

Shelter

Written by Christie Matheson

Random House Books for Young Readers
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192 pages | \$16.99 | Lexile: 750L



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Learning and understanding an author's craft and style is important for students to have a deeper understanding of the texts. Christie Matheson uses *epigraphs* at the beginning of each of the chapters in *Shelter*. Students will learn about epigraphs and connect them to the theme of the chapter.

LEARNING TARGETS

1. Students will be able to identify an epigraph.
2. Students will be able to provide evidence to establish a connection to the theme of the chapter and an epigraph used.
3. Students will be able to identify the individual who is being quoted.
4. Students will be able to provide their synthesis of quote, individual, chapter and theme.

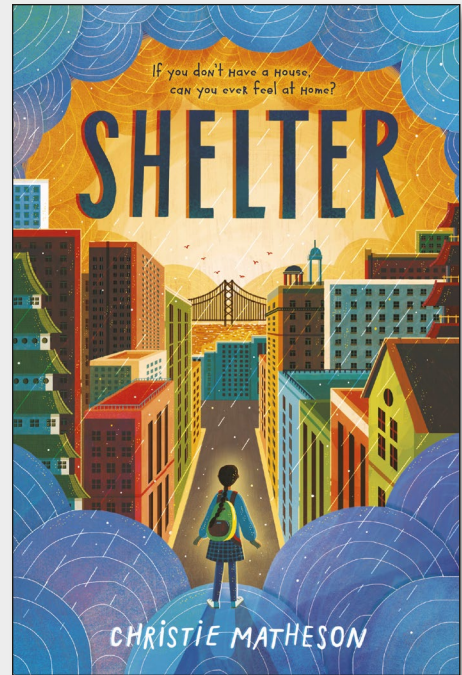
MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Shelter* by Christie Matheson
- Epigraph Analysis Chart: And I Quote

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Provide students with a copy of the Epigraph Analysis Chart: And I Quote.
- Step 2:** Discuss the definition of an epigraph and how authors use them to connect to readers and to themes within texts.
- Step 3:** Students will identify the quote at the beginning of Chapter 3: School Time.

Finding Your Place in the World: *Lessons for Reading and Writing*



SUMMARY

While ten-year-old Maya attends an elite private school on scholarship, her classmates are unaware that she and her family are living in a homeless shelter. On one poignant day, Maya discovers having a house is not the only way to have a home.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION *(cont'd)*

- Step 4:** Begin thinking aloud with students and determine what elements from chapter 3 connect to Eleanor Roosevelt and her quote. Record ideas in the chart.
- Step 5:** Allow students to work with a partner to determine additional connections.
- Step 6:** After all ideas are shared, allow students to synthesize their thoughts on the connections between the quote, historical figure, and theme into one or two sentences.

“And I Quote...”

Epigraph: A famous quote at the beginning of text.

Purpose: Authors use quotes from other famous individuals to connect to an overarching theme of the text.

Chapter 3: School Time

“You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” —Eleanor Roosevelt

My notes about who Eleanor Roosevelt was:

Evidence from Chapter 3 Supporting the Quote:

Maya knows she should tell Abby that they lost their home and her family is living in a shelter. *p 33*

Taking care of Abby’s younger sister who was born with cerebral palsy. *p 33*

Connections to the Quote and Eleanor Roosevelt:

Eleanor Roosevelt and Maya are both shy. *p 31*

Quote and Theme Connections: