

# Classroom Pack



# Vocabulary exercises

**PART A:** Complete the sentences with the missing words

## Reference / Audition / Bothering / Pretentious / Irresponsible

1. I've got a really important \_\_\_\_\_ this afternoon. I hope I get the part!
2. My dad keeps telling me I'm \_\_\_\_\_ because I forgot to put the rubbish out.
3. That woman was so \_\_\_\_\_. Did you see the way she looked at you?!
4. Is that man \_\_\_\_\_ you? I can ask him to leave if you'd like.
5. I need a \_\_\_\_\_ to apply for this job. Maybe I can ask my teacher?

**PART B:** Complete the crossword using the clues for help

## Crossword

### ACROSS

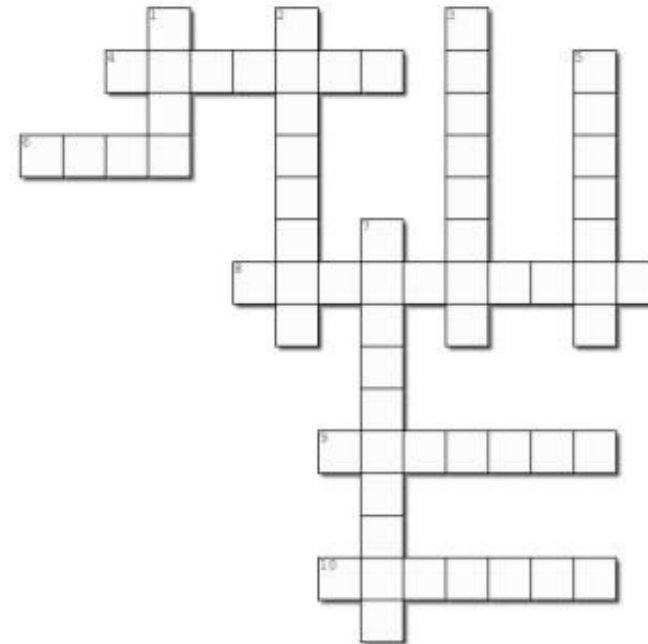
- 4 What you try to keep when you accidentally walk into the wrong bathroom.
- 6 Home sweet home for a city dweller, usually on the second floor or higher.
- 8 Refer to binge-watch TV alone rather than attend yet another awkward social gathering.
- 9 The guy who takes the last slice of pizza and doesn't even say "sorry".
- 10 Breaking the rules, but in a way that makes you feel like a movie villain.

### DOWN

- 1 A unit of liquid happiness - usually involving beer or ice cream.
- 2 What you're pretending to do at a party while actually looking for the snacks.
- 3 The person who won't stop talking about someone else's life - seriously, get a hobby!
- 5 Not picking sides, because you'd rather stay out of family arguments.
- 7 Like a ninja at a surprise party - sneaky but effective.

**PART C**

**Kahoot!**





## Multiple choice

You have now discovered the plot of the play "Playground" and its different protagonists. Let's see what you can remember.

**Task:** Read the sentences and mark the correct answer.

**1. What prompts the actors to start the play without the director?**

- a) The director quits suddenly
- b) The director is stuck in traffic
- c) The director falls ill
- d) The director is attending another event

**2. Who takes on the role of the narrator in the play?**

- a) Actor 1
- b) Actor 2
- c) Actor 3
- d) The director

**3. What is the main storyline of the play?**

- a) A spy thriller
- b) A drama about family conflicts
- c) A story about friendship and life in London
- d) A romantic comedy

**4. How do Nora and Grace manage to pay the rent for their flat?**

- a) They get help from their parents
- b) They find jobs immediately
- c) They win a lottery
- d) They refuse to pay

**5. What leads to a strain in Nora and Grace's friendship?**

- a) Grace's new job
- b) Nora's relationship with Tim
- c) A disagreement about rent
- d) A failed audition

**6. What happens when Grace auditions for a movie?**

- a) She gets the role
- b) She impresses the casting director
- c) She clashes with the casting director and is blacklisted
- d) She leaves before the audition starts

**7. How does Nora end up getting fired from the pub?**

- a) She steals money from the till
- b) She argues with a famous director
- c) She pours a drink on a customer by mistake
- d) She decides to quit

**8. What advice does the blind librarian give to Nora?**

- a) To pursue her dreams
- b) To stay away from Grace
- c) To go back to school
- d) To move out of London

**9. What is Grace's emotional state during her time in the spotlight?**

- a) Overwhelmed with happiness
- b) Lonely despite the fame
- c) Content with her success
- d) Frustrated with the media

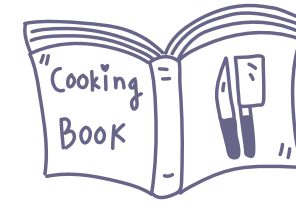
**10. How does the play conclude?**

- a) With the director arriving late
- b) With the actors arguing on stage
- c) With the actors bowing together
- d) With a cliffhanger



## Short Answer Questions

1. Why does Actor 3 initially resist taking on the role of the narrator?
2. Describe the relationship dynamic between Nora and Grace at the beginning of the play.
3. What significant event causes a deep argument between Nora and Grace?
4. How does the blind librarian's advice influence Nora's decisions later in the play?
5. What contrast is shown between Nora and Grace's lives as they pursue their respective paths?
6. Explain how the director reacts upon arriving at the end of the play.
7. What does Grace's decision to visit Nora at her restaurant signify about their friendship?
8. How does the play address the theme of pursuing one's dreams despite challenges?
9. What role does humor play in the various interactions between the characters throughout the play?
10. How do Nora and Grace's different approaches to life contribute to the tension in their friendship?



# Written Expression

## Scriptwriting Challenge!

Grace and Nora are beginning to find their place in the world, their dynamic and who they want to be. Throughout the play, there are many tense moments and great moments between them.

Your challenge is to imagine and write a new scripted scene for the play. Think about the tension in the scene - has Grace forgotten to do her dishes again? Focus on a moment of growth or conflict for the characters (or both!) Your scene should be at least 1 page.

Share your scene in a pair, giving each other feedback. Then select the scene you would like to read in front of the class. Have fun and be creative!

### Activity:

Ask students to write a short scene that could be inserted into the play. The scene should focus on a moment of conflict or growth between Grace and Nora that wasn't covered in the original script. After writing, students can perform their scenes for the class.

### Objective:

This activity encourages students to engage deeply with character development and narrative structure while exploring the themes of friendship and growing up.



# Oral Expression

## Inside / Outside

Before beginning this exercise you might have students respond to the prompts individually in order to generate more discussion and deeper thought.

You will need an empty space for this exercise. Students stand in a circle. Read a statement and students are to place themselves depending on to what degree they agree or disagree - the very centre of the circle being completely agree and the outside of the circle being totally disagree. Students should make a spectrum within the space. Call on individual students to orally justify why they are standing where they are standing.

To begin the exercise you can start with easy statements like: cats inside/dogs outside, pizza inside/pasta outside. Starting with simple statements first will help scaffold the idea of the exercise before moving into the more difficult questions and prompts.

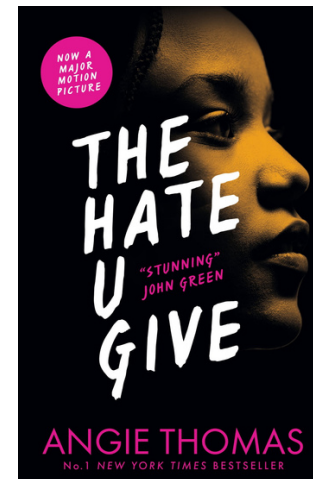
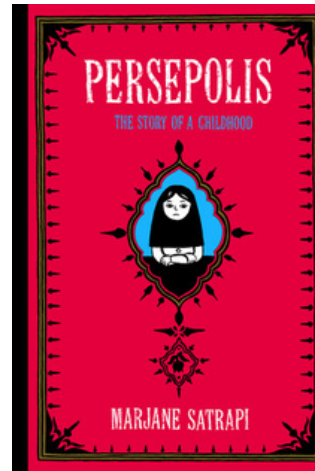
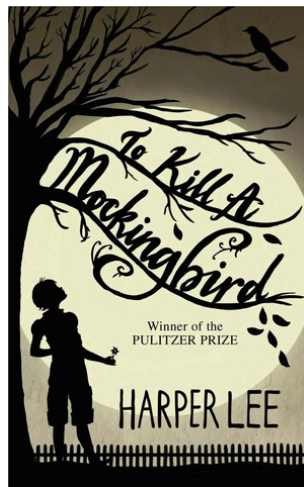
1. Is personal growth more valuable when it involves overcoming conflict, or can growth occur without significant struggle?
2. Does the pursuit of individual dreams justify the potential strain it may place on relationships with others?
3. Is it more important to remain true to one's personal values or to adapt to changing circumstances in order to maintain important relationships?
4. Can true friendship withstand the pressure of conflicting life goals and personal ambitions, or does it inevitably lead to compromise or separation?
5. Is it more admirable to pursue stability and responsibility, or to embrace a carefree and spontaneous approach to life?
6. Should individuals prioritize personal success over maintaining harmony in their relationships, or is finding a balance between the two more crucial?
7. Does facing challenges and conflicts in life lead to deeper personal understanding and growth, or can it lead to detrimental consequences for one's well-being?
8. Is the ability to adapt to others' needs and desires a sign of personal growth, or does it signify a loss of one's own identity and goals?
9. Can a relationship between two people with fundamentally different life goals ever truly thrive, or is it destined for conflict and compromise?
10. Is it better to pursue one's passions even at the risk of personal sacrifice and conflict, or to prioritize relationships and stability over personal ambitions?



## Culture

Growing up is never easy. Everyone goes through the rite of passage finding their place in the world. It's no wonder that authors, directors, poets and playwrights have always dabbled with the traditional coming of age story and Playground is no different. Grace and Nora are finding their place in the world, who they want to be, what they want to do and how they want to live.

Let's dive into some classic coming of age stories, both old and new.



## Extension

Students create a playlist of songs that capture the essence of coming-of-age experiences portrayed in the stories. Each song should be accompanied by a written explanation of why it was chosen and how it relates to specific themes or moments in the narrative.





## Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

The ultimate novel of disaffected youth, Salinger's seventeen-year-old dropout Holden Caulfield is the definitive voice of teenage angst and alienation. Written with the clarity of a boy leaving childhood, it deals with society, love, loss, and expectations without ever falling into the clutch of a cliché and feels as relevant today as in the 1950s.

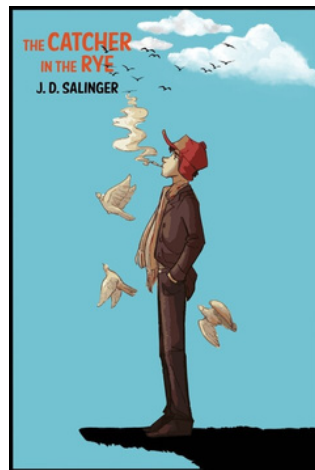
The *Catcher in the Rye* takes the loss of innocence as its primary concern. Holden wants to be the "catcher in the rye"—someone who saves children from falling off a cliff, which can be understood as a metaphor for entering adulthood. As Holden watches Phoebe on the carousel, engaging in childlike behaviour, he is so overcome with happiness that he is, as he puts it, "damn near bawling." By taking her to the zoo, he allows her to maintain her childlike state, thus being a successful "catcher in the rye." During this time, however, watching her and the other children on the carousel, he has also come to accept that he cannot save everyone: "If they want to grab for the gold ring, you have to let them do it, and not say anything. If they fall off, they fall off."

Holden's name is also significant: Holden can be read as "hold on," and Caulfield can be separated into caul and field. Holden's desire is to "hold on" to the protective covering (the caul) that encloses the field of innocence (the same field he wishes to keep the children from leaving). Holden desperately wants to remain true and innocent in a world full of, as he puts it, "phonies." Salinger once admitted in an interview that the novel was semi-autobiographical.

Source



More info



## To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s as their father, lawyer Atticus Finch, defends a black man charged with the rape of a young white woman.

To Kill a Mockingbird is both a young girl's coming-of-age story and a darker drama about the roots and consequences of racism and prejudice, probing how good and evil can coexist within a single community or individual. Scout's moral education is twofold: to resist abusing others with unfounded negativity but also to persevere when these values are inevitably, and sometimes violently, subverted. Criticism of the novel's tendency to sermonize has been matched by praise of its insight and stylistic effectiveness.

Lee reportedly based the character of Atticus Finch on her father, Amasa Coleman Lee, a compassionate and dedicated lawyer and newspaper editor. The plot of To Kill a Mockingbird was inspired in part by his unsuccessful youthful defense in 1919 of two African American men convicted of murder, the only criminal case he ever took.

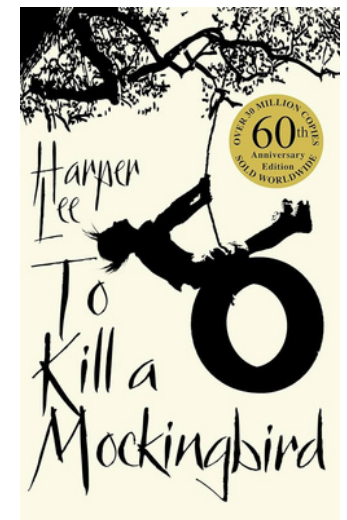
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Interview



Crash Course Literature



## Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Little Women, novel for children by Louisa May Alcott, published in two parts in 1868 and 1869. Her sister May illustrated the first edition. It initiated a genre of family stories for children. The novel has been adapted by powerhouse director Greta Gerwig starring Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson and Timothée Chalamet.

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March are raised in genteel poverty by their loving mother, Marmee, in a quiet Massachusetts town while their father serves as an army chaplain during the American Civil War. They befriend Theodore Lawrence (Laurie), the lonely grandson of a rich old man next door. The vital force of the family is Jo, a headstrong tomboy who is the emotional centre of the book. In the course of the novel, beautiful, vain Meg marries Laurie's tutor, John Brooke, and starts her own family; quiet, sickly Beth dies from scarlet fever; artistic Amy marries Laurie after he is turned down by Jo; and Jo marries Professor Bhaer, whom she meets while living in a boardinghouse, and together they set up a school for boys.

Greta Gerwig took on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, Little Women. Her adaptation, which she both wrote and directed, earned rapturous reviews upon its release in 2019, and the drama received a number of Oscar nominations, including nods for best picture and adapted screenplay.



Source



Official Trailer



Greta Gerwig



## The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.



The Hate U Give grew out of a short story that Thomas wrote as a student in 2009 following the killing of Oscar Grant. The unarmed 22-year-old African American was fatally shot in the back by a white police officer on a Bay Area Rapid Transit platform in Oakland, California. As the murders of unarmed Black men and boys—including Mike Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice (all 2014)—continued to make headlines, Thomas was inspired to revisit and expand the story while working as a secretary to a bishop. She submitted the novel to the nonprofit organization We Need Diverse Books, which awarded her one of its five inaugural Walter Dean Myers grants in 2015. The following year the manuscript was the subject of a bidding war between 13 publishing houses, ultimately being acquired by HarperCollins. In 2017 The Hate U Give was published to critical and popular acclaim. It was the recipient of many awards, including the 2017 Boston Globe–Horn Book Award for fiction, and was named a Coretta Scott King Honor Book in 2018. A movie based on the novel was released in 2018 to positive reviews.

The book tells the story of 16-year-old Starr Carter, an African American who lives in a poor neighbourhood and goes to a private school in a wealthy, predominantly white suburb. Each day, Starr “code-switches”—the practice of shifting one’s style of speech, behaviour, or expression, often in order to fit in or to make others feel more comfortable. The gap between her home life and her school identity is further widened when Starr witnesses a white police officer shoot and kill her friend Khalil. She later learns that Khalil was unarmed but may have been a drug dealer. The rest of the story follows Starr as she navigates shock, grief, and betrayal and finally finds empowerment. Although Thomas hoped that the book would have universal appeal, she wanted it to be authentic. Hence, The Hate U Give does not shy away from using provocative language or from incorporating characters who are drug dealers and gang members.



More info

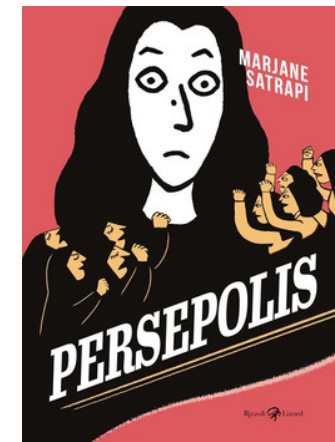
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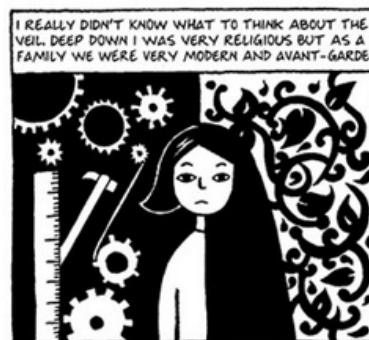
## Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

These two graphic novels (*The Story of a Childhood* and *The Story of a Return*) form an astonishing visual memoir of growing up in Iran. The intelligent and outspoken child of radical Marxists, and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor, Satrapi bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.

Marjane "Marji" Satrapi is an intelligent, spirited, and very modern girl living with her parents in Iran's capital of Tehran during the eventful period of Iranian history from the late 1970s into the early 1980s. In *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, Marji's remembers her life during those years, mostly from when she was about ten to age fourteen. This account includes how Marji and her family lived through and were affected by turbulent events that included the overthrow of the autocratic Shah of Iran by the Islamic revolution, the oppressive fundamentalist regime that replaced the Shah, and the devastating Iran-Iraq war.



Source



More Info



## Culture Quiz

### The Catcher in the Rye

**What is the primary metaphor Holden Caulfield uses to describe his desire to protect children from losing their innocence?**

- A) A carousel
- B) A field of dreams
- C) A catcher in the rye
- D) A gold ring

**What emotion does Holden experience while watching his sister Phoebe on the carousel?**

- A) Anger
- B) Joy
- C) Confusion
- D) Indifference

**Holden's last name, Caulfield, symbolically refers to his wish to:**

- A) "Hold on" to innocence
- B) Break free from society
- C) Protect his family
- D) Escape reality

### To Kill a Mockingbird

**What is the central theme explored through Scout Finch's coming-of-age story?**

- A) The importance of education
- B) The coexistence of good and evil
- C) The power of wealth
- D) The pursuit of happiness

**Which character in "To Kill a Mockingbird" is based on Harper Lee's father?**

- A) Tom Robinson
- B) Atticus Finch
- C) Boo Radley
- D) Dill Harris

**The plot of "To Kill a Mockingbird" was partly inspired by:**

- A) The Great Depression
- B) A real-life court case
- C) Harper Lee's childhood
- D) A famous novel

### Little Women

**Which character is considered the emotional centre of "Little Women"?**

- A) Meg March
- B) Amy March
- C) Jo March
- D) Beth March

**Who marries Theodore "Laurie" Lawrence in "Little Women"?**

- A) Meg March
- B) Amy March
- C) Jo March
- D) Beth March

**Greta Gerwig's adaptation of "Little Women" received praise and multiple Oscar nominations in which year?**

- A) 2015
- B) 2017
- C) 2019
- D) 2021



## The Hate U Give

**What event triggers the central conflict in "The Hate U Give"?**

- A) Starr's move to a new neighbourhood    C) A school protest  
B) The shooting of Starr's best friend by a police officer    D) Starr's expulsion from school

**"The Hate U Give" was inspired by the real-life shooting of which unarmed African American man?**

- A) Eric Garner    C) Oscar Grant  
B) Mike Brown    D) Tamir Rice

**Which term describes Starr's ability to shift her behaviour between her home and school environments?**

- A) Code-switching    C) Adaptation  
B) Dual identity    D) Cultural blending

## Persepolis

**What historical event is central to Marji's childhood in "Persepolis"?**

- A) The Iranian Revolution    C) The fall of the Berlin Wall  
B) World War II    D) The Iraq War

**Marji's family is described as:**

- A) Wealthy merchants    C) Traditional farmers  
B) Radical Marxists    D) Royal descendants

**In "Persepolis," Marji's early years are shaped by her experiences in which city?**

- A) Baghdad    C) Tehran  
B) Cairo    D) Beirut

