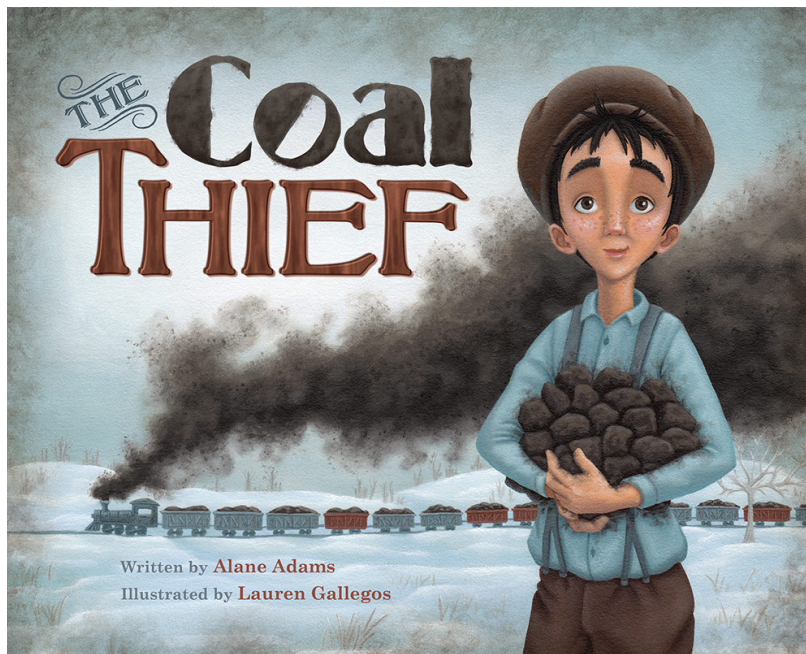




# A TEACHER'S GUIDE

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 2/3



# THE COAL THIEF

WRITTEN BY ALANE ADAMS

ILLUSTRATED BY LAUREN GALLEGOS

Watch the video of actor  
**Christian Slater**  
reading this story at  
[storylineonline.net](http://storylineonline.net)



# READING AND WRITING

## BEFORE READING

**Standards:** CCSS.SL.2.1, SL3.1

Tap knowledge/Build background through discussion. Some possible discussion questions:

- Is it ever ok to steal?
- Was the heat ever broken in your house? How did that feel?
- Acquaint students with the coal region of Pennsylvania and build background about time period of story.

## DURING READING

**Standards:** CCSS.SL.2.2, SL.3.2; CCSS.RL2.2, 3.2

**Reading Focus:** Identify moral or lesson in story

**Objectives:** Students will explain the lesson in the story using details to support opinion. Students will listen to story and answer teacher posed questions appropriately.

**Procedure:** Stop periodically to ask questions such as:

- Who is the main character?
- What is he like?
- What kind of a character is Harley? Do you like him?
- What are the problems/dilemmas Georgie encounters?
- How does Georgie react to Harley's requests? Do you think Georgie wants to do what Harley asks?
- What does Georgie's father do to help? What does he have Georgie do with the coal? Why?

## AFTER READING

**Standards:** CCSS.RL2.2, 3.2; CCSS.SL.2.1, SL3.1

**Objective:** Students will identify the lesson in the story by asking, "what did the character learn?"

**Procedure:**

- Divide the students into groups.
- Give each group a large sheet of paper with the question written in large letters:  
**What lesson did Georgie learn?**
- Have students discuss and write an answer. Then have them list evidence from the story that led them to their answer.
- Share and discuss group answers as a whole class.

## READING RESPONSE

**Standards:** CCSS.RL.2.1; RL.3.1, CCSS.SL.2.2; SL.3.2

**Objective:** Students will answer the prompt using at least two details from text to support the response.

**Prompt:** What do you think Georgie will do the next time Harley tries to get him to do something that's not right?

## READING RESPONSE

**Standards:** CCSS.W.2.3; W.3.3

**Objective:** Students will write a narrative piece using grade appropriate sentence structure and spelling.

**Prompt:** Tell about a time when a friend wanted you to do something you knew wasn't right. What did you do?

# ACROSS THE CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

## SCIENCE: COAL AS A WATER FILTER

### OBJECTIVE —

Students will observe and record what happens when coal is used as a water filter.

### MATERIALS —

Glass bowl or aquarium, 1/3 cup soil, Coal packet (found in pet shops that sell fish)

### DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Step 1: Fill bowl or aquarium with water.

Step 2: Add soil and mix well until the water is murky or muddy.

Step 3: Add the coal packet.

Step 4: Have students draw/explain what the water looks like.

Step 5: Monitor and record over the next 24 hours.

Step 6: Have students describe or draw what happened.

## SOCIAL STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY

### OBJECTIVE —

Students will use the internet to research Girard, Pennsylvania and create a visitor's brochure.

### MATERIALS —

computer, internet connection, printer and/or drawing paper

*Prior knowledge: How to use a search engine*

### DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Step 1:  Google It: Find information about Girard, Pennsylvania: history, population, places to work, places to have fun, etc.

Step 2: Use the information to create a brochure using either the computer or drawing paper.

## ART: CHARCOAL RUBBINGS

### MATERIALS —

Bond paper (8 x 10), Compressed charcoal or charcoal sticks, Masking tape, Craft glue, Leaves, dried flowers

### DIRECTIONS FOR ACTIVITY —

Step 1: Fold paper in half.

Step 2: Glue leaves/flowers to bottom part of paper forming a collage.

Step 3: Fold top piece over collage and use masking tape to secure it to table.

Step 4: Rub the paper with charcoal. Do not press too hard when rubbing otherwise prints won't come out as clear.



Step 2



Step 3

# ABOUT US

## ABOUT STORYLINE ONLINE

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's children's literacy website *Storyline Online* streams imaginatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors to help inspire a love of reading. Storyline Online receives millions of views every month in hundreds of countries. Visit Storyline Online at [storylineonline.net](http://storylineonline.net).

## ABOUT THE SAG-AFTRA FOUNDATION

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation provides vital assistance and educational programming to the professionals of SAG-AFTRA while serving the public at large through its signature children's literacy program. Founded in 1985, the Foundation is a national non-profit organization that relies solely on support from grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to fund our programs. Visit [sagaftra.foundation](http://sagaftra.foundation).

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