

# Mackenzie's Last Run

## Educator's Guide



*Gayle Rosengren*  
[www.gaylerosengren.com](http://www.gaylerosengren.com)



# *Book and Guide Information*

## Mackenzie's Last Run

ATOS Reading Level = 4.0

Word Count = 52,500

### 3 Components of Guide:

pre-reading, during reading and post-reading

#### Pre-Reading

- Would You Rather Anticipation Guide/Activity
  - Worksheet version
  - Active version (w/ Google Slides to facilitate)

#### During Reading

- Quizzes (5 questions for each part, totaling 25 questions)
  - Part 1 (p. 1-31)
  - Part 2 (p. 32-74)
  - Part 3 (p. 75-110)
  - Part 4 (p. 111-144)
  - Part 5 (p. 145-182)
- Journal Writes

#### Post Reading

- Discussion Questions
- Extension Activities

#### 7th Grade CCSS Standards (see next page)

The standards listed are merely suggestions. The text and activities can easily be applicable for grades 7-9 through minor differentiation.

# Common Core State Standards

## READING STANDARDS

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3

Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.6

Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

## WRITING STANDARDS

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

## LANGUAGE STANDARDS

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.2

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

\*\* The standards listed are merely suggestions. The text and activities can easily be applicable for grades 7-9 through minor differentiation. \*\*

# Pre-Reading Activities



## Would You Rather Anticipation Activity

- Worksheet version
- Active version (w/ Google Slides to facilitate)

# Mackenzie's Last Run

## Anticipation Guide



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Look at the below statements and then choose your response: Agree, Neutral, or Disagree. These statements will give you a few hints about the topics that will appear in our class novel: MacKenzie's Last Run.

### STATEMENT

### MY RESPONSE

AGREE      NEUTRAL      DISAGREE

I would rather be a twin than not be a twin.

I would rather compete in diving than running.

I would rather have a career that is considered safe (ie: chef) than one considered dangerous (ie: fire fighter).

I would rather be artistically talented than athletically talented.

I would rather attempt to survive in a hot climate than a cold climate.

PICK ONE OF THE STATEMENTS ABOVE AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON IT HERE.

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# *Mackenzie's Last Run*

## Anticipation Guide



Access the Google Slides to the interactive version of this activity here.



Click her for the slides [link](#).



# During - Reading Activities



- Quizzes (5)  
+ answer keys
- Journal question  
list and printable  
journal pages  
+ rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mackenzie's Last Run

## PART 1 QUIZ

(Pages 1-28)

- 1 How does Mac try to escape his pain and grief?
  - a. Being a bully
  - b. Running
  - c. Hiding in his tree house
  - d. Singing
  
- 2 What holiday is being celebrated at the beginning of this book?
  - a. Halloween
  - b. Thanksgiving
  - c. Christmas
  - d. Easter
  
- 3 What event at dinner upsets Mac?
  - a. His mom got a new job.
  - b. His grandma says they are moving.
  - c. His grandma shares she has heart trouble.
  - d. His mom shares she is getting remarried.
  
- 4 How did Mac and Tessa's father die?
  - a. In a factory fire
  - b. In a car accident
  - c. In a mall shooting
  - d. In a lake dive and rescue
  
- 5 True or False: Mac intends to run away forever.
  - a. True
  - b. False



Score: \_\_\_/5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mackenzie's Last Run

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(Pages 1-28) ANSWER KEY

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mackenzie's Last Run

## PART 2 QUIZ

(Pages 29-73)

- 1 How did Mac leave his goodbye note?
  - a. On a post it
  - b. In a geometry notebook
  - c. On his computer
  - d. On the bathroom mirror
  
- 2 The appearance of what forces the officers to take Mac's disappearance more seriously?
  - a. His goodbye note
  - b. Money on the dresser
  - c. Blood
  - d. His bike
  
- 3 What is Simon's profession?
  - a. Baker
  - b. Teacher
  - c. Lawyer
  - d. Ambulance Driver
  
- 4 What is Tessa's favorite sport?
  - a. Basketball
  - b. Gymnastics
  - c. Tennis
  - d. Diving
  
- 5 The police are now thinking that Mac might have been kidnapped. Who is their lead suspect?
  - a. Grandpa
  - b. Mac's Dad
  - c. Simon
  - d. An escaped prisoner



Score: \_\_\_/5

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# Mackenzie's Last Run

## PART 3 QUIZ

(Pages 74-131)

- 1 What is one item Mac wished he would have brought with him when he ran away?
  - a. Water
  - b. Twinkies
  - c. Xbox
  - d. Bike
  
- 2 How does Mac discover that his mom thinks he was kidnapped?
  - a. He overhears the neighbors talking
  - b. A radio report
  - c. A newspaper that was delivered to the house
  - d. The news on the TV
  
- 3 Why does Mac need to get up to the top of the road? Why can't he just stay in the house?
  - a. He needs to hitchhike a ride home.
  - b. He needs to get better reception to make a phone call home.
  - c. He is scared in the house all alone.
  - d. The house is flooding.
  
- 4 What is Tessa afraid of?
  - a. Dogs
  - b. The dark
  - c. Fire
  - d. The lake
  
- 5 Where does Tessa go in the middle of the night?
  - a. To a friend's house for a sleepover
  - b. The school pool, because she missed practice earlier
  - c. To the store
  - d. To try and find Mac.



Score: \_\_\_/5

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# Mackenzie's Last Run

## PART 4 QUIZ

(Pages 132-173)

- 1 Why does Mac think he is responsible for his dad's death?
  - a. He asked him to change his work schedule.
  - b. He begged to go to the mall that day.
  - c. He wanted expensive art supplies so his dad picked up extra shifts.
  - d. Mac backed out of plans, so his dad went to work instead.
- 2 What does Mom tell Simon when he comes over to the house?
  - a. They found Mac!
  - b. She got a promotion at work.
  - c. She is breaking off their engagement.
  - d. She doesn't trust him anymore.
- 3 What did Mac want his father to understand?
  - a. That he wanted to be an EMT just like his dad.
  - b. He liked art better than sports.
  - c. He wanted to be a diver like his sister, Tessa.
  - d. He was having trouble fitting in at school.
- 4 What did Mac's mom and Simon buy Mac for Christmas last year?
  - a. A deluxe drawing set
  - b. An easel and canvas set
  - c. A clay sculpture kit
  - d. A gift certificate for art lessons
- 5 Mac's plan to get someone's attention by banging pots and pans didn't work. So now he is going to...
  - a. Play loud music
  - b. Flash the lights constantly
  - c. Scream as loud as he can
  - d. Start a fire



Score: \_\_\_/5

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# Mackenzie's Last Run

## PART 5 QUIZ

(Pages 174-221)

- 1 While Mac is passed out, someone comes to him in a vision. Who is it?
  - a. His grandfather
  - b. God
  - c. His favorite artist
  - d. His dad
  
- 2 What was Tessa's clue to check the house where Mac was staying?
  - a. The smoke
  - b. The fallen tree
  - c. The loud music
  - d. Both A and B
  
- 3 Luckily, the neighbor to the house where Mac was staying was...
  - a. The mayor
  - b. A firefighter
  - c. A nurse
  - d. The school principal
  
- 4 What do Tessa and Mac decide to do together?
  - a. Join a sport together
  - b. Paint a mural of their dad
  - c. Visit their dad's grave
  - d. Delete the mall shooting video
  
- 5 At the end of the book, what item do both Tessa and Mac wear?  
(Hint: an item that helps them feel connected as a family again.)
  - a. EMT sweatshirts from their dad
  - b. Ball caps from their middle school
  - c. Fuzzy socks that have the EMT logo
  - d. A t-shirt from Simon's bakery



Score: \_\_\_/5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Journal Questions

Directions: You can use the following questions for either discussions (in small groups or as a whole class) or written journal responses. Written response pages can be found on the next few pages.

1. Tessa loves diving and Mac loves art. What activity/hobby/sport do you love? Why do you enjoy this activity? Write out a perfect day focusing on this activity.
2. Memories are important to both Tessa and Mac. Choose a memory from your own life and write it in narrative form. Use five sensory details.
3. What is one way you manage big emotions? (talk to a friend/trusted adult, music, art, exercise, meditation, etc.)
4. Do you agree with the statement that MACKENZIE'S LAST RUN is not just about the survival of a boy but about the survival of a family? Why or why not?
5. Name one thing Mac could have done differently that would have significantly altered the story.
6. Is Mac the main character in this story? What about Tessa?
7. How did the setting of this story affect the plot? How would this story be different if it took place in another location (ie: desert or mountainous region) or another time (ie: past or future)? If you were writing a survival story, where would you set it and why?
8. What would you do differently in Mac's place? Would you start a fire?
9. If you knew Mac, do you think you'd want to be his friend? Why? Would you want to be Tessa's friend? Why? Do you think TJ was a good friend to Mac?
10. Do you think Mac would have had an easier time recovering if he hadn't seen the video of the mall shooting? Do you think Mac should delete the video?





Use this rubric to first communicate your writing expectations to students and then to evaluate the writing products they create. Students and/or peers can also use this rubric to self/peer score/evaluate the pieces of writing.

I assign 2 points if the task was completed and well done, 1 if the task was attempted but not mastered, and 0 if the task was not attempted at all.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

\*\* See the next page for printable rubrics.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Feedback/Comments:

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Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Feedback/Comments:

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Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Feedback/Comments:





















# Post-Reading Activities



- Discussion Questions
- Extension Activities

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# Discussion Questions

Directions: You can use the following questions for discussions in individual reading conferences, partnerships, small groups or as a whole class. Note, some questions may be triggering. You know your students, class and community best. Choose questions you feel would best stimulate helpful, productive conversations in which all participants feel safe.

1. Why do you think this story is told from the points of view of both Tessa and Mac?
2. Do you understand why Mac blames himself for his father's death? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
3. Do you think if Mac had confided in Tessa or Mom that he felt responsible for Dad's death it would have made a difference to how they went on as a family afterward? Why or why not?
4. Do you think MacKenzie's Last Run is a good title for this book? Why or why not?
5. There is only one true "bad guy" in this story. Who is it?
6. Why do you think Mac was so resistant to talking to the psychologist?
7. Why do you think Mac stopped painting?
8. Who is your favorite character—Tessa or Mac? Why?
9. Luck is referred to many times by both twins. Give two or more examples of good and bad luck as they occur in the novel and are experienced by one or the other of the twins.
10. Do you like Simon? Why or why not?
11. Do you think Mac will miss running?
12. Tessa notes how Mac's drawings make Dad look larger than life somehow and realizes that she thinks of her father that way too. Why do you think this is?
13. If you could change one thing in the novel, what would it be?
14. In what ways are Tessa and Mac alike and in what ways are they different?
15. Do you think you'd like to have a twin? Why or why not?
16. What resources are available in and out of school? Who can they go to and how can a student get connected with those resources?



# Extension Activities

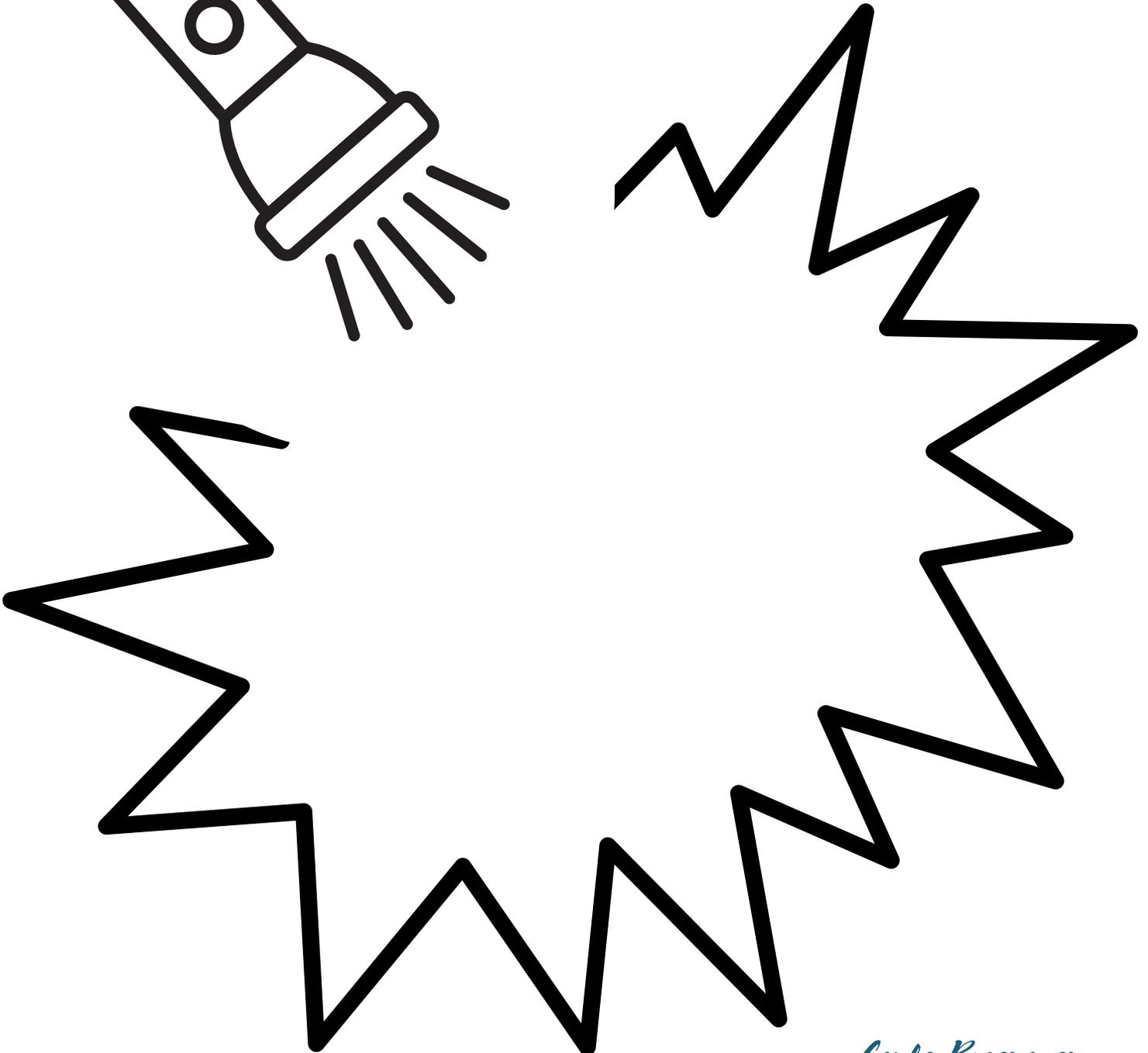
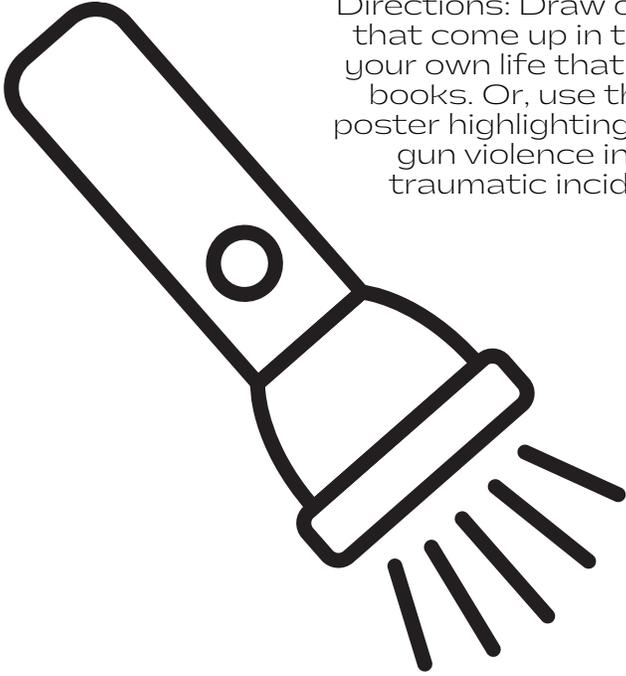
- 1 Invite a guest speaker into your classroom to share information with your students about any of the following topics: first aid and safety, survival skills, grief management and gun violence prevention.
- 2 Mac loves drawing. Do some of your own! Using YouTube as your art teacher, complete mini-drawing lessons as a brain break! Here is my favorite channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArtforKidsHub>
- 3 Design a new book cover for MacKenzie's Last Run that does more to involve Tessa's character. How can you include both characters in the images you showcase? What kind of font style and color pallet will you use to communicate the mood of the story?
- 4 For the author, Gayle Rosengren, an important aspect of this story is shining a light on gun violence and the ways in which it damages people, families and communities. Using the flashlight image on the next page, draw or write in other important issues that come up in this story, or important issues in your own life that you'd like to see talked about in books. Or, use this flashlight image to create a poster highlighting the importance of talking about gun violence in an effort to decrease these traumatic incidents in our schools and lives. (see activity sheet on next page)
- 5 Access this lesson created by PBS Wisconsin that focuses on talking with students about gun violence and facilitating activities that help them feel seen, protected, and informed.  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/classroom/2022/05/lesson-plan-how-to-talk-as-a-classroom-about-gun-violence-in-schools/>
- 6 Revisit the pre-reading anticipation activity. Ask students if they would answer differently after reading the book.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Shine a Light



Directions: Draw or write in other important issues that come up in this story, or important issues in your own life that you'd like to see talked about in books. Or, use this flashlight image to create a poster highlighting the importance of talking about gun violence in an effort to decrease these traumatic incidents in our schools and lives.



*Thank you for reading!*



*Stay Connected!*



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I'd love to come visit your school.  
Contact information is available on my website.  
I hope to hear from you!

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