



Thunder Boy Jr.

Written by: Sherman Alexie

Illustrated by: Yuyi Morales

Phillip and Brock are best friends, although everyone else thinks Brock is imaginary, so when Phillip gets tired out at the Big Fair while Brock is still having fun, they are separated and it will take a very special twosome to bring them back together again.

Lexile: 420 **AR Level:**2.5

Author Website: <http://fallsapart.com/>

Illustrator Website: <http://www.yuyimorales.com/2.htm>

Other Websites/links:

<https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=47964>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/books/thunder-boy-jr-by-sherman-alexie/>

<http://www.spokanetribe.com/>

Food: Mud Cups (pudding, oreo crumbs, gummy worms)

Nonfiction Title: Loraine Jean Hopping, *Lightning!*
Darice Bailer, *Why Does it Thunder and Lightning?*

Introduction: If available, share in a drum circle.. if Native American drum is unavailable (work with your music teachers!) share a youtube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib1WC43g0Zs>

It would be fun to end the drum circle with a dramatic reading of the title to hook the students.

Story time Activities:

Students can make a list of things they love, times they were brave, and things they're good at to generate their own name.

They could then use their new name to tell (or write) a new story of how they got their "new" name.

Extension: Students could interview their parents to discover how their names came to be, and what names they ALMOST had and report back to the class.

Craft: Cloud Craft



What you'll need:

- 2 sheets of white felt
- stuffing
- embroidery thread
- plastic yarn needle
- assorted blue felt
- scissors
- ribbon
- craft glue
- two blue buttons
- black puffy paint

What you'll do:

1. Layer the two sheets of white felt on top of each other. Use the scissors to cut out a cloud shape from the felt.
2. Thread the yarn needle with the embroidery thread. Sew the two sheets of white felt together with a simple whip stitch. Leave a small opening to stuff the cloud.
3. Fill the cloud with stuffing, then finish sewing it shut.
4. Cut one 6-inch piece of ribbon. Fold it in half and glue the two ends to the top of the cloud to create a loop for hanging.
5. Cut three 12-inch pieces of ribbon. Glue them to the bottom of the cloud.
6. While the glue dries, cut out several rain drop shapes from assorted shades of blue felt.
7. Glue the rain drop shapes to the 12-inch pieces of ribbon. Once the glue is completely dry you can hang the mobile

Discussion Questions: (Please include the answer and the page it is found on if applicable. You may also write open-ended discussion questions.)

1. Talk about the difference in the names “Big Thunder” and “Little Thunder.” Why do you think he feels frustrated about it?

2. When Thunder Boy talks about climbing a mountain, why did he think his name should be “Touch the Clouds?” What other names could work with climbing a mountain?

3. What is gravity and how does the illustrator demonstrate how Thunder Boy would be “Gravity’s best friend?”

4. When the author says, “Together, my dad and I will become amazing weather” what does he mean?

5. Let’s take a picture walk back through the book. Based on the illustrations, what is the relationship like between Thunder Boy and his sister?