

## ***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman**

**English Language Arts, 7th Grade**

### WHAT'S THE STORY?

*Phineas Gage* is a scientific, yet approachable, true story that changed not only one man's life forever, but also how we view the brain and its functions. First taking place in 1848, Phineas Gage, railroad foreman, suffered an injury to the brain that caused his personality and whole being to change instantly. This text explores Gage's life after the accident and how, because of his circumstance, we now have a better understanding of the central nervous system.

### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 1: Humans Impacting the World**
  - Essential Question: "How do humans impact the world?"
- **Unit 2: Issues & Exploration of the World**
  - Essential Question: "What issues are important to an individual and how do we gather the resources needed for exploration?"
- **7th Grade Science, Unit 1: The Building Blocks of Life**
  - Essential Question: "How do cells contribute to the function of living organisms?"

### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RI.7.1
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. W.7.2
- Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study. SL.7.2

- Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas, in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events). RI.7.3
- Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation. W.7.4
- Analyze how an author organizes a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas. RI.7.5
- With some guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. W.7.5
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as we interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources. W.7.6
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation. W.7.7
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. W.7.8
- Analyze how two or more authors write about the same topic shape their presentations of key information to emphasize different evidence. RI.7.9
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Language in Writing. W.7.9
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when reading to aid comprehension. RI.7.10
- Consult general and specialized materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning of its part of speech. RI.7.11c
- MS-LS1-3. Use argument supported by evidence for how the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells.
- MS-LS1-8. Gather and synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories.
- MS-LS1-7. Develop a model to describe how food is rearranged through chemical reactions forming new molecules that support growth and/or release energy as this matter moves through an organism.