



“The Hendersons Cancel Christmas”

Interactive Notebook Lesson

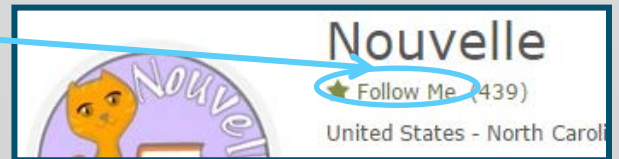
grades 6-9

This nonfiction close-reading passage is perfect for your middle schoolers! Students will love this true story, and will certainly have opinions and stories to share. All questions are CCSS-aligned.

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Danielle @ Nouvelle



Product Information

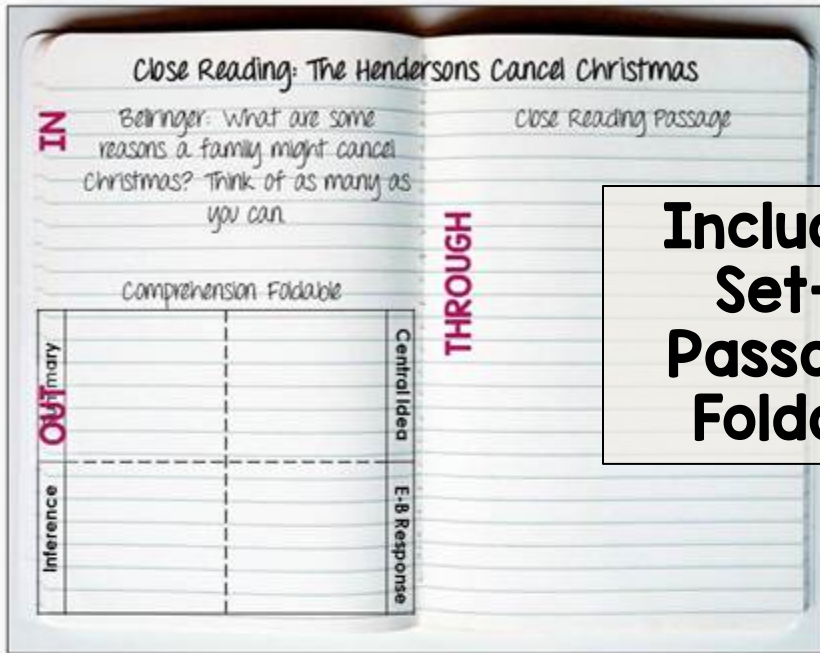
Lexile Indicators

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	8.4
Gunning-Fog Score	10.3
Coleman-Liau Index	11.6
SMOG Index	8.3
Automated Readability Index	8.3
Average Grade Level	9.4

Product contents

- *ISN Set-Up/Lesson Plan
- *Bellringer prompt
- *Close Reading Passage – with Annotation column
- *Close Reading Passage – without Annotation column
- *Comprehension Questions
- *Answer Key

The Layout: "The Hendersons Cancel Christmas"



Includes Lesson Plan/ISN Set-Up, Close Reading Passage, Comprehension Foldable & Answer Key

Suggested Lesson Plan

IN 3-5 min.	Quickwrite: What are some reasons a family might cancel Christmas? Think of as many as you can.
THROUGH 15 min.	Students read and annotate the close reading passage. *You can do this with the Annotation Column, folded inward (pg. 4) or without an Annotation Column (pg. 5)

OUT
20 min.

"We should just cancel Christmas."

This was the statement that sparked a major overhaul in the Henderson household. In Hurricane, Utah, John and Lisa Henderson had been fighting an uphill battle with their three boys (ages 5, 8, and 11) and had finally had enough of their disrespect and entitlement. "They expect so much," Lisa writes in her blog. Over the Big Moon, "Even when their behavior is disrespectful."

So, whereas many parents threaten kids with the idea of "canceling Christmas," the Hendersons have actually done it. Lisa explains that this doesn't mean no cooking, decorations, or other heartwarming traditions won't be receiving gifts. According to Lisa, "their asking Santa to find someone who needs their presents. She assures readers that her kids already have much clothes, and too many toys to count, she and I healthy dose of perspective to that."

The Hendersons worried that their children felt entitled about the true meaning behind the holidays. How receive in gifts in the United States? As reported by parents spend an average of \$450 per child. Another more conservative estimate of \$224 per child (this not take into consideration what kids receive grandparents.

What are the Hendersons doing instead? They have their community, as well as collecting leftover cans have created care packages from these items Philippines. Hit hard by typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the "Adopt a Grandparent" program, inviting several Christmas dinner. Lisa and John want their boys opportunity to share with others, not the gifts they receive.

The Hendersons are facing a backlash online, with "the Grinch" or calling her "mean" and "lax" (jeff) to clarify that this has been a whirlwind of negative also closed her blog to comments. "My intention and to raise amazing kids," Lisa writes, "The feeling give Christmas its magic."

Source:
Katie Kelly, "The parents who canceled Christmas," CNN.com (24 Dec 2013).
Lisa Henderson, "Why my husband and I canceled Christmas," Over the Big Moon, "Cancel Christmas on this App," via Facebook.
Lisa Henderson, "How to Cancel Christmas Gifts for Gifted Kids."

1. Print this page at 100%
2. Cut along dotted horizontal lines
3. Fold on solid vertical line (you'll flap this "out")
4. Glue close reading passage

<https://www.nouvelles.com/2013/12/24/the-parents-who-canceled-christmas/>

Annotations

Write the **central idea** best supported by this evidence. Below this flap, write another central idea and evidence.

Central idea:

Supporting idea: The Hendersons still going to cook, decorate, and celebrate together.

Supporting idea: The boys already have good food, clothing, and a toy.

Your Turn!

On flap: Write a comment for Lisa's blog in support of her actions. Use a specific detail from the text to support your ideas.

On page: Write a comment for Lisa's blog arguing against her actions. Use a specific detail from the text to defend your point of view.

Summary

"The Hendersons Cancel Christmas"

Below this flap, write a 2-3 sentence summary of this text.

Hint: How would you describe what this text was about if you were telling a friend?

Inference

On flap: What do Lisa and John want their kids to learn from this?

On page: What do you think Lisa would say to the parents described below?

"As reported by one survey on timeinc.com, parents spend an average of \$450 per child. Another survey of 811 parents shows a more conservative estimate of \$224 per child (The Prowl, 2013)."

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"As reported by one survey on timeinc.com, parents spend an average of \$450 per child. Another survey of 811 parents shows a more conservative estimate of \$224 per child (The Prowl, 2013)."

Central idea: Even though they won't receive gifts, the family will have a great holiday.

Supporting idea: The Hendersons are still going to cook, decorate, and celebrate together.

Supporting idea: The boys already have good food, clothing, and a lot of toys.

Your Turn!

On flap: Write a comment for Lisa's blog in support of her actions. Use a specific detail from the text to support your ideas.

On page: Write a comment for Lisa's blog arguing against her actions. Use a specific detail from the text to defend your point of view.

Summary

Lisa and John Henderson canceled Christmas because their sons were disrespectful and were acting entitled. Instead, they organized service projects to try to help others. This has caused some backlash online, but Lisa is still optimistic.

Central idea: The family will focus on others this holiday season.

Supporting idea: The boys are making care packages for a village in the Philippines.

Supporting idea: The family will cook Christmas dinner for older couples in the neighborhood.

Summary

Lisa and John Henderson canceled Christmas because their sons were disrespectful and were acting entitled. Instead, they organized service projects to try to help others. This has caused some backlash online, but Lisa is still optimistic.

Inference

On flap: Lisa and John want their boys to learn to appreciate what they have and to focus on others during the holidays. According to the article, Lisa and her husband want to give the kids "perspective." Additionally, Lisa organized ways for the boys about serving others, including a clothing drive.

On page: If answers will vary, the key is Christmas is not a number to Lisa, but rather to spend time with family and to help others.



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Literary Analysis Introduction

For example...
"With great power comes great responsibility."
Who said IT? I
What was the c...
is changing, or...
getting into it...
father's power...
the advice.
How does this...
sort of Call to...
others, instead...
the become I...

Three steps:
1. Who said...
2. When did...
3. Why does...
quote's in...

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grades 7-10

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