

CCCS- 8L1-L4, L6 (analysis, theme, story elements, text meanings, point of view); Writing 8W9 (provide supporting evidence), Speaking and Listening 8L1 (collaboration; Speaking and Listening (informal speaking); Voc 8L1-4 (words in context; Convention 8L-3 (usage, sentence structure, voice)

The Author - Hailed by a *New York Times* writer as “someone who has quietly become one of the most influential people in America,” Andy Andrews is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Noticer* and *The Traveler’s Gift*, and is also an in-demand speaker for the world’s largest organizations. *The Noticer* and *The Traveler’s Gift* were featured selections of ABC’s *Good Morning America*, have been translated into nearly 20 languages, and continue to appear on bestseller lists around the world.

The Noticer - Communicating what Jones calls “a little perspective,” Jones explains that he has been given a gift of noticing things about life that others miss. In his simple interactions, he speaks to that part in everyone that is yearning to understand why things happen and what they can do about it. Based on a remarkable true story, *The Noticer* beautifully blends fiction, allegory, and inspiration. It provides simple, yet powerful distinctions about love, relationships, value, and integrity.

The Traveler’s Gift - Michael Holder began his journey as the last young traveler to receive the unique gifts of wisdom offered by historical greats. Rewritten to engage the minds of teens, *The Young Traveler’s Gift* is sure to encourage and enlighten young men and women as they prepare to face the journeys that lie ahead.

The Noticer

1. ___ **Chapter questions** – Choose 2 per chapter

2. ___ **PowerPoint** - Choose one of the famous people in history and research their biographies.

Why was this person a good role model for Andy? What do you think was the most important character trait that this person possessed? How can you apply what you have learned this person to your life? 8-10 slides (Other options: You may also do a prezi or a book trailer.)

EXTRA: Choose three people in whom to write notes of thanks and appreciation and to explain their positive influence upon you. Include a packet of seeds in the note and explain why you chose this particular type of seed for them. I will return these in order for you to actually deliver the notes.

The Traveler’s Gift

1. ___ **7 Life Lessons handout**

2. ___ **PowerPoint - Choose another hero for a life lesson-** Research another famous historical person who the author should have included in this story. What role would this person play in the book? What would be this person’s advice for success be? 8 -10 slides (Other options: You may also do a prezi or a book trailer.)

EXTRA: - Write a song about the book. Include information about the setting, theme, characters, and plot of the book in their song. Write original lyrics using a tune from another song.

The Noticer by Andy Andrews

As you read, answer any 2 from each chapter on your own paper. Be sure to write in complete sentences. Attach this sheet to your answers when finished, and circle the questions you answered.

Chapter 1

1. Who is the Noticer? Why do you think he has suddenly appeared in Andy's life? In your own words, explain what a noticer is and what they do.
2. What kind of books did Jones give Andy to read? Why did he give these to him?
3. On page 13, Jones told Andy that "whatever you focus upon, increases." Explain what he meant by this. Give an example from your own life, or an example you have observed in someone else's life.
4. Jones points out an important question that we need to ask ourselves every day. How would you answer this question: "What is it about me that other people would change if they could?" Now, list three things that others would change about you. Beside each one, give two reasons why they would change this.
5. How was Andy affected when he read the note from Jones that told him he was proud of him? How does it make you feel when you hear these words? Give some examples of simple ways that you can encourage others.
6. Did Andy read the books that Jones gave him? What effect did they have upon him? How did they shape his future and his outlook on life?

Chapter Two

1. How does Jones describe a true friend? How would you describe a true friend? Give an example and explain why they are a true friend.
2. Even though everyone in your family or group of friends speaks the same language, their dialects probably aren't the same. These different dialects can really interfere with communication. What does this mean?
3. Why is it important to understand the dialects of others around you? Is it unreal to expect others to communicate in a dialect that is not natural for them?

Chapter Three

1. How many dialects does Jones tell Andy about? What are they? Give a brief explanation of each one.
2. In the book, an animal represents each dialect. Tell which animal goes with each dialect and explain why it is a good representation of that particular style of communication. Can you think of another animal that would better depict each dialect?
3. Which category signifies your communication style? Why do you think this? Do you think others are aware of your dialect? How do you know this? What can you do to help others understand the best way in which to communicate with you?

Chapter Four

1. Do you think happiness happens by chance? Is it based on places, people, and things? Explain your answer.
2. What did Jones mean on page 49 when he said, "A person could lose everything, chasing nothing"? Give an example
3. Walker wanted to blame his problems on feelings, events, and people in his past. Jones told him that his worries and fears are a product of his being smart. In your own words, explain what Jones meant.
4. Worry is a real joy robber. On page 56, we learn that we worry when we focus on the wrong things. What does this mean? What can we do to overcome our worries? Give an example.

Chapter Five

1. What is the difference between someone who is smart and someone who is wise
2. In this chapter, Jones explores some important questions with the teens at the golf club about relationships, dating, and marriage. What did you learn from their conversation on pages 65-72? Why is this significant to you at this point in your life?
3. Explain how a leaf is an indicator. How can you apply this to your own life? What kind of leaves are you dropping? Are you pleased with the leaves your friends drop? Explain your answer.

Chapter Six

1. What did Willow mean when she said that she had “outlived her usefulness”? How does our society often view old people? Using some of the examples from the book, how would you highlight the value of older people in our world?
2. According to Jones, the very fact that you are breathing is an indicator of what? Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
3. Explain the story about Norman Borlaug and its significance to Jones’ conversation with Willow.
4. What is a “victory garden”? Explain the reason(s) Americans planted them. Do you think we could benefit from “victory gardens” today? Why or why not?

Chapter Seven

1. Henry promised to have a job done in six days even though he knew there was no way that he could finish it that quickly. Was that right? Why or why not?
2. Often, we have heard people say, “Don’t sweat the small stuff,” meaning that we shouldn’t worry about the little things in life. However, Jones has a different philosophy about this; he says that the little things actually do matter. Explain what he meant by this.
3. Some people would define success as having a lot of money, a big house, fancy cars, expensive jewelry, wearing famous designer clothes, etc...How would you define success?
4. One of Henry’s employees is Martin. Martin’s dad wanted him to have this job so that he could learn about running a business from Henry. What kind of lessons do you think Martin will take away from his experience with Henry? Do you think Martin’s dad was wise to allow Martin to have this experience? Why?
5. Once you have established a reputation for being dishonest, treating people unfairly, cheating, etc...Is it possible to repair the damage of a bad reputation? Can you change the image that people have of you? What can you do?

Chapter Eight

1. What is the difference between a choice and a mistake? Give an example of each (not from the book). When is an apology appropriate and meaningful? Why?
2. Jones tells Henry that his son, Caleb, “will become what his father becomes.” Parents have a huge responsibility. Do you believe that you have that kind of power over people in your life? Do you think your actions and words have that kind of influence over others? Explain and give an example.

Chapter Nine

1. On page 129, Andy refers to the phrase, “move into the light.” He said when he heard that phrase almost 30 years ago, he assumed it meant something different than it had come to mean to him now. What do you think he assumed it meant when Jones said it to him as a young, homeless man under a pier? What meaning do you think it has for him now, as an adult who has been through some tremendous changes in life?
2. On page 132, Jones said, “No matter your past...you can choose your future.” In your own words, explain what he meant. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
3. Why is it important to be a “people magnet”? What are the benefits? What are some ways to become one?

Chapter Ten

1. Why did Ted call Andy? Why didn’t he call the police instead?
2. Where do you think Jones is? What has happened to him? Why did he leave his suitcase?
3. For almost three hours, stories about Jones were exchanged. What do you think is most significant about these stories and/or those he has helped?
4. What did they discover inside the suitcase?
5. What did Jones mean when he said in his note that “the best is yet to come”?

The Traveler's Gift

Seven Life Lessons Learned from Heroes of the Past

Directions: On a sheet of paper in ink or type. In seven separate paragraphs, discuss the seven famous people who David Ponder encountered in his travels. Include the person's name, the place and time period for the meeting (i.e. 1863, Gettysburg, PA). Then, in your own words, give a brief summary of the life lesson that David learned from each person.