



A Literature Unit on Patricia Polacco's The Junkyard Wonders

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Thank you for purchasing this product. These activities were created to go with Patricia Polacco's book The Junkyard Wonders. The activities were also created with the 4th and 5th grade Common Core Literature Standards in mind. Please email me at ideabackpack@gmail.com with questions. Please visit my blog at ideabackpack.blogspot.com.

Name _____ Date _____

Junkyard Wonders Quotes

For each of the quotes below, write what you think it means in your own words. Then, write what you can infer about the characters who stated the quote.

Quote 1: “My heart sang as I walked to school with all of the kids on my gramma’s block on the first day of school.” ~Trisha

My Own Words	Inference

Quote 2: “Oh, [a junkyard] is a place full of wondrous possibilities! What some see as bent and broken throwaways are actually amazing things waiting to be made into something new. Something unexpected. Something surprising.” ~ Mrs. Peterson

My Own Words	Inference

Name _____ Date _____

Analyzing Characters: Trisha

Choose 2 character traits to describe Trisha. Then provide details from the story on how she shows those character traits.

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

Character's Actions:

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

Character's Actions:

Name _____ Date _____

Analyzing Characters: Mrs. Peterson

Choose 2 character traits to describe Mrs. Peterson. Then provide details from the story on how she shows those character traits.

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

Character's Actions:

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

Character's Actions:

Name _____ Date _____

Analyzing Characters: _____

Choose 2 character traits to describe a character in the book. Then provide details from the story on how he/she shows those character traits.

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

Character's Actions:

Character Trait:

Character's Thoughts:

Character's Feelings:

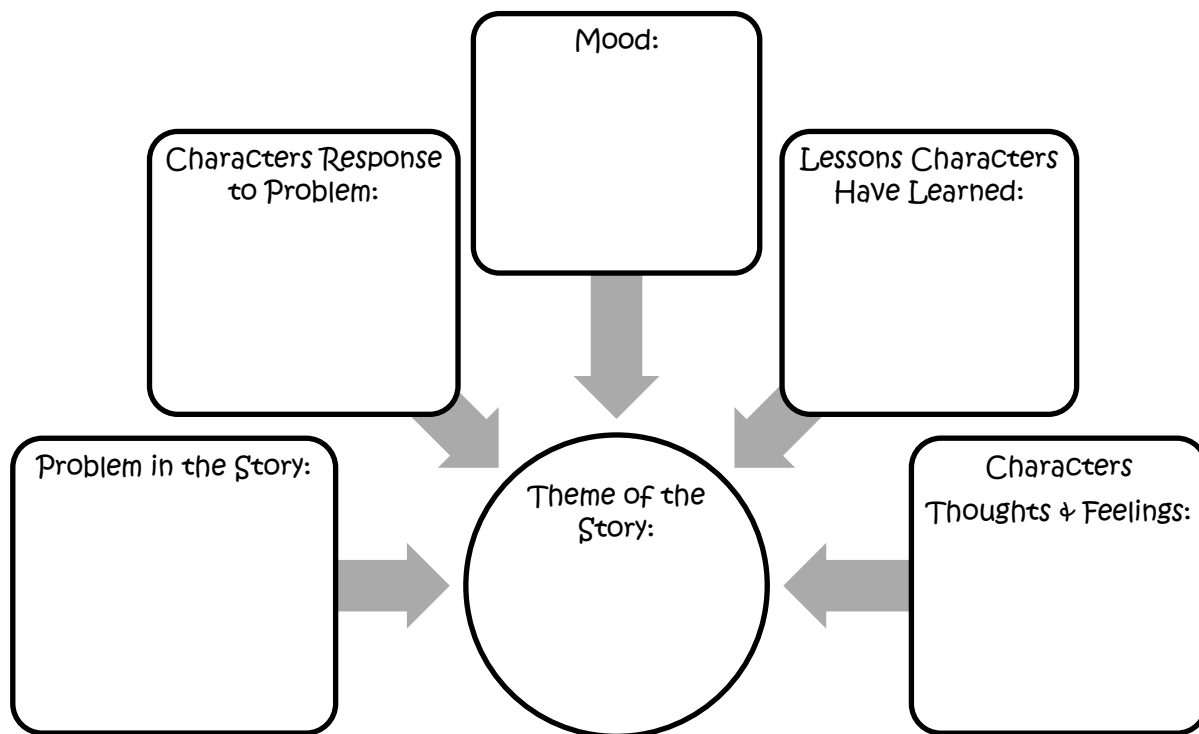
Character's Actions:

Name _____

Date _____

Theme in Junkyard Wonders

Use the graphic organizer below to help you think through what the theme in the book might be. Write an explanation of the theme below the organizer.



Explain the **theme** of the story using details from the text:

Name _____

Date _____

Setting in Junkyard Wonders

In the chart below, list settings in the story. Provide descriptions of the setting based on details in the text. Then explain why the setting is important to the story.

<u>Setting</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Why the setting is important</u>

Name _____

Date _____

Sequence of Events in Junkyard Wonders

List events in the story. Explain which were most important and why.



My Conclusion on which events were most important and why:

Name _____

Date _____

Definition of Genius

On the first day of school, Mrs. Peterson recites a definition of genius. What do you think she wanted them to learn from this definition? What do you think this definition of genius means?

"Genius is neither learned nor acquired."

It is knowing without experience.

It is risking without fear of failure.

It is perception without touch.

It is understanding without research.

It is certainty without proof.

It is ability without practice.

It is invention without limitations.

It is imagination without boundaries.

It is creativity without constraints.

It is...extraordinary intelligence."

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name_____

Date_____

Definition of Genius

On the first day of school, Mrs. Peterson recites a definition of genius. Think about how each of the parts of the definition relate to the idea of genius.

“Genius is neither learned nor acquired.

It is knowing without experience.

It is risking without fear of failure.

It is perception without touch.

It is understanding without research.

It is certainty without proof.

It is ability without practice.

It is invention without limitations.

It is imagination without boundaries.

It is creativity without constraints.

It is...extraordinary intelligence.”

<u>Definition of Genius</u>	<u>Meaning in My Own Words</u>
Knowing without experience	
Risking without fear of failure	
Perception without touch	
Understanding without research	
Certainty without proof	
Ability without practice	
Invention with limitations	
Imagination without boundaries	
Creativity without constraints	
Extraordinary intelligence	

Name_____

Date_____

Writing about Junkyard Wonders

Write about why you think Mrs. Peterson refers to her class as the Junkyard Wonders. How does the term make them feel? What do they learn from being labeled a “junkyard wonder”?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name_____

Date _____

Writing about Junkyard Wonders

Mrs. Peterson calls her classroom the Junkyard. How is her classroom unique? How does she create a learning environment that inspires her students? What do you think it would be like to be in her class?

[illegible]

Name_____

Date_____

From the Point of View of the Junkyard Wonder

Write from the point of view of the airplane they name The Junkyard Wonder. Summarize the major events in the story and consider how the airplane would have viewed the events.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Date _____

Write a poem inspired by an image, mood, or theme from The Junkyard Wonders.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name_____

Date_____

Questions about Junkyard Wonders

1. Why does Trisha ask to live with her dad?
2. How does the first day of school turn out for Trisha?
3. Why is being put into tribes important in Mrs. Peterson's class?
4. How does Mrs. Peterson show the class what it means to be a junkyard wonder?
5. What does the vanilla tribe create?
6. What major event impacts the entire class and saddens them profoundly?
7. How does the story end?
8. What can the reader learn from the story?

Name_____

Date_____

Questions about Junkyard Wonders – ANSWER KEY

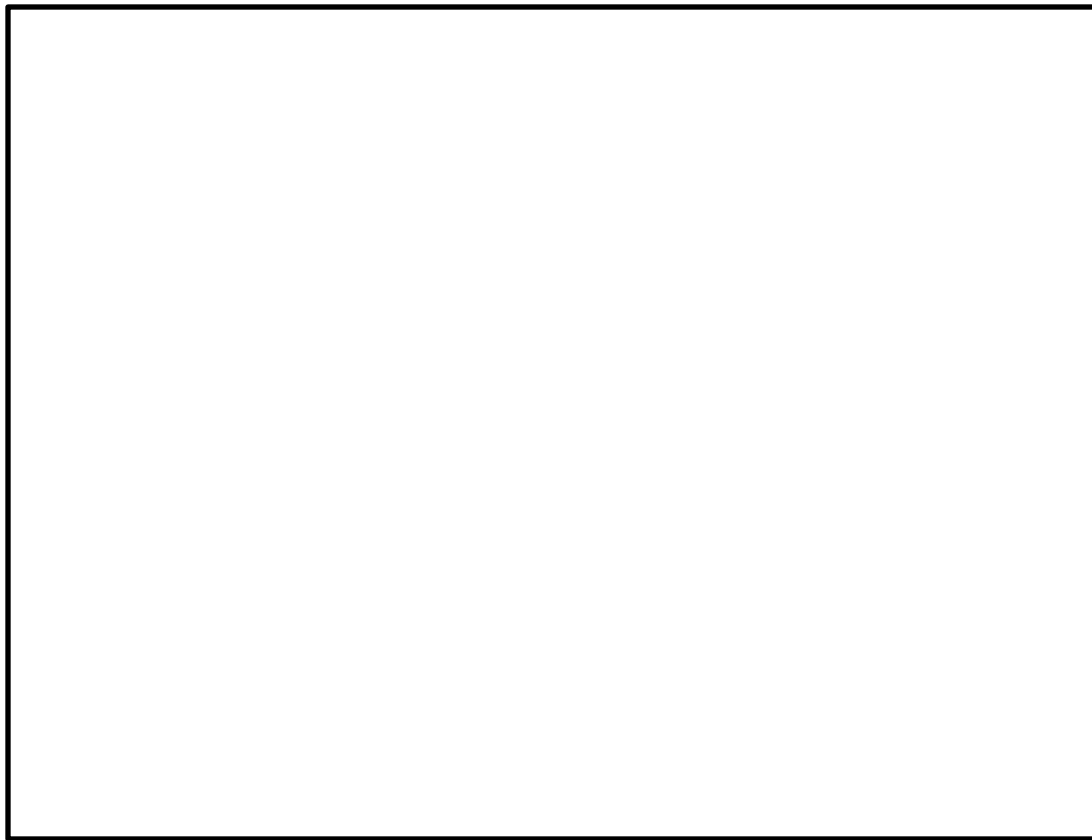
1. Why does Trisha ask to live with her dad?
She felt dumb at her old school and wants a new start.
2. How does the first day of school turn out for Trisha?
Her friend Kay ignores her, and she discovers she is in a class everyone thinks is weird.
3. Why is being put into tribes important in Mrs. Peterson's class?
Students are put into tribes to find others like them and to work in groups.
4. How does Mrs. Peterson show the class what it means to be a junkyard wonder?
She takes them to the junkyard, and they get to build something new out of old parts.
5. What does the vanilla tribe create?
They rebuild a model airplane.
6. What major event impacts the entire class and saddens them profoundly?
Jody Beach passes away from his disease.
7. How does the story end?
They get to fly the Junkyard Wonder and she flies "straight to the moon."
8. What can the reader learn from the story?
Accept reasonable answers.

Name _____

Date _____

Visualizing in Junkyard Wonders

Draw what you visualize when you read this book. Write a description of what you visualize.



Name_____

Date_____

Creating a Junkyard Wonder

Imagine you had the opportunity to build your own “Junkyard Wonder” out of old materials you could find around school or at your home. What would you build? What would it look like? What would be its purpose and how would it work?

The Title of my Wonder:_____

Materials Needed	
How to Build My Junkyard Wonder	
My Wonder's Purpose	

Name_____

Date_____

My Junkyard Wonder

Draw a picture and write a description of your Junkyard Wonder.

