

◆◆◆ **THE GREAT BRAIN** ◆◆◆

**COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY:** *The Great Brain* by John Fitzgerald is represented by the abbreviation **GB**. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first lines of the week's daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **DAY 1**, **DAY 2**, **DAY 3** and **DAY 4** abbreviations. **The chapter study questions, chapter vocabulary and glossary are located in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklets available for purchase from Kolbe Academy.** Answers should be given in complete written or oral sentences. We suggest reading the weekly written assignment to the student at the beginning of the week. The student should write the assignment down on a note card (to be used as a bookmark) so that he can think about the assignment as he reads. The written assignments are suggested to be started on Thursday after the reading is done and completed by the following Monday. As the teacher, be sure to review the final exam **now** to ensure all concepts are covered with your student as he reads the book.

*The Great Brain* was written in 1967 and is based on the narrator's childhood in Utah. It is about the exploits of a clever 10-year-old boy, from the perspective of his younger brother. This ten year old boy manages to swindle money out of everyone in town, until he finally learns that he can use his "great brain" to help people without wanting to be paid back.

**Extra Credit for the Course:**

Research Utah history and write a report on it, explaining how the setting of this book fits in with what you have learned.

**Characters:**

**John Fitzgerald:** The narrator, who is 8 years old and easily influenced by Tom

**Tom Fitzgerald:** The 10-year-old who possesses the "great brain"

**Sweyn Fitzgerald:** The oldest Fitzgerald, age 12, who manages to elude most of Tom's tricks, but cannot stop him from doing them

**Papa:** The boys' father, who is editor of the town paper

**Mamma:** The boys' wise and kind mother

**Aunt Bertha:** The woman who lives in their house and helps Mamma

**Miss Thatcher:** The old teacher at the town schoolhouse

**Frank and Allan Jensen:** The boys who get lost in Skeleton Cave

**Uncle Mark:** Papa's brother-in-law, the town marshal

**Abie Glassman:** The traveling Jewish peddler who sets up a variety store in town

**Vassillios (Basil) Kokovinis:** The Greek immigrant boy

**Sammy Leeds:** The town bully

**Mr. Kokovinis:** Basil's father, who owns a cafe in town

**Mr. Standish:** The new teacher, who is very strict

**Andy Anderson:** The boy who loses his leg because of gangrene

◆ COURSE PLAN ◆

WEEK 1				
Book	Weekly Breakdown	Goals and Notes for the Week		
GB	Chapter 1 -2	Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 1-2 in the glossary prior to reading. Have the student put the vocabulary words in alphabetical order, look them up in the dictionary, and finally write each in a sentence. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or on Wednesday when reading has been completed.		
Notes				
Student Daily Assignments		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parent Daily Guidelines	
DAY 1	GB Chapter 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the student <b>read Chapter 1. Chapter 1.</b> The boys find out that their family is going to have the first water closet in town. Tom charges the kids in town to watch the cesspool being dug. When the water closet actually arrives, half the town shows up in their yard. All the neighbors think that it won't work, but it does. Tom tries to charge the kids to see the water closet at work, but Mamma puts a stop to that.	
DAY 2	GB Chapter 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the student <b>read Chapter 2. Chapter 2.</b> Sweyn comes down with the measles, so Mamma makes the other boys catch the illness too so that they all get it over with at once. John hates being sick when the others have recovered, so he decides to catch mumps first. He sneaks into his friend's house and gets the mumps from him. When they get the mumps, his brothers are so angry that they refuse to speak to him. John cannot stand this, so he gives Tom the Indian beaded belt he had gotten for his birthday in order to get Tom to speak to him again.	
DAY 3	GB Chapter 1 & 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the student <b>answer the Study Questions for Chapters 1 and 2.</b>	
DAY 4	GB Written Assignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the student complete the written assignment in a minimum of 1 paragraph, due Monday. <b>Written Assignment:</b> Describe the aspects of Papa and Mamma's parenting technique mentioned in these chapters. Do you think they are good parents? Why?	
Week 1 Grade Book				
Assignments	Include <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(A) Points Earned	(B) Possible Points	A/B x100 =% (C)
Glossary Sentences	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Study Questions	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Written Assignment	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Week 1 Average</b>	<b>Add up column C &amp; divide by number of included <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> assignments =</b>			<b>%</b>