

One Crazy Summer

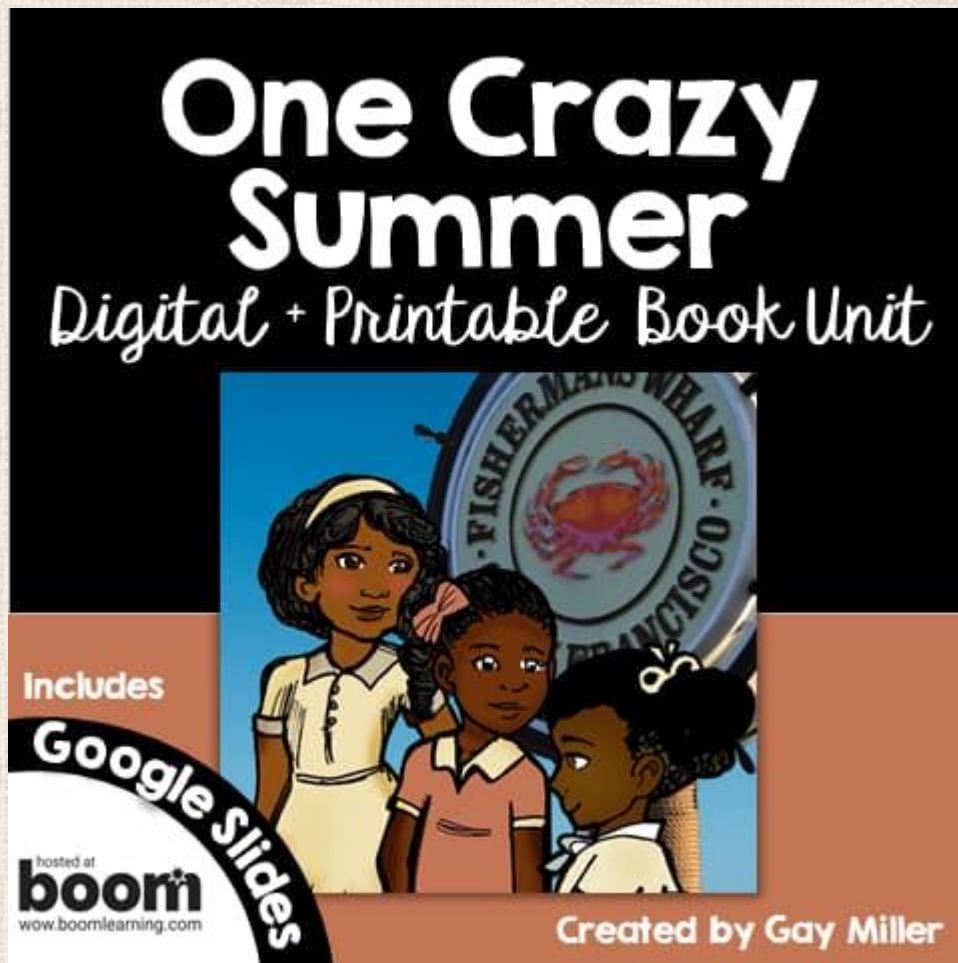
Teaching Ideas



One Crazy Summer

Digital + Printable Novel Study

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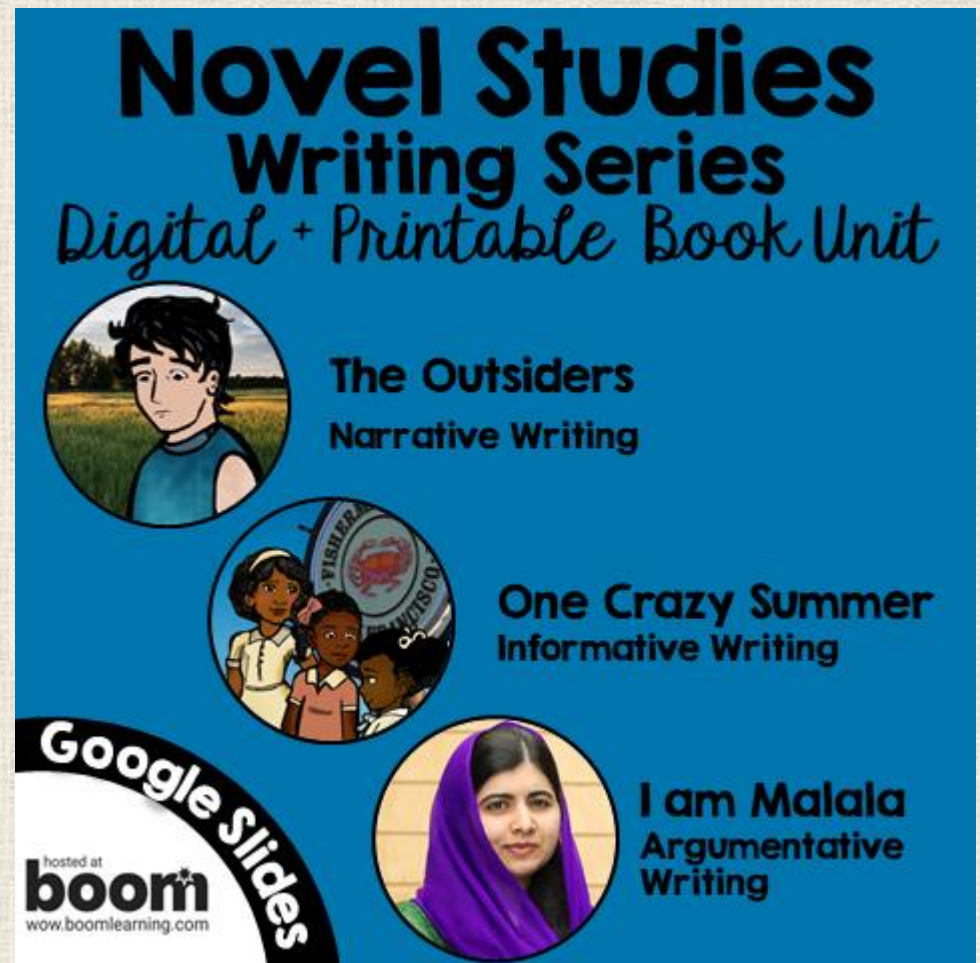


One Crazy Summer
Digital + Printable Book Unit

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Novel Studies
Writing Series
Digital + Printable Book Unit

- The Outsiders**
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Teaching Ideas #1 – Create an Edible Golden Gate Bridge

Early in *One Crazy Summer*, Delphine tries to see the Golden Gate Bridge as the plane flies over San Francisco. Later in the story, the girls take a sightseeing trip and see the bridge from the ground.

Making a model of the Golden Gate Bridge from candy and snack items can be a fun and creative project for students to do while reading.

Here are some steps to help you get started:

1. Gather a variety of candies and snacks in different colors and shapes. Some suggestions include red licorice, black licorice, pretzel rods and sticks, gummy bears, M&Ms, Hershey's chocolate bars, marshmallows, and icing to use as "glue."
2. Use a piece of cardboard as your base. Cover the cardboard with aluminum foil to represent the water under the bridge.
3. Use pretzel rods to create the two main towers of the bridge. Create a foot to anchor the pretzel rods to the aluminum-covered cardboard by sticking the pretzel rods into large marshmallows and "gluing" the marshmallows to the board with icing.
4. Smaller pretzels can form the crossbars on the towers. Use icing to "glue" the crossbars in place.
5. Cut a long narrow piece of cardboard for the road. Use Hershey's chocolate bars or another flat candy to cover the roadway of the bridge. You can break the candy into smaller pieces to fit the length of the bridge.
6. Use black or red licorice to create the suspension cables. You can use toothpicks, marshmallows, and icing to hold the cables in place on the towers.
7. Use gummy bears or M&Ms to create cars driving across the bridge.



Teaching Ideas #2 – Writing Poems

A big storyline in *One Crazy Summer* is Cecil's poetry writing. Encourage students to write a short poem based on one of the themes in the novel.

Here are three poems to read to students as inspiration:

Family:

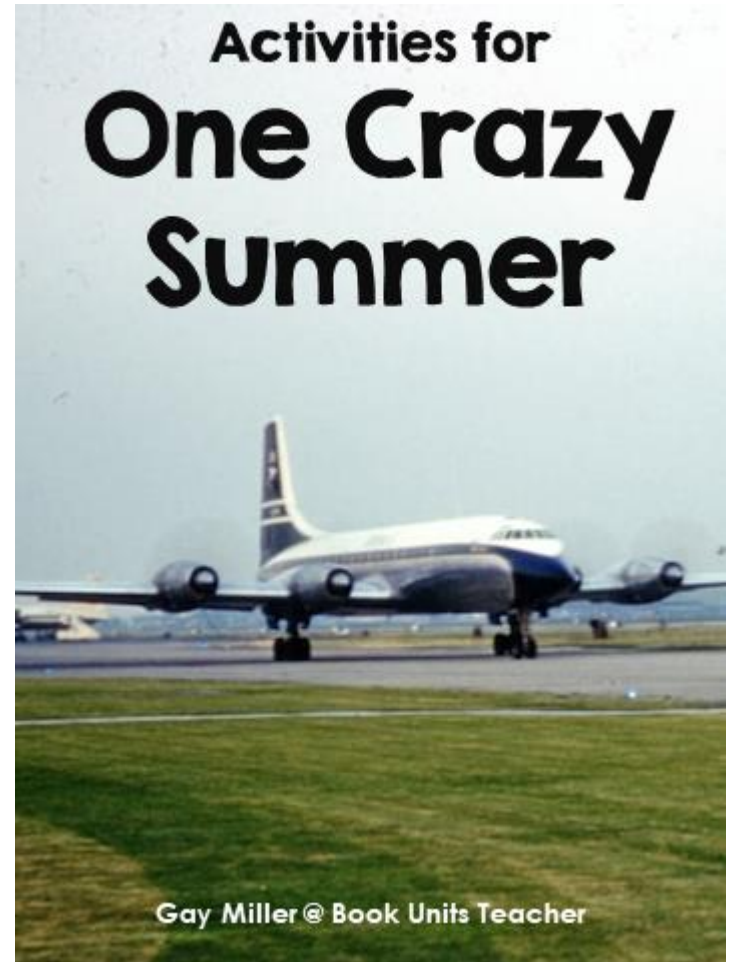
My sisters and I, we are a team
Three strong girls, like a flowing stream
We hold each other up and help each other grow
Through the good times and the rough, we always know
That family is forever, no matter where we go.

Identity:

Who am I, really?
A question that plagues me, daily
Do I fit in with this crowd or that one?
Am I too black, too white, too something?
But then I remember, I am me.
Unique, special, one of a kind, can't you see?
And that's enough, more than enough, for me.

Social Justice:

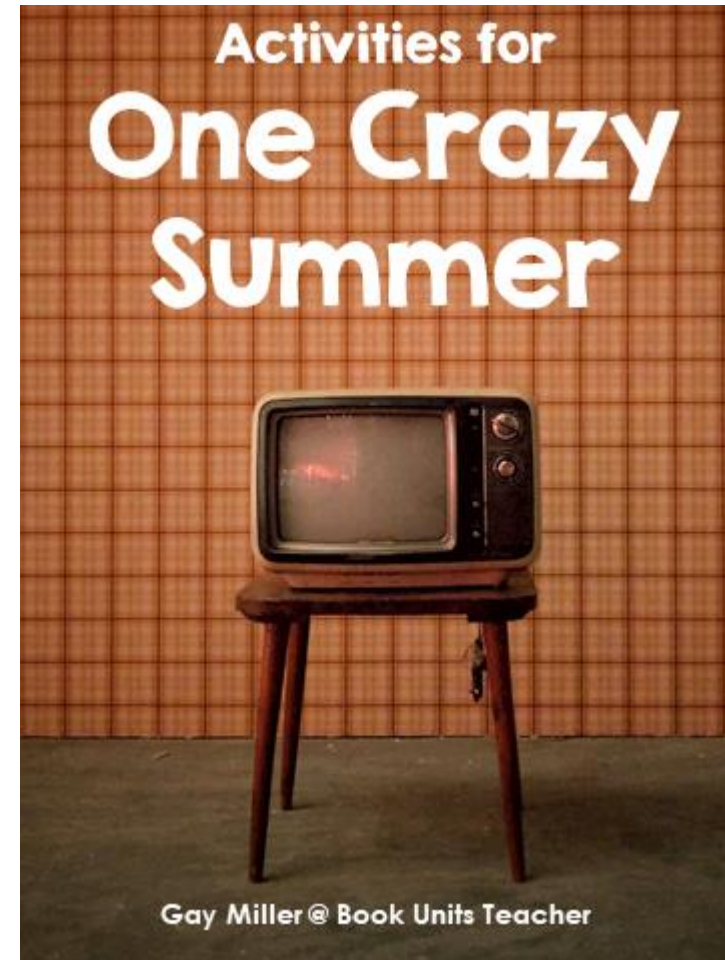
We march for freedom equality
For a world where justice is the reality.
We stand up to oppression, to hate, to fear
And we won't back down, not now, not here
For we are the voice of the voiceless
The hope for the hopeless
And we won't rest until our dreams are met
Until all people are treated with respect.



Teaching Ideas #3 – On the Web

[Reading is Fundamental \(RIF\)](#) offers a word search puzzle, a crossword puzzle, a graphic organizer, a discussion guide, and more.

[Rita Williams-Garcia's Website](#) Be sure to check out her teacher's guide for the series: "[Gone Crazy in Alabama](#)" [Teaching Guide here.](#)



Teaching Ideas #4 – Trivia Challenge

Create a trivia challenge for students to complete on their own time, either online or on paper. The student with the highest score wins a prize or recognition. This can be a fun way to engage students who are not as comfortable participating in group competitions.

The handout includes trivia questions in three categories:

- general trivia about *One Crazy Summer*
- trivia questions about the television shows mentioned in the novel
- trivial questions about the singers mentioned in the novel

An answer key for the question is also included.



General Trivia Questions for *One Crazy Summer*

1. What awards has *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia won?
2. What is the name of the sequel to *One Crazy Summer*?
3. What is the significance of the title *One Crazy Summer*?
4. What is the meaning of the dedication in *One Crazy Summer*?
5. What other books has Rita Williams-Garcia written?
6. What inspired Rita Williams-Garcia to write *One Crazy Summer*?

Singers/Musicians Trivia Questions for One Crazy Summer

1. Who sang the hit song "Dry Your Eyes" in the book *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia?
2. Which legendary singer is known as the "Queen of Soul" and sang hits such as "Respect" and "Natural Woman"?
3. Who is considered one of the greatest jazz vocalists of all time and sang hits such as "Lullaby of Birdland" and "Misty"?
4. Which 1960s pop group sang the popular theme song "Here we come. Walking down the street..."?
5. Who was the lead singer of the Monkees and sang hits such as "I'm a Believer" and "Daydream Believer"?
6. Who was the first Black woman to win a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, and also had a successful singing career with hits such as "I've Got Your Number"?
7. Which girl group had a string of hits in the 1960s including "Stop! In the Name of Love" and "Baby Love"?
8. Who was the lead singer of the Ike and Tina Turner Revue and sang hits such as "Proud Mary" and "River Deep – Mountain High"?
9. Which rock band had hits such as "Kicks" and "Indian Reservation" and was known for their Revolutionary War-themed stage costumes?
10. Who was the lead singer of the Supremes and later had a successful solo career with hits such as "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "I'm Coming Out"?

Television Shows of the 1960s Trivia Questions for One Crazy Summer

1. Which classic cartoon show features the characters Rocky the Flying Squirrel and Bullwinkle the Moose?
2. Who was the host of the children's television show *Captain Kangaroo*?
3. What kind of animal is the main character in the TV show *Flipper*?
4. Which TV talk show was hosted by Mike Douglas?
5. What is the name of the TV show that parodies the spy genre and features Maxwell Smart and Agent 99?
6. Which crime drama TV show that aired in the 1960s was about the inner workings of the Federal Bureau of Investigation?
7. Which TV show about a team of secret agents who undertake high-risk missions was known for its iconic theme song?
8. Which TV show that aired in the 1960s was set in a German prisoner-of-war camp during World War II?
9. Which science fiction TV show that aired in the 1960s features the iconic character Captain Kirk and his crew aboard the USS Enterprise?
10. Which TV show features two secret agents, Kelly Robinson and Alexander Scott, who travel the world on dangerous missions?
11. Which TV show was a music and news program that aired in the late 1960s and featured performances by popular musicians of the time?
12. Which classic cartoon show features the prehistoric character Fred Flintstone?

Answer Keys

General Trivia Questions for One Crazy Summer

1. National Book Award finalist (2010) ; Coretta Scott King Award (2011) ; Newbery Medal Honor (2011) ; Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction (2011)
2. P.S. Be Eleven
3. The title is a play on the phrase "one crazy night" and refers to the transformative experience the sisters have during their summer in Oakland.
4. The book is dedicated to the author's sisters, who provided inspiration for the story and characters.
5. Some of her other books include *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, *Jumped*, and *Every Time a Rainbow Dies*.
6. The author was inspired by her experiences growing up during the Civil Rights movement and the Black Panther movement.

Singers/Musicians Trivia Questions for One Crazy Summer

1. Brenda and the Tabulations
2. Aretha Franklin
3. Sarah Vaughan
4. The Monkees
5. Davy Jones
6. Diahann Carroll
7. The Supremes
8. Tina Turner
9. Paul Revere and the Raiders
10. Diana Ross

Television Shows of the 1960s Trivia Questions for One Crazy Summer

1. The Bullwinkle Show
2. Bob Keeshan
3. Dolphin
4. The Mike Douglas Show
5. Get Smart
6. The F.B.I.
7. Mission: Impossible
8. Hogan's Heroes
9. Star Trek
10. I Spy
11. Happening '68
12. The Flintstones



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