

**A Teaching Unit**  
**For**  
***Joey Pigza***  
***Swallowed the Key***



**Sample Packet**



**ELA Core Plans**

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

# A Teaching Unit For *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* Jack Gantos

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# *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key Teaching Unit*

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The highlighted chapters are yours FREE! Scroll down to print.

## Chapter 2

### Similes to create Imagery & Meet the Family

#### Meet the Family.

In chapter two, we are introduced to Joey's mom, grandmother, and father. Complete the following chart for each of those three family members.

	Grandma	Mom	Dad
Two Facts that you have learned about this person			
Two descriptive words that seem right for this person			
For Mom and Grandma, identify one or two quotes from the story so far that help show each of their personalities.			

#### Imagery

Imagery consists of words and phrases that appeal to readers' senses. Writers use sensory details to help readers imagine how things look, feel, smell, sound, and taste. In this chapter, Gantos uses similes to help him create imagery. Read the following excerpt from page ten, and notice the imagery and the underlined similes.

*A jigsaw puzzle of ancient Egypt outlined the dining room table with the extra pieces piled up like pyramids spilling over onto the floor. I had stacks of homework I had forgotten and drawings of my grandmother's face on big locust bug bodies all taped to the floors as if she'd been squashed by a truck. I stuck wet leaves over the windows, glued my stuffed animals to the chairs, hid all the oven knobs in the dead plant pots, and made huge string spider webs...*

How do the similes help create imagery?

---

Find another example of imagery in this chapter. Page # \_\_\_\_\_ Does this example contain a simile? \_\_\_\_\_ What picture is in your head as you read this? Draw a picture on the back of this page of the image in your head.

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*  
**Chapter 3**  
**Conflict & Figurative Language**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

There are two types of conflict: internal and external. An internal conflict is a conflict that a character has within him/herself. (man vs. himself) An external conflict is a conflict that a character has with someone or something else (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, etc.)

Complete the following chart to help you analyze the conflicts Joey faces.

<i>Text</i>	<i>Summary of conflict</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>
"I don't get how they think I'm such a pain," I said to her. "And I didn't, because most of the time I wasn't even in the classroom."		
Maria kept frowning at me and then she pulled out a little pad from her desk and wrote down four letters I couldn't see but figured spelled J-O-E-Y.		
She stopped a moment to be real careful. "And no one at the school wants to be hurt by you."		

Complete the following chart to help you analyze the figurative language found in chapter three.

<b>Text</b>	<b>Type of figurative language</b> (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or idiom)	<b>What does it mean?</b>
<i>"I got my eye on you."</i>		
<i>I watched the second hand sweep around and around.</i>		
<i>Sharp as a needle</i>		
<i>The beauty parlor was a zoo today.</i>		

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*  
**Quiz chapters 1-4**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which of the following is true about the author's style?
  - a. Gantos uses a sarcastic tone and lots of personification.
  - b. Gantos uses short, choppy sentences to create a suspenseful tone.
  - c. Gantos uses long sentences and lots of figurative language.
  - d. Gantos uses onomatopoeia and foreshadowing on every page.
2. Which of the following best describes Grandma?
  - a. strict and organized
  - b. wired and often angry
  - c. mean, but encouraging
  - d. calm and timid
3. Which of the following is a phrase that Joey asks over and over again?
  - a. I know it, and I know it well!
  - b. I can't help that I'm wired.
  - c. Can I get back to you on that?
  - d. Do you think I want to act this way?
4. What type of figurative language is used in the following sentence? *"Now get inside and stay inside," she said with the ketchup bottle still spinning around her feet like a bowling pin.*
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. idiom
  - d. hyperbole
5. How does the above passage create imagery?
  - a. The figurative language allows the reader to hear what is going on in Joey's kitchen.
  - b. The figurative language allows the reader to visualize how the ketchup bottle looks as it spins.
  - c. The figurative language allows the reader to imagine what will happen next.
  - d. The figurative language allows the reader to visualize how the ketchup feels on the floor.
6. What type of figurative language is used in the following sentence? *It is always in her hand, like she is some kind of magic Pez meds dispenser.*
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. personification
  - d. idiom
7. Which of the following is an internal conflict with which Joey struggles?
  - a. trying to convince Grandma not to make him get inside the refrigerator
  - b. cutting his finger in the pencil sharpener
  - c. wanting to behave but not being able to
  - d. trying to beat Grandma to the telephone
8. What happens to Grandma?
  - a. She really got washed down the sewer grate.
  - b. She got put in an mental hospital.
  - c. She finally got her own meds.
  - d. She goes to live with Joey's father.

**This is only a portion of the test.**

Thank you for previewing our sample. Download the [entire unit for \*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key\*](#) now and you will have all of the handouts, activities, and tests listed in the table of contents. Use these lessons immediately and for years to come!

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