# A WRITING FOCUSED K-2 EDUCATOR'S GUIDE FOR

# FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH: A PASSOVER PARODY

## WRITTEN BY K. MARCUS

## ILLUSTRATED BY SAM LOMAN

Frankenstein's Matzah Text © K. Marcus 2024

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## PRAISE FOR FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH

"THIS BOOK IS FUNNY, SILLY AND FULL OF FAMILY LOVE."

-LIOR ZALTZMAN, DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR OF KVELLER

# WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS GUIDE

- ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR
- STORY SUMMARY
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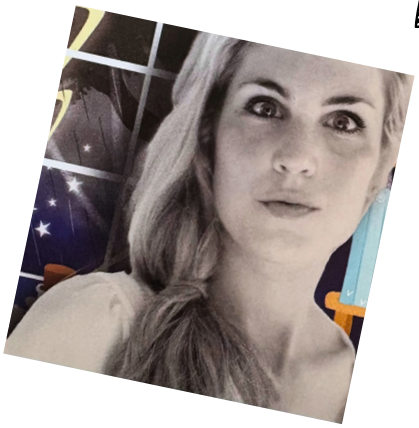
- MORE CONNECTIONS
- WRITING PROMPTS
- FAVORITE CHARACTER WRITING EXERCISE
- CHARACTER TRAITS
- STORY MAPS
- COMICS/COMIC PANELS
- GENERATING IDEAS: MONSTER/HOLIDAY MASH-UP

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K. Marcus reads anything and everything. She follows her curiosity wherever it leads and loves to ask questions and spend hours researching the answers. While she isn't a scientist in this dimension, there is definitely a K. Marcus scientist in the multiverse. She loves when her friends say her ideas are weird because then she knows she is being true to herself. She has 2 children that she super loves. (Yes, even more than gluten free vanilla cupcakes!) She lives in the beautiful Hudson Valley with her spouse, dog, and 2 cats. Frankenstein's Matzah is her debut picture book. You can find more info on kmarcuswrites.com or email her at kmarcuswrites@gmail.com.



# ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Sam Loman studied illustration at the Academy of Arts in Rotterdam the Netherlands (BDes), and art, design, and illustration at the University of Hertfordshire, UK (MA with distinction). She works full-time from her home as an illustrator/author for picture books and designs products like stationery, tableware, cards, and more.
Her goal is to create images that have that one special, magical touch that gives people an awareness of the beautiful things around us. There are so many things that can give us joy or bring a smile to our face, things that amaze us: you just need to see them!

# STORY SUMMARY

In this Passover parody, Vee Frankenstein wants to win the school science fair and be the best scientist in the whole world. Following the scientific method, Vee's experiments to bring a matzah to life has failed 1, 817 times. Vee keeps going because failure and perseverance are a part of science. During Passover, a Jewish holiday celebrating the Jewish people's freedom from being enslaved in Egypt, Vee is surprised to find that the experiment worked. Vee doesn't yet know why this experiment was different from all the others.

When Vee finds the living matzah during the seder*, there are a lot of questions to think about including: can the matzah be owned? This question aligns with the Passover story of the Jewish people being enslaved and finding their freedom. Through deep reflection and empathy, Vee decides that like the Jewish people, Manny the matzah should be given his freedom too. Welcoming the stranger is an important value at Passover, and because Manny is welcomed and the Frankenstein family chose to be kind to him even though he is different, he decides to go to the science fair with Vee.

This story supports discussions about: ethical decision making, welcoming the stranger, identity/belonging, and STEM in fiction.

While the story doesn't specify Vee's gender, the character's design invites all children to imagine themselves as the scientist and offers gentle, age appropriate representation. It shows students that everyone deserves to be seen and builds empathy because representation matters.

*At Passover, the story of Jewish people is told during dinner, which is called a seder (say-der). Seder means order in Hebrew. The story is told in a book called the Haggadah.

**There are two science experiments in the book that can be done with the students or as a teacher presentation.

# HAVING FUN WITH FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH

This guide helps students analyze the story, build writing skills, and use their imagination to create their own mash-up.

## Curriculum Connections

Aligned with NYS ELA Learning Standards (K–2):

• W.K–2.3: Write narratives that include details and sequence

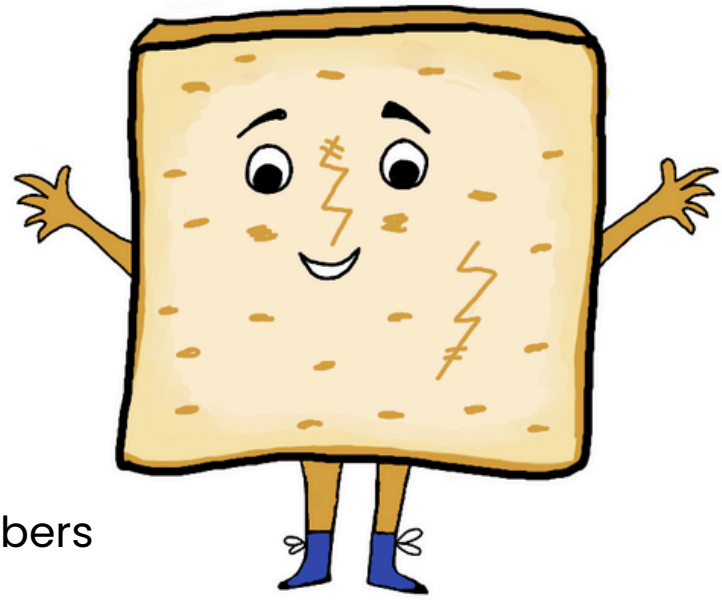
• SL.K–2.1: Participate in collaborative conversations

• RL.K–2.3: Identify characters, settings, and events.

# MORE CONNECTIONS

**Science**

- scientific method
- hypothesis formation
- observation
- variables



**SEL**

- empathy
- belonging
- agency
- welcoming new community members

**Cultural Literacy**

- recognizing holiday structures
- learning about tradition-based meals
- storytelling frameworks

**How do we decide what belongs to us?**

- consent
- ownership vs responsibility

**How do holiday traditions help us remember important values?**

- empathy through storytelling
- situating values in storytelling

# WRITING PROMPTS

MY FAVORITE PART OF FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH WAS...

IF I MADE SOMETHING COME TO LIFE, IT WOULD BE...

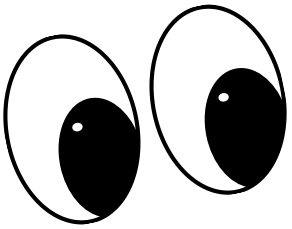
I WAS SURPRISED THAT...

MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY MEAL IS...

# MY FAVORITE CHARACTER:

CHARACTER TRAITS

THINK ABOUT WORDS THAT DESCRIBE HOW YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER TREATS THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN THE STORY. WRITE THE WORDS UNDER YOUR PICTURE. EXTEND IT: USE ONE WORD IN A SENTENCE.



# CHARACTER TRAITS

THESE ARE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE HOW A CHARACTER ACTS AND TREATS OTHERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HONEST | THOUGHTFUL | SERIOUS | CAREFREE |
| HELPFUL | CREATIVE | SHY | LOYAL |
| BRAVE | FUNNY | LOYAL | GENTLE |
| SMART | CHEERFUL | RESPECTFUL | CURIOUS |
| CARING | BOLD | THANKFUL | CONFIDENT |

USE SOME OF THE WORDS ABOVE OR COME UP WITH YOUR OWN

CHARACTER NAME: _____

| TRAIT: | TEXT EVIDENCE: |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

# STORY MAP

NAME

## FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH: A PASSOVER PARODY

BY K. MARCUS, AUTHOR AND SAM LOMAN, ILLUSTRATOR

### CHARACTERS

### SETTING

### BEGINNING

### MIDDLE

### END

### PROBLEM

### SOLUTION

# COMICS

Dear Educator:
Comics are a creative way to tell a story. Below, you will find an idea generator for students to build their own holiday monster-mash-up.

If you choose for your students to make their own comic, here is a list of onomatopoeia words to make their stories come to life!

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ARRGH! | CRASH! | OH NO! | SLOSH! | ZING! |
| BEEP! | CRUNCH! | PHEW! | SNIP! | ZIP! |
| BOING! | DRIP! | PLOP! | SWISH! | ZOINKS! |
| BOOM! | EEK! | POP! | SWOOSH! | ZOOM! |
| BUZZ! | GLUG! | RATTLE! | VROOM! | !! |
| CHIRP! | HE HE HE! | RING! | WHIZZ! | |
| CLANG! | HISS! | RIP! | YIKES! | |
| CLINK! | HONK! | RUMBLE! | ZAP! | |

FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH

# DRAW YOUR OWN

## MONSTER HOLIDAY MASH-UP COMIC

1

2

3

4

FrankensteinsMatzah.com

# FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH

# GENERATING IDEAS

PICK A NUMBER BETWEEN 1 & 20 AND USE THE MONSTER & HOLIDAY WITH THAT NUMBER IN A STORY OR YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR OWN! YOUR STORY CAN BE FUNNY, SCARY, SWEET OR EVEN ALL THREE! IT'S UP TO YOU!

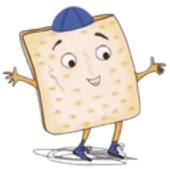
## MONSTERS

1. DRAGON
2. CHIMERA
3. GRIFFIN
4. VAMPIRE
5. WEREWOLF
6. CYCLOPS
7. GOBLIN
8. HYDRA
9. OGRE
10. CHUPACABRA
11. GOLEM
12. MINOTAUR
13. ZOMBIE
14. WITCH
15. BASILISK
16. GHOUL
17. TROLL
18. FRANKENSTEIN
19. MUMMY
20. OR MAKE UP YOUR OWN!

## HOLIDAYS

1. NEW YEAR`S DAY
2. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
3. LUNAR NEW YEAR
4. VALENTINE`S DAY
5. MARDI GRAS
6. ST. PATRICK`S DAY
7. CHRISTMAS
8. HOLI
9. EASTER
10. RAMADAN
11. THANKSGIVING
12. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
13. YOUR BIRTHDAY!
14. HANUKKAH
15. INDEPENDENCE DAY
16. JUNETEENTH
17. ROSH HASHANAH
18. EID
19. DIWALI
20. OR USE ONE YOUR OWN!

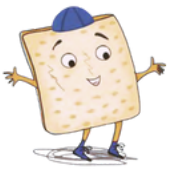
FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU PICKED #13 YOUR STORY WOULD BE ABOUT A ZOMBIE ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!!



FRANKENSTEIN'S MATZAH

# WRITE YOUR OWN MONSTER MASH-UP STORY

DRAW A PICTURE AND WRITE WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR MONSTER HOLIDAY MASH-UP.



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