* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *

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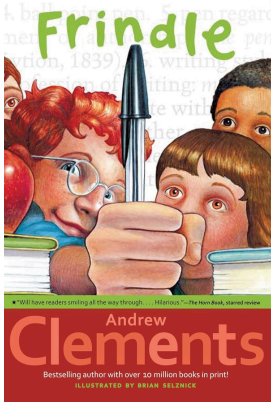


Frindle
by Andrew Clements

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

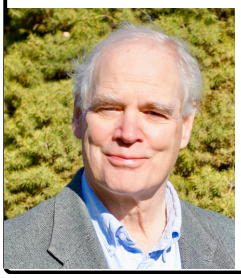
What's It About?

Is Nick Allen a troublemaker? He really just likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.

From bestselling and award-winning author Andrew Clements, a quirky, imaginative tale about creative thought and the power of words that will have readers inventing their own words.

Who Wrote It?

In 1990 I began trying to write a picture book about a boy who makes up a new word. That book eventually became my first novel, Frindle, published in 1996, and you can read the whole story of how it developed on the Frindle page of this website. Frindle became popular, more popular than any of my books before or since—at least so far. And it had the eventual effect of turning me into a full-time writer. I've learned that I need time and a quiet place to think and write. My wife and I now live in Maine. These days I spend a lot of my time in a room attached to the far side of the garage—just far enough from the rest of our home to make me feel like I've gone to work. The room is larger than the small garden shed I worked in for almost twenty years, but it's the same desk, same chair, same paper and pencils, same keyboard and screen. And I'm grateful to say that the books keep coming. Sometimes kids ask how I've been able to write so many books. The answer is simple: one word at a time. Which is a good lesson, I think. You don't have to do everything at once. You don't have to know how every story is going to end.



You just have to take that next step, look for that next idea, write that next word. And growing up, it's the same way. We just have to go to that next class, read that next chapter, help that next person. You simply have to do that next good thing, and before you know it, you're living a good life.

Photo and text taken from Andrew's website: www.andrewclements.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.4

Lexile Level: 830L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK

Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.