

# Simply Wonderstruck: Innovative Lesson Plans for Brian Selznick's Graphic Novel Wonderstruck (Gifted and Talented Reading Series Book 1)

By Mark Steven Hess



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From building three-dimensional skyscraper models to creating metaphorical identities, your students will be excited to go deeper into Selznick's graphic novel. Open Brian Selznick's "Wonderstruck," and you will quickly see why readers of all ages are wonderstruck—captivated by the interplay of text and pictures, drawn into two stories of deep connections set 50 years apart. This novel invites the reader to step inside and explore, bump around a museum of natural wonders, and peer curiously into the mystery.

These 19 lessons and 4 end-of-unit activities are designed to encourage active participation and critical thinking. Critical thinking questions on both the text and drawings will help students think deeper about the characters, events, and situations of the novel. This isn't a unit for the literal minded reader but a unit designed to expand and reach out into metaphors through creative, hands-on activities.

Though appropriate for all learners, this unit is geared to tap the potential of nonverbally gifted learners through visual-language connections, hands-on learning, art, public speaking, and construction projects. Each lesson--stretching across the curriculum—is referenced to 21st Century Learners, non-verbal ability, and common core standards.



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