



# Frindle

*fun activities*

## May I Please Borrow a Frindle?

Always the kid with a big idea, Nick Allen turns a harmless prank into a controversy that quickly spreads across the entire country in the book *Frindle*. What started as a way to annoy his word-loving teacher, sparks a heated debate on just who defines a word and who is to say where we get the meaning of things.

When Nick begins to refer to an ordinary ballpoint pen as a frindle, the trend catches on until suddenly kids everywhere are using the new term. Why not see if you can invent some new words of your own? Here's an activity to get you thinking about how to create your own dictionary and just how we get the meaning of a word. Let's get started.

### Directions:

1. Grab a copy of the dictionary and look up the word *pen*. Review the different parts of the entry: the word, pronunciation, part of speech, origin and the definitions.

2. Nick challenged things by asking, "Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle?" Discuss with your class whether you agree or disagree with Nick. After all, what do you think makes a word?
3. Come up with some words you would like to rename using common items around your classroom.
4. Next, write entrees for these new words using the format found in the dictionary. If you want, you can even add an illustration or a sample sentence using the new word.
5. Finally, create a class dictionary of these new terms and definitions.
6. For even more fun, try selecting a word that you think might be the next *frindle* in your school. Then, begin using the word often in context around your school to see if it spreads as quickly as Nick's made-up word.

*Mice type:* This activity meets the following Next Generation Sunshine State Standard(s):  
LAFS.3.L.3.4, LAFS.3.L.3.5 and LAFS.3.L.3.6

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