: the effect would not have happened without the cause.
- If the two are in the wrong order, ask the student: which happened first?
- Accept any accurate pair from the section. There are two rows for each of the four sections.

Character Change (page 17)

- Look for a different word or detail for the start, the middle and the end, for each character.
- A strong answer names a moment that caused the change and the chapter it is in.
- A character may stay the same in some ways: accept that if the student shows it with a detail.

Notes on the sort and the open pages (your wording)

PREVIEW

Essay Rubric

For the essay on pages 27 to 29. Five criteria, three descriptions each; add your own notes.

Student _____ Prompt (A, B or C) _____ Date _____

Criterion	Strong	Getting there	Not yet	My notes
Opinion	A clear opinion that answers the prompt	An opinion, but it is vague or partly off the prompt	No clear opinion	
Evidence	Three or more details from the book, named by chapter	One or two details, or details with no chapter	No details from the book	
Explaining	Each detail is explained and tied back to the opinion	Some explaining; some details stand alone	Details are listed but not explained	
Organization	Opening, three reasons, closing; clear order	Most parts are there; order is hard to follow	Parts are missing or mixed up	
Language	Vocabulary words used correctly; few spelling errors	A vocabulary word or two; some errors	No vocabulary words; errors get in the way	

How to use it

Circle or highlight one box in each row. There is no total: your notes and the student's next step matter more. The student's checklist is on page 28.

PREVIEW

The Mouse and the Motorcycle at Home

Dear family, our class is reading a novel about a mouse and a boy and the friendship between them. These questions are for talking, not for a grade. Short answers are fine.

Student _____

Chapters we are reading _____

Three things to talk about

- Ask your student: what is the story about so far, in three sentences?
- Ask: how do you think each character feels right now, and why?
- Ask: what is one word from this week's list? Use it in a sentence together.

My words from home

One thing I learned _____

One feeling I noticed _____

A new word I used _____

Words that may come up

Promise: words that say you will surely do something. **Trust:** a strong belief that someone is honest. **Risky:** likely to cause harm or trouble. **Responsible:** able to be trusted to do what you should.

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW