

**Teacher Guide for *My Big Nose And Other Natural Disasters*
by Sydney Salter, Harcourt, April 2009**

A. Discussion Questions:

1. Is Jory's brother, Finn, really the preferred child in her family? How could her parents remedy Jory's perception in this situation – or can they?
2. After reading the scene involving Jory's accident with the delivery van, how could you have handled it differently if you were driving?
3. If you were Jory, would you go through with the plastic surgery? Give some reasons for/against.
4. Do love interests like Tyler, Gideon and Tom have to come between friends? How can conflicts over guys/girls be prevented or resolved?
5. After reading, "My Big Nose..." what advice would you give to a friend who has a feature that they blame their problems on or feel holds them back? What role, if any, does the media play in fueling fears like Jory's?

B. Introductory and Closing Activity:

Teacher:

Subject Area: English/Language Arts/Reading/Literacy

Grade Level:

Unit Title: My Big Nose And Other Natural Disasters

Lesson Title: Brochure of Self, Brochure of Character

Overview: Students will create a reflective brochure of themselves and then create one for a character from the novel.

Connection to the Curriculum: Allows students to introduce themselves and then introduce a character.

Connection to Standards: NCTE 1-12, Utah ILOs 1-6, S1:O2,3, S2:O1,3, S3: O1-3

Time: 1 standard period or .5 of block for each brochure allowing students to take home to complete.

Materials/Equipment Required: paper – loose leaf and construction, pens, colored pencils, magazines from collage box, glue sticks, scissors.

Objectives:

Before beginning the novel, students will be create a biographical brochure that highlights their personal experiences and accomplishments.

Upon completion of the novel, students will further develop a character’s experiences and accomplishments through the creation of a brochure.

Suggested Procedure

Opening:

Discuss various ways to capture information to promote, preserve, display information. Answers will vary from books to posters to websites.

Display various brochures for businesses, trips, etc. Ask what features are the most enticing, explanatory, and informative. Share the example format for their brochures. Explain how this brochure format will allow each student to document the things they need to remember about themselves at this point in their lives, much like the main character they’re about to meet in the book *My Big Nose And Other Natural Disasters* by Sydney Salter.

Explain that, upon completion of the book, they will use the same format to share their understanding of character and plot development by creating a brochure for a character of their choice from the book.

Development: See brochure format

Closing: Work through the format and have students give examples that could be used for each section. Students will then be able to share their finished products as they begin the book.

Student Assessment: Self-assess using rubric, present, teacher will assess using same rubric. Rubric available at HYPERLINK "<http://www.sydneyalter.com>"
www.sydneyalter.com

Extending the Lesson: Find examples of good and bad brochures. How might the students use brochures in their lives outside of this class (clubs, future jobs, etc.).

Additional Resources:

HYPERLINK "http://homebusiness.about.com/od/marketingadvertising/a/brochure_tips.htm" http://homebusiness.about.com/od/marketingadvertising/a/brochure_tips.htm

HYPERLINK "<http://www.brochuremonster.com/more-brochures/free-brochure-design.aspx>" <http://www.brochuremonster.com/more-brochures/free-brochure-design.aspx>

HYPERLINK "<http://www.allgraphicdesign.com/graphicdesignarticles/brochuresgraphicdesign/brochuredesigningtips-makingprocess.html>" <http://www.allgraphicdesign.com/graphicdesignarticles/brochuresgraphicdesign/brochuredesigningtips-makingprocess.html>

C. Recipe:

Katie Bakes! Chocolate Chip Cake

1 package devil's food cake mix (Shh, don't tell--Katie uses a mix).
1 package chocolate pudding mix
1 cup sour cream
½ cup vegetable oil
½ cup warm water
4 eggs
1 ½ cups chocolate chips

Beat together eggs, oil, water, and sour cream. Add cake mix and pudding mix. Beat well. Fold in chocolate chips. Bake in a buttered and floured pan at 350 degrees for about an hour. This cake is sturdy enough to be cut into all kinds of shapes—from spaceships to teddy bears. Frost with your favorite icing (chocolate is delightfully decadent).

Hershey's "Perfectly Chocolate" Chocolate Frosting

½ cup butter (one stick)
2/3 cup Hershey's cocoa
3 cups powdered sugar
1/3 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla

Melt butter. Stir in cocoa. Alternately add powdered sugar and milk, beating on medium speed to spreading consistency. Add more milk, if needed. Stir in vanilla. Makes 2 cups of frosting.

D. Biography:

Sydney Salter held a variety of jobs before becoming a full-time writer, including her brief stint delivering pies and flowers, wrecking vans, and destroying wedding cakes in Reno, Nevada. Sydney now lives in Utah with her husband, two daughters, two cats, and two big Bernese Mountain dogs. She loves reading, writing, traveling, and, of course, baking and

decorating cakes (but not driving them anywhere).