

## The Virtual Book Page: *The Seventh Most Important Thing*

Try out these simple online activities to engage your students at home during distance learning and have some interactive fun with my novel, *The Seventh Most Important Thing*!

### Interactive Art: Seven-Minute Sculptures

Preparation: Students will need tape and scissors. They will also need to find 7 small discarded items such as: plastic lid, junk mail, envelope, coffee filter, toilet paper tube, paper clip, piece of foil, plastic cup, cardboard, newspaper /magazine page, Styrofoam plate, straw, etc.

Activity: After checking that everyone is prepared with their supplies, give students **7 minutes** onscreen to build their own creative sculptures using their 7 items. Bonus time: Give the artworks a title/name (like "Hampton's Throne of the Third Heaven").

Share: Share the creations onscreen. Use the Chat Room or clapping hands/hearts feature to vote on: Overall Favorite (Hampton Award), Most Colorful, Most Fragile, Most Creative...

### Online Book Trivia: Mind Reader

Preparation: Students will need paper and pencil. Paper should be numbered 1 – 7.

Activity: Ask each of the following questions and have your online students write down their answer. Share and discuss each question as group size allows. For each question, students will score **1 point** for a correct answer (there may be more than those listed). They get a **bonus point** for matching the mind reader answer – shown in bold!! Hint: The Mind Reader often likes the less obvious answers.

- 1.) What is something with wings mentioned in the story? A: the sculpture, the throne, **Arthur's Dad's hat**, pigeons, peacocks, angels, water on the floor of the garage.
- 2.) Name one thing mentioned on Mr. Hampton's lists. A: Lightbulbs, foil, mirrors, pieces of wood, glass bottles, coffee cans, cardboard, **throne/chair**, Arthur's name, quote.
- 3.) Name something Arthur collected that *wasn't* one of the 7 most important things: A: lamp, table, TV dinner trays, Christmas lights, **toaster**, throne/chair, hubcap, evergreen branches, ginger ale cans, donation money.

- 4.) What is one of the foods that Officer Billie bakes for Arthur? A: **Chocolate chip cookies**, Caramel Corn
- 5.) Name a physical detail about Squeak from the book. A: short, gold glasses, plaid shirts, braided belts, polished brown loafers/ shoes, vests, bowtie, **tattoo**.
- 6.) Who is one of Arthur's antagonists (someone who is against him) in the book? A: Slash, Vice, **landlord**, Judge Warner, Officer Billie (at times), other kids in school.
- 7.) Nicknames are everywhere in the story! Name one: A: Squeak, Vice, Mr. C, Groovy Jim, Slash, St. James, Artie, Roger the Carpenter, **Junk Man**.

BONUS Question ( 1pt.): Where is the Throne located today? Answers: Washington D.C., Art Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum...

Add up Your Scores! Who are your top Mind Readers? Maximum score: 7 or up to 15 with all bonuses.



### **Independent Activity: Vision Boards**

Preparation: Students will need art supplies and magazines/newspapers, if available. Scissors, tape or glue, markers/crayons.

Activity: Ask students to create a collage or drawing of their "vision" for their future. What do they picture for themselves? Careers? Education? Hobbies? Travel? Pets? Personal Goals? Using the available art supplies, students create their vision board on a sheet of plain paper or cardboard. This activity is done independently.

Share the finished creations online and discuss the steps – the most important things - needed to achieve some of these goals. Talk about the meaning of the quote in the book: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." p.65 How does this relate?

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