

# FRINDLE

based on the book by Andrew Clements



## SYNOPSIS

Everyone knows that Mrs. Granger, the language arts teacher, has X-ray vision in her classroom. She's also a fanatic about the dictionary, which is hopelessly boring to one of her students Nicholas Allen. But when Nick learns an interesting tidbit about words and where they come from, it inspires him to invent a new word. From now on, a pen is no longer a pen—it's a FRINDLE.

The story begins with Mrs. Granger, an elderly, distinguished teacher, grading papers when the mail arrives. She is informed by the superintendent that a permanent, million dollar trust fund for college scholarships has been set up in her honor. Mrs. Granger passes it off as a trick until she learns that the fund was established by a former student of hers, Nicholas Allen.

Then the theatrical production flashes back ten years when Nick is starting fifth grade at Lincoln Elementary School. He and several of his friends were dismayed to find that their language arts teacher was to be the dreaded Mrs. Granger, who was notorious for her long homework assignments. Nick responded rather coolly, however, because he was known throughout his class as the "idea man", who could invent ways to get everyone out of class work. Everyone was still reeling from his bug stunt last year which involved turning the thermostat up and dumping sand all over the classroom to create a beach party. The class was so busy cleaning up, there was never an opportunity to do any work, or even to receive a homework assignment. All the kids in Nick's language arts last year were more than confident that Nick would come up with something just as good this time.

In the last moments of class, after Mrs. Granger had finished her lecture on the importance of words and their definitions, and just before she was about to sentence the entire class to what was sure to be the longest homework assignment ever, Nick's hand shot into the air. He'd come up with the perfect question to keep Mrs. Granger talking well past the ring of the bell: "Where do words come from?"

"FRINDLE is ... about discovering the true nature of words, language, thought, community, learning. It's also about great teaching and great teachers, and about the life that surges through corridors and classrooms every school day."

*-Andrew Clements*

Mrs. Granger was not taking the bait, though, and she took this opportunity to allow Nick to teach the class, himself. Nick was to research his own question and write up a report, in addition to the homework that was assigned to the rest of the class.

This proved to be the beginning of Nick's experiment with words, as well as his power struggle with Mrs. Granger over what constituted a "real word" in

the first place. It was then that Nick decided to create a new word to replace "pen": FRINDLE. The feud between Nick and Mrs. Granger then spread over the whole school, then the town, then throughout the entire country. The struggle went on and on, with neither conceding until finally Nick's new word was printed in the latest edition of the dictionary.

By the story's end, we find that Mrs. Granger not only taught Nick about the importance of words and their origins, but also about having the courage to stand up for himself when he faced opposition. In the final moments of the play, Nick thanks Mrs. Granger for the lessons, and, as a token of his gratitude, offers her a gift that she can call by any name she chooses. FRINDLE is an imaginative, quirky tale about creative thought and the power of words.

## Curriculum Connections

Language Arts, Reading, Vocabulary, Spelling, Creative Writing, Literature

## Levels

Recommended for ages 8 – 13 yrs, Grades 3 – 7.  
Study guide and additional materials provided.

**The Brad Simon Organization** is the exclusive booking agent for **FRINDLE**. For National Touring inquiries call (212) 730-2132.

Or visit [www.bsoinc.com](http://www.bsoinc.com) for more information.

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## RECOGNITION

### Awards

1997 Christopher Award  
Rhode Island Children's Book Award 1998  
Judy Lopez Memorial Honor Book (L.A.) Award 97  
Great Stone Face Book Award (NH) 1997-1998  
Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award (IL) 1999  
Massachusetts Children's Book Award 1998-1999  
William Allen White Children's Book Award (KS) 1998-1999  
Georgia Children's Book Award, 1998-1999  
1998-99 Maud Hart Lovelace Award, MN Youth Rdg. Award  
Sasquatch Children's Book Award (WA) 1999  
1999 South Dakota Prairie Pasque Award  
Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award, (AR) 1998-99  
Premio Cassa di Risparmio di Cento di Letteratura per Ragazzi,  
1998, Cento, Italy  
1998-99 Nevada Young Readers' Award  
1998-99 North Carolina Children's Choice Award  
Pacific NW Lib. Assn.- Young Reader's Choice 1999  
(WA, OR, MT, AK, ID, AB, BC)  
1999 Texas Children's Crown Award  
Young Hoosier Book Award (IN) 1998-99  
1998-99 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award, 4-6  
Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award 1999-2000  
Utah Children's Choice Award, 2000

### Award Nominations

Maine Student Book Award 97-98  
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award (VT) 97-98  
Kentucky Bluegrass Award, 1997-1998  
Nebraska Golden Sower Award 98-99  
NENE Award (HI) 1998  
Texas Bluebonnet Award 1998-99  
1998 Battle of the Books Reading List (NM)  
Arizona Young Readers' Award 1998-99  
Sequoyah Children's Book Award, (WA) 1998-1999  
Virginia Young Readers Award, 1998-1999  
West Virginia Children's Book Award, 1998-1999  
Sunshine State Young Readers Award, (FL) 1998-1999  
Wyoming Indian Paintbrush Book Award, 1998-1999  
Iowa Children's Choice Award, 1999-2000  
California Young Reader Medal, 1999-2000  
Garden State Children's Book Award, (NJ) 1999  
Land of Enchantment Book Award, (NM) 1999-2000  
Nutmeg Children's Book Award, (CT) 1999-2000

### Notations, Listings, Commendations

NY Pub. Lib.- 100 titles for reading & sharing, 1996  
Horn Book Magazine Fanfare Book, 1997  
Parents' Choice Honor Book, 1997  
Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best, 1998  
Best Kids Books--Family Fun Magazine, 1998  
Indiana Read-Alouds Too Good to Miss 1997-1998  
Capitol Choices list, best books for ages 7-10, 1999



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**Griffin Theatre has performed FRINDLE at:**

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall – Sarasota, Florida  
The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts – West Palm Beach, Florida  
Proctor & Gamble Hall at the Aronoff Center – Cincinnati, Ohio  
Coral Springs Center for the Arts – Coral Springs, Florida  
The Grand Theatre – Wausau, Wisconsin  
Metropolis Center for the Performing Arts – Arlington Heights, Illinois  
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts – Anchorage, Alaska  
Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University – Indianapolis, Indiana  
The Bushnell Center for the Arts – Hartford, Connecticut  
University of Massachusetts at Lowell – Lowell, Massachusetts  
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts – Cerritos, California  
The Peace Center – Greenville, South Carolina  
Loeb Playhouse, Purdue University – West Lafayette, Indiana  
University of Wisconsin, Whitewater – Whitewater, Wisconsin  
Wilson Center for the Arts – Brookfield, Wisconsin  
Franciscan Center of Lourdes College – Sylvania, Ohio  
Eau Claire Regional Arts Center – Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
The Carson Center – Paducah, Kentucky  
Tennessee Performing Arts Center – Nashville, Tennessee  
Vilar Performing Arts Center – Beaver Creek, Colorado  
McIntyre Hall – Mount Vernon, Washington  
Theatre at Meydenbauer – Bellevue, Washington  
Everett Civic Auditorium – Everett, Washington  
Higley Center for the Performing Arts – Gilbert, Arizona  
Flynn Center – Burlington, Vermont  
Lebanon Opera House – Lebanon, New Hampshire  
Chris Brown Presents – Lowell, Massachusetts  
LaGuardia Civic Center – Long Island City, New York  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center – Newark, New Jersey  
Charlotte Performing Arts Center – Charlotte, Michigan  
Polk Center – Lakeland, Florida



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## A Note from the Artistic Director

I was given FRINDLE to read back in 1998 by a very wise teacher. The book, at the time was by a little known author named Andrew Clements. Now years later, it is one of the most widely read children's novels in the country. Joining a list that includes, "The Harry Potter Series, To Kill a Mockingbird and Bridge to Terabithia."

I immediately fell in love with FRINDLE. Not only was it a great story, but it treated children with respect. It looked at life through the wide eyes of child with an optimism that most of us forget as we grow up. It is said that Andrew Clements books "give young readers insights and strategies for rising to the challenges of their classrooms." That is certainly true.

It also gives us a story with a character who discovers their hidden potential and the person they might later become. More importantly, they stumble, they make mistakes and they fail in their efforts to achieve, learn and grow-up. In the end they succeed because they have an adult who helps them along the way and in the case of FRINDLE a great teacher.

A GREAT TEACHER. All of us had that one teacher that made a difference in our life. The teacher we remember who inspired us to be a better student and person. For me FRINDLE is about those important relationships in our formative years that helped make us the person we are today.

FRINDLE was really a perfect fit for the Griffin Theatre Company. An intelligent piece of theatre that not only teaches the audience (both young and old) valuable life lessons, but does it with empathy, humor and compassion.

I know you will enjoy FRINDLE as much as I do. And to that wise teacher back in 1998—who's name, with the passage of time I have forgotten—I want to say thank you.

Bill Massolia  
Artistic Director  
Griffin Theatre Co.

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ABOUT

# GRIFFIN

theatre company



## MISSION

The mission of the Griffin Theatre Company is to create extraordinary and meaningful theatrical experiences for both children and adults by building bridges of understanding between generations that instill in its audience an appreciation of the performing arts. The Griffin achieves this mission and vision through artistic collaboration, produces literary adaptations, original work and classic plays that challenge and inspire, with wit, style and compassion for the audience. The company is supported by an ensemble of Artist in Residence with a range of disciplines include acting, designing, directing and production.

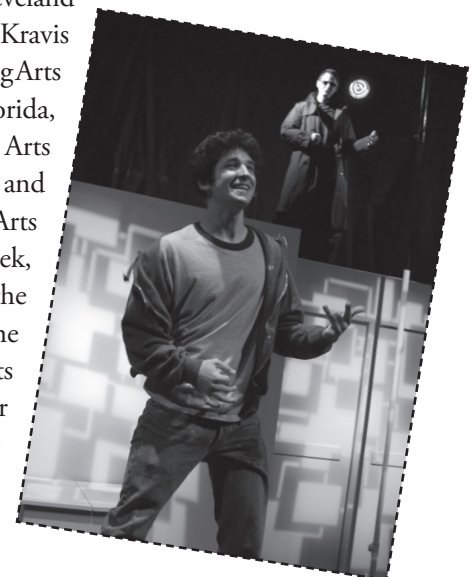
## HISTORY

The Griffin Theatre Company originated in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood in a factory loft the company renovated. In July 1992, the Griffin relocated to Andersonville and renovated the historic Calo Theater. Five years ago the Griffin vacated its space in Andersonville after thirteen years and is completing its negotiations on its agreement with the city of Chicago to purchase an abandon police station in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. The Griffin plans to renovate and transform the building into a state of the art theatre facility that will become its permanent home.

Over the last twenty-two years the Griffin has provided a wide range of work including world and mid-west premieres of acclaimed scripts, critically lauded productions of Shakespeare and original adaptations of novels. Each year the main-stage offers 3 full-length productions and 1 children's production. Many of the Griffin's 100 plus productions have appeared on Chicago area critics "Best of the Year" lists. These productions included, *Time and the Conway*, *Angus*, *Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*, *Ash Can Alley*, *Shakespeare's Dog*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Art*

*of Success*, *Women and Wallace*, *The Downside*, *Be More Chill*, *Loving Little Egypt*, *Independence*, *Letters Home* and most recently, *Journey's End*. The Griffin is the recipient of 35 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations for theatre excellence in Chicago. The company produced the west coast premiere of *Riding the Dolphin* in Los Angeles in 1996 and its world premiere production of *Henry and the Second Gunman* was optioned by Miramax Films. The Griffin also tours its hit adult production of *Letters Home*. This past fall the Griffin performed the production at Connecticut's prestigious and fabled Westport Country Playhouse.

Children's programming at the Griffin brings young people original productions of award-winning children's literature. Productions over the last twenty years have included the world premieres of *The Whipping Boy*, *Sleeping Ugly*, *Frindle*, *Catherine Called Birdy*, *Romeo and Juliet are Alive and Well and Living in Maple Bend*, *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom* and *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. The Griffin's national touring company brings its two most popular productions—*The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales* and *Frindle* to young people throughout the United States each year. Tours have included such prestigious venues as Cleveland Playhouse Square, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach Florida, Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville and the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Last year the Griffin Theatre had the pleasure to perform its touring productions for over 100,000 young people and adults.



(773)769-2228

[griffintheatre.com](http://griffintheatre.com)

3711 North Ravenswood Ave. Suite 145 • Chicago, IL 60613

**Clowes Memorial Hall  
Of Butler University  
Education Department**



June 9, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take the time to express my full recommendation of the production of *Frindle*, produced by The Griffin Theatre Company. Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University's Education Department has solidly chosen this production to be a part of the Clowes School Matinee Season for the last two years, and each time we have benefitted from the production - both from the praise from the teachers and students attending as "returning customers" and from the quality of the production. We are looking forward to having the production again this fall, 2010.

The production is based off the book by Andrew Clements by the same name, and the story is of high educational value and integrity, so it was a natural choice for The Griffin Theatre Company to choose to produce the show. But, to take this wonderful story and bring it to life with brilliant scenery and costumes as well as fine-quality actors made this production top notch.

Bill Massolia, The Griffin Theatre Company's Artistic Director, is a pleasure to work with as he accompanies the show on tour from venue to venue. To me, that allows the company continual feedback to improve their performance.

With an excellent Artistic Director and a fantastic story brought to life on stage, the recipe for *Frindle* results a successful production for students and teachers, alike. I highly recommend this production to other venues looking for a high-quality educational performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Rund".

Donna Rund

Education Coordinator

Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University



May 28, 2010

Bill Massolia  
Griffin Theatre Company  
3711 No. Ravenswood Ave.  
Suite 145  
Chicago, IL 60613

Dear Bill,

**Frindle** – a sure winner! Since I am presenting the show for the fourth year in a row you know I obviously love the show – and your theatre company. Each year the show has sold out two houses and developed a waiting list. This is partly because the book is so widely read, particularly here in Massachusetts where the author is from. But the show is booked by many of the same teachers every year so they certainly agree with me that it's a high quality performance experience for their students. Their evaluations are unfailingly laudatory.

My presentation of **Frindle** this past March resulted in the single biggest reservation I've ever had in my career as a presenter. The principal of a school in Southborough, MA called and asked if he could bring the whole school – all 375 students and teachers – to a performance. I had enough room because the shows had just gone on sale. This made him – and needless to say, ME – very happy.

The cast is delightful and very talented and they are always easy to work with. I think that the Griffin Theatre's **Frindle** should be the cornerstone of every presenter's educational series. I can recommend it without reservation.

Cordially,

*Chris Brown*

Christine Heaton Brown

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Chris Brown Presents LLC  
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Lowell, MA 01851

PHONE: (978) 710 3274  
FAX: (978) 710 6251

[cbrownpresents@gmail.com](mailto:cbrownpresents@gmail.com)



June 15, 2010

Mr. William Massolia  
Artistic Director  
Griffin Theatre  
3711 N. Ravenwood Ave., Suite 145  
Chicago, Illinois 60613

Gary W. Hopkins, Ph. D.  
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Maynard Law  
Diane Padelford  
Kay Stover  
LaVerne Tancill

Dear Bill,

I would like to thank Griffin Theatre for its tremendous contribution to the success of our 2009-2010 Educational Performance Season. Your rendition of the popular book *Frindle* by Andrew Clement made the students' visit at the theatre an unforgettable experience. The characters were intelligently portrayed, the pace was perfect for our audience, and the humor was irresistible.

As a result of this artistic experience, many teachers were able to use more creative teaching approaches in follow-up projects. For instance, they engaged their students in exciting experiments with words that resulted in original classroom dictionaries containing new words, definitions, and illustrations created by students, as well as in-depth studies of word structures.

*Frindle* also highlighted the immeasurable value of a good teacher through the character of Mrs. Granger and the rapport she had with her gifted student, Nick. At a time when teachers are facing so many great challenges, the underlying message of the play was deeply appreciated.

As always, your choice of topic was wise and your artistic decisions were ingenious. I look forward to another opportunity to present Griffin Theatre.

Sincerely,

Hélène Trudeau  
Executive Director  
(562) 916-1300



**BARNES & NOBLE SUMMER READING**  
with **ANDREW CLEMENTS**

# “IMAGINE IF YOU CALLED IT A FRINDLE”

Belief in the power of words is at the heart of all of Andrew Clements's stories and books, especially the bestselling *Frindle*.

“Sometimes,” Clements writes, “kids ask how I’ve been able to write so many books. The answer is simple: one word at a time.” Clements’s words have added up to become popular books like *No Talking*, *The Landry News*, and *Lunch Money*—school stories that are funny and wise. Now Andrew Clements wants you to join him in taking reading outside the classroom this summer—and to help you earn a FREE book from Barnes & Noble.

## IT’S EASY TO EARN YOUR FREE BOOK!

1. Read any eight (8) books of your own choosing.
2. Use your **Summer Reading Journal** (see other side) to tell us your favorite part of each book. Have your parent or guardian sign your journal when it is complete.
3. Bring your completed **Reading Journal** to a Barnes & Noble store between May 29th and Sept. 2nd.
4. We’ll give you a coupon for a FREE book! Choose from a list of exceptional paperback titles.\*

\* Eligible books will be listed on the coupon. Choices must be made from available stock. No special orders. Limit of one (1) form per school-age child (grades 1-6), please. Incomplete forms will be ineligible for free books.

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS

Online at [www.bn.com/summerreading](http://www.bn.com/summerreading)—  
video interview with Andrew Clements & more

## WEEKEND

plus

10 NC Chicago Sun-Times

Family-fun

Friday, April 10, 1998

## 'Frindle' shows what's in a word

KID ZONE

By Sue Ontiveros

**W**ords have a power all their own. Sometimes they're more powerful than any punch thrown and just as dangerous.

That's the discovery character Nicholas Allen makes in "Frindle," now being performed at the Griffin Theatre Company.

As fifth grade begins, Nicholas and his friends are dreading their language arts class with Mrs. Granger. She's a no-nonsense teacher who is known for giving a lot of homework.

Nicholas is pretty much the class ringleader, and he's always coming up with new schemes to get them out of schoolwork. His first plan in Mrs. Granger's class backfires, but that doesn't deter him. He stumbles upon a new, brilliant plan. Nicholas decides that they'll disrupt class by coming up with a new word. A pen is no longer a pen. Nicholas renames it a frindle.

Each time Nicholas uses the word, Mrs. Granger sends him to detention. Still, he finds that even if he wanted to he cannot stop the other students from using it. His classmates love the new word. It has taken on a life of its own. After a while, he realizes he doesn't want

Play shows the pen is mightier than the sword

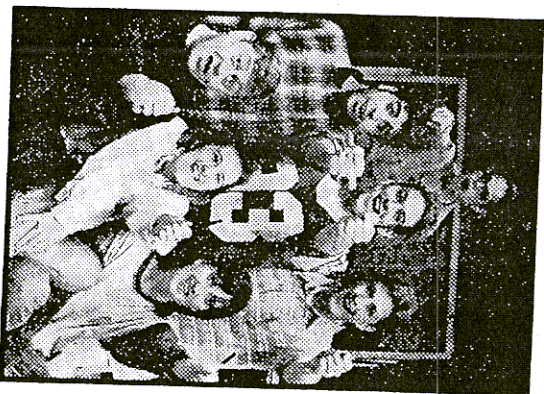
## 'Frindle'

- 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through May 17
- The Griffin Theatre Company, 5404 N. Clark
- \$7
- (773) 769-2228

to stop them from using frindle. Everything he's learned in Mrs. Granger's class has taught him that new words can be created. Nicholas and Mrs. Granger find themselves at the center of this controversy and both realize that standing up for something you believe in isn't always easy. Frindle has become the talk of the town and beyond.

There's a poignant and surprising ending that shows what exactly happens to the new word and the pair at the center of its origin, Nicholas and Mrs. Granger.

Based on Andrew Clements' award-winning book of the same name, "Frindle" has been given



The cast of "Frindle" engages in a most interesting war of words.

expert treatment by William Mascola, who adapted the work, and director Richard Bartelta.

Sarah Lyons puts the right spin on Mrs. Granger. She may be a tough, by-the-book teacher, but she has her students' best interest at heart.

Steve Wilson presents a credible Nicholas, with a goofy kid smile and childlike energy.

I think any child—or parent—who has ever spent any time in a school building will find a lot they can identify with in "Frindle." This is a sweet little story with a lot of humorous moments, a good hour of entertainment for the whole family.