

The First Rule of Punk

Written by Celia C. Pérez

Puffin Books
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336 pages | \$8.99 | Lexile: 670L



LESSON FOCUS

Getting to know you

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Art and creative writing are an impactful part of this book. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to create their own zine just like the main character, Malú from *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez. Students will create their own zine introducing themselves.

(Keep in mind that this zine project could be used for so much more: Students could introduce and describe a character, do a review of a class novel, or even learn the story of their name — the possibilities are endless).

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will identify specific characteristics about themselves.
2. Students will design a multi-page zine.

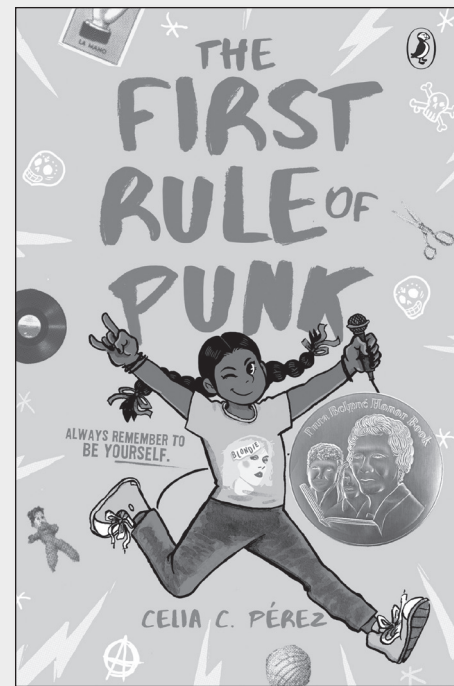
MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez, chapter one
2. Zine samples: pages 5-12, 51-58, 73-80, 145-152, 215-222 (more available in the book if needed)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez.
- Step 2:** Read chapter one of *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez as a class or independently.
- Step 3:** Let students review the chapter and determine evidence that explains what a zine is. On the next page are quotes from the text that lead to a zine explanation. Students can collect their quotes on the What in the World is a Zine? worksheet.

Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



SUMMARY

When twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) moves to a new school, she inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Then she remembers her dad's advice about the first rule of punk: be yourself. Filled with black and white illustrations and collage art, *The First Rule of Punk* is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.

Key Ideas:

- “There were sheets of unlined paper and old magazines Dad had given me, an uncapped purple glue stick, and a folder so fat with clip art that papers spilled out of the opening” (Pérez 2).
- “I started making zines earlier this year when I discovered Dad’s collection of punk music zines from his high school days. Zines are self-published booklets, like homemade magazines, they can be about anything — not just punk” (Pérez 4).
- “A zine can be a tribute to someone you love and nerd out about or a place to share ideas and opinions” (Pérez 4).
- “Dad said they’re also a good way to write about what you’re thinking or feeling, kind of like a diary that you share with people. Mine are mostly about stuff I find interesting or want to know more about” (Pérez 4).

Step 4: Show students samples of zines from *The First Rule of Punk*.

Step 5: Now, students can create their own zine. They can start by making a zine that introduces them to their classmates.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A ZINE?

Directions:

Read chapter one. This will give you the opportunity to meet the main character. Read chapter one a second time. This time, you will identify lines from the text that explain what a zine is.

Quotations from the text:

Based on the evidence you have collected from the text, what is a zine?

If you could create a zine, what would it be about?

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