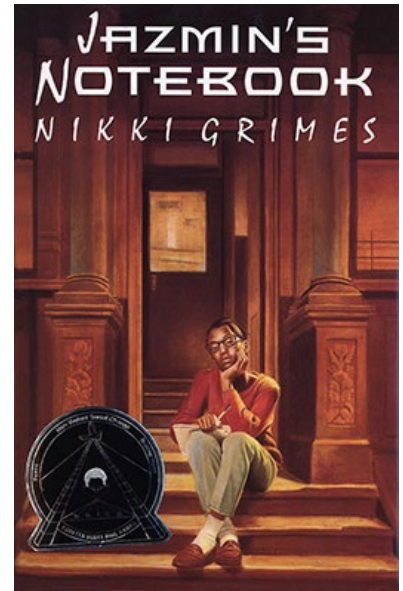


Multiple Intelligence Projects for

Jazmin's Notebook

written by Nikki Grimes

Dial Books, 1998



Verbal/ Linguistic

Keep a journal/notebook for at least ten days like Jazmin. Write at least two poems during that time. Privacy can be maintained by folding the notebook pages in half lengthwise. But, pages will still be counted (at the students desk, so they KNOW a teacher hasn't peeked!) for the grade. Warning: you may become addicted!

Logical/ Mathematical

Fill out the story pyramid about Jazmin. (On separate page)

-or-

Create a timeline of Jazmin's life on banner paper. Be sure to include all major events. The line does not have to be straight! It can move from high points in her life written near the top, to low points near the bottom.

Visual/ Spatial

Choose your favorite poem from Jazmin's Notebook (or use one from your own notebook) and create a collage to create a poster for your room. Any materials are appropriate (well, as long as they meet the school code!) and creativity is encouraged.

Body/ Kinesthetic

In groups of two or three students (though the poker scene could use more) act out the scenes from Jazmin's Notebook. You can adlib but stay true to the characters in the story.

Musical/ Rhythmic

Jazmin's life is influenced by the music around her. Research and write a brief pamphlet about one of the musical artists mentioned in the story: Charlie Parker, Smokey Robinson, Duke Ellington, Marvin Gaye, Miriam Makeba, or B.B. King.

Interpersonal

Empathy is defined as: the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another.

Jazmin develops her sense of empathy throughout the story even though she has (in some ways) been dealt a pretty slim hand of cards in her life. With her extraordinary gifts she is able, in the end, to see her mom this way:

“The state mental institution Mom is in resembles a penitentiary, which seems about right. Her mental illness is a kind of prison, her mind a place where she keeps hurtful thoughts and feelings locked away.”

Write a journal about empathy and Jazmin’s journey to it. Write about yourself, if you want to. Or, don’t. But, explain how Jazmin is able to reach this point in her story and what we can all learn from her.

Intrapersonal

Jazmin says: “These words, these notes are gonna be my photographs of me. Of who I am, and what I do, and what my life is like. Here. Now.”

Write a letter to yourself with just the same purpose. Try to capture like a photograph, exactly who you are at this moment in time. Then, seal the letter in an envelope and don’t open it for at least a couple of years. You’ll be surprised by how much you’ve changed. And, how much you haven’t. Like Jazmin said, “ I was born with clenched fists.” Maybe you were too.