

2017 ONE BOOK ONE PHILADELPHIA

TEMPLE GRANDIN

How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World



by bestselling author Sy Montgomery

foreword by TEMPLE GRANDIN

Lesson Plans and Resources for *Temple Grandin*

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IN-CLASS INTRODUCTION This lesson is designed to provide students with a one-class introduction to the book. The lesson can be used to start off a class reading of the text, or to encourage them to read it independently.

As a recipient of One Book resources, the Free Library requires that you devote one class period to introducing *Temple Grandin* to students, either using this lesson or your own plan.

Introduction Option #1 <http://sciencenetlinks.com/lessons/temple-grandin/>

1. To introduce the class to both Temple Grandin's personal presence, mannerisms and mindset, have them use their [Meet Temple Grandin](#) student esheet to guide their viewing of the short video, [Temple Grandin and Her Cowboy Shirts](#).
2. Students should follow that video with a more in depth look at Temple's professional style and traits—and to see her science in action—by watching the first 5 minutes, 15 seconds (5:15) of a 10-minute video, produced by the Glass Walls Project of the American Meat Institute called [Video Tour of Beef Plant Featuring Temple Grandin](#). It looks at the humane killing of cattle for meat.
3. Print out the [Temple Grandin Cowboy Shirt](#) template and hand one to each student. On the front, they will use their design minds to make their own cowboy shirt design, with markers or collage materials. On the back, they will listen for one or two key ideas—Temple Truths—and write them down. For example, the prologue could be a Temple Truth. Though it is attributed to Plato, if it rings true to a student, it is a Temple Truth: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

Introduction Option #2

1. Ask students to make a list of things they see in the room. Add as many items as possible to the list. (Can be done individually or in pairs or groups.)
2. Collect the lists. Then ask students to name all of the items they put on the list by saying them out loud. How many items could they remember?
3. Watch the PBS animated video about Temple Grandin: "Temple and Her Search Engine" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfsh6sojAvg>
4. Discuss: does your brain work like that? How is her brain similar or different to yours? What are the advantages to having a brain like that? What are the disadvantages?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions for Class Discussion

What traits do most people with autism share? How do these traits make it difficult for autistic people to socialize?

In what ways does Temple say autistic people and animals think alike and similarly perceive their world?

Why did Temple's parents fight about her?

What do you think would have happened to Temple if she had been institutionalized as her father wanted?

Why was Temple's elementary school a good environment for someone with her disorder?

How did Temple's experience in elementary school compare to her experience in junior high?

Have you ever seen students with mental or physical disabilities teased or bullied in your school?

Did you do anything to stop it?

What were some things about Temple's personality that made her difficult for her classmates to understand?

Why did Temple play pranks on her classmates in junior high? How did playing the pranks make her feel?

How have ideas about what constitutes mental illness changed over the years?

What is "neurodiversity"?

Temple says, "Animals saved me" (p. 61). In what ways did animals save her?

How did Temple get the idea for her "squeeze machine" and how did the machine help her? In what way was Temple's machine "caught in the crossfire between two opposing ideas about the treatment of autism"? (p. 69).

In what ways was the Hampshire Country School an ideal environment for Temple? How did doors become important symbols for Temple?

What obstacles has Temple had to overcome in her research and work? What are Temple's views about raising animals for food? What are your own?

If you know someone who has autism, in what ways is he or she similar and different to Temple?
What do you think would be most difficult about having autism?
What does autism enable Temple to do that most people with a “normal” brain cannot do? In what ways has autism helped Temple be successful in her work?

What things has Temple done to improve the lives of animals? In a sidebar, the author writes: “Doctors, parents, and teachers are asking, should a kid with Asperger’s or mild autism be labeled handicapped—or should he be in a gifted and talented program?” (p. 44). After reading Temple Grandin’s story, what do you think?

From <http://www.grandin.com/inc/Montgomery.TempleGrandin.DiscussionGuide.pdf>

SUGGESTED ANALYTICAL & CREATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Write out five questions you would ask Temple Grandin if you had the opportunity to interview her. Share your questions with the class.

Invite someone who is active in and knowledgeable about animal welfare issues to speak to your class about what he/she does and discuss ways in which students can become involved.

Use print and electronic resources to learn more about factory farming. See the back of the book for resources Sy Montgomery recommends. Assign students to work in small groups to prepare a Power Point presentation on one of these key issues: ethics, environmental impacts, human health impacts, animal health impacts, animal welfare, and the impact on small farmers.

Watch the film Temple Grandin (HBO Films) and discuss how it portrays the traits that are common to most people with autism.

From <http://www.grandin.com/inc/Montgomery.TempleGrandin.DiscussionGuide.pdf>

ONLINE RESOURCES

LESSON PLANS & RESOURCES

ScienceNet Lesson Plans

A collection of daily lesson plans and worksheets that can be used to teach the entire book.

<http://sciencenetlinks.com/lessons/temple-grandin/>

Wrong Planet

A website authored by individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

www.wrongplanet.net

MULTIMEDIA

Temple Grandin TED Talk: The World Needs All Kinds of Minds

A nineteen minute video explaining the Autism spectrum and how her brain works. Illustrative slides showing how her perception is different.

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-world-needs-all-kinds-of-minds-temple-grandin>

Temple Grandin on her Search Engine

Five-minute PBS animated video with Temple discussing how her brain works and other famous individuals who were on the autism spectrum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfsh6sojAvg>

Temple Grandin and Cattle

Five-minute interview about Grandin's experience in graduate school and how she got close to cattle.

<http://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/saved/videos/temple-grandin-and-cattle/>

Temple Grandin – Cattle Talks

A collection of short videos where Temple explains cattle behavior and different aspects of her designs.

<http://www.grandin.com/videos/videos.html>

HBO Movie Trailer

A two-minute trailer showing key clips from the movie version of Grandin's life.

<http://www.hbo.com/movies/temple-grandin/video/trailer.html>

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