

## The Phantom Tollbooth

**Directions: Select one of the extension activities from below. Be prepared to present your activity to the class.**

1. King Azaz had five remarkable ministers who never used one word when five would do. They each repeated the same idea using synonyms. Out in the real world, we can use a thesaurus to find the same kinds of words that have similar meanings. Using less common words can add interest to writing and allow you to express exactly the right thought. It also prevents us from overusing plain, common words. Use a thesaurus to find five synonyms for these common words, just as the king's ministers do: said, blue, round, fat, thin, went, try, saw, tall, big. Now, you should have fifty great words to choose from! Pick one from each group and work it into a sentence.
2. Norton Juster has a very descriptive writing style. Find ten examples of similes and ten examples of metaphors from the book.
3. The Whether Man wasn't the usual sort of meteorologist. The book's author made a play on words based on homonyms, the words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. Many jokes and riddles rely on the same type of humor. Grab a few joke books and find ten riddles or jokes that rely on homonyms for their laughs. Make a poster to show the jokes you found.
4. The Mathmagician claimed to have a Magic Pencil that could perform all kinds of tricks. He made things disappear, multiply himself, and much more. Real pencils are pretty magical too, when you think about them. Write an essay to persuade your audience that pencils are the most important tools ever invented.
5. Challenge students to create a vocabulary lesson to teach to their peers based on the Phantom Tollbooth. Choose twenty words from the text to teach and make at least three worksheets or games that students could use to practice them.
6. Write the story of what happened to the tollbooth after it disappeared from Milo's room. Who used it next? Where did it go and what adventures happened?

7. Create a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast King Azaz with the Mathmagician.
8. Write down fifteen plot events in proper sequence from the story.
9. Create a collage of a character from the book. Start with a drawing of your character. Then add words, pictures, phrases cut out from a magazine that describe the character you selected. Write a paragraph to describe why you chose the pictures/words/phrases for your character. Provide evidence from the text to support your claims.