

Creative Thinking Grid – *Out of the Dust*

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<i>Out of the Dust</i> by Karen Hesse	Brainwrite	Connect	Creative Problem Solving	Create	Elaborate
Character Development	Two women who are important to Billie Jo are her mother and her teacher, Miss Freeland. Brainwrite a list of reasons why this is so.	Connect Pa to a skunk, an oven, Fairview School, and yourself.	Solve the problem of healing Billie Jo’s burned hands.	Create a caricature of Billie Jo or Mad Dog.	Elaborate on the character of Mad Dog Craddock. Use the “Wheel of Words” graphic organizer.
Themes	Generate a list of themes you feel are applicable to this story.	Connect the big idea of family to a hamster, a marble, the Atlantic Ocean, and yourself.	Solve the dilemma that Billie Jo faces about getting “out of the dust”.	Create a power point presentation on one of the following themes in the book: family, courage, growth and change, forgiveness or healing. (Students would be given a rubric for this assignment.)	Elaborate on the theme of “courage”.
Problems Conflicts	Brainstorm the inter- personal conflicts that exist in this story; i.e. Billie Jo vs. Pa.	Connect the dust storms that come and go to a lizard, a skateboard, Fenway Park, and yourself.	Solve the problem that exist for the homeless family that stays at Billie Jo’s school.	Create an iMovie that dramatizes one of the problems or conflicts in the story.	Elaborate on grief and what it feels like to grieve over someone or something.
Setting	Generate a list of natural phenomena related to the setting that affect this story.	In what ways is the Great Depression like a cat, a lawnmower, Disneyland, and yourself?	After the drought is over in the Dust Bowl States, solve the problem the farmers face to make the land bountiful again.	Create a diagram that shows the chain of events that led to the dust storms, and measures that helped the storms end.	Elaborate on the changing environmental conditions that became apparent in July of 1934.

Point of View	Brainstorm the causes of the Dust Bowl from the POV of a wheat farmer living in Joyce City, Oklahoma.	Connect Billie Jo's POV of the President's Ball to a dog, a shovel, Old Orchard Beach and you.	From Louise's POV, solve the problem or being a stepmother.	Create a booklet of 3 or 4 free verse poems about your own life from your POV.	Elaborate on Miss Freeland's POV in the poem "The Path of Our Sorrow" on page 83.