

a KIND of SPARK



6th Grade Summer Reading Activity

Name: _____ **ID:** _____

During the 2023 Summer Recess, all incoming sixth-graders will read *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll. The following questions are to help guide readers through the novel and focus their understanding on important details.

Students, please answer each of the following questions in complete sentences. Do your best to find the correct information from the book. Notice that every chapter has a question to answer. It will help if you read the question before beginning the chapters, so you know what to look for. Also, respond as soon as you find the right answer.

All packets will be collected by your language arts teacher during the first two weeks of school. Besides the packet, students will take an Accelerated Reader test. Completing this packet and passing the Accelerated Reader test will make sure students have a successful beginning to MacArthur language arts class!

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Chapters 1-5

While reading A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

Connection before reading – Think about a time you made a new friend at school. Who was your new friend? How did you meet? Are you still friends today? Why or why not?

Chapter 1) Why does Addie spend her time in the library on “days like this”? What does she like about the library? Why or how is it a safe space for her?

Chapter 2) Who are Addie’s two sisters? What do we learn about them in Chapter 2?

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Chapter 3) What does Addie learn about the historical witch trials in her city, Juniper? Why does she want to read more about it in the library? What else does she like to read about?

Chapter 4) What does Addie ask from the monthly committee meeting at Juniper City Hall? How is her request handled by Mr. Macintosh?

Chapter 5) Addie confides in her sister Keedie about some of the problems she's having with her classmates. What are the conflicts she's facing? How does Keedie respond?

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Chapters 6-10

While reading A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

Connection before reading – Have you ever had to try to change the mind of an adult? What happened? In general, what makes it hard for children to change the opinions of an adult?

Chapter 6) Addie explains being autistic to her friend Audrey. What does she say about autism? How does Addie try to get Audrey to understand her experience?

Chapter 7) Addie's class goes on a field trip to learn more about witches. However, Addie has a strong, emotional reaction to the lesson. Why? What's different about her perspective from her classmates, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Patterson?

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Chapter 8) Towards the end of the chapter, Addie relays a story about her sister's friend, Bonnie. What happened to Bonnie? How is it similar to the historical witches that they're learning about in school?

Chapter 9) Keedie and Addie both share a bond, both as sisters and being autistic. Keedie regularly uses the phrase "masking" about how her and Addie have to live and act. What does she mean by "masking"? Why do they both think that "masking" is important?

Chapter 10) Why does Addie visit Keedie at the university? What happens when Addie is there? What does she see?

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Chapters 11-15

While reading *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

Connection before reading – It's common to have conflict, or fights, with people in our lives, including friends, peers, and family members. How do you feel when you have a conflict with someone in your life?

Chapter 11) The chapter ends with Addie thinking that “I feel maybe we aren’t talking about sharks and dolphins at all” (McNicoll 98). What does she think that Audrey is implying? What might the sharks and dolphins really represent?

Chapter 12) How does Addie’s second visit to the committee meeting at Town Hall go? How is it different from her first visit? What has she committed to do now?

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Chapter 13) After Addie visits Audrey's house, where do the two go? Who do they meet?

Chapter 14) At the bookstore, Addie runs into Emily and her father. What happens? What do we learn about Emily and her father?

Chapter 15) Why do you think Emily would destroy Addie's thesaurus? Why would she write such a hateful word in it?

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Chapters 16-21

While reading A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

Connection before reading – Everyone has a moment where we have to face our fears. When have you had to be brave? How were you able to face a scary or intimidating situation?

Chapter 16) Who comes to help defend Addie after her fight with Emily? How does the meeting with Ms. Murphy end?

Chapter 17) What happened at Nina and Keedie's 14th birthday party? In what ways does Nina feel responsible for Bonnie's fate?

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Chapter 18) How does Nina know that Keedie is experiencing a “burnout”? What does Keedie think caused it? How does Addie react?

Chapter 19) As Addie and her family go to visit the tree that has haunted her for weeks, she realizes that Ms. Murphy was a bully. How has Ms. Murphy been a bully to Addie? What could anyone have done to stop the bullying?

Chapter 20) During her final speech to the committee at City Hall, Addie connects witches, sharks and herself. What is the connection? How is the novel title, a KIND of SPARK, related to this connection?
