

# Media Masters Rock – BONUS LESSON Study Guide

**Critical Thinking Characters: Think First Before You Click!**

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade

**Length:** 25–35 minutes

## Alabama DLCS Alignment (Grade 4)

- **4.DL.1** – Demonstrate safe, ethical, and responsible digital behavior
- **4.DL.2** – Evaluate digital content for accuracy, relevance, and truthfulness
- **4.CC.1** – Apply critical thinking skills to distinguish facts, opinions, and misleading information
- **4.CC.2** – Analyze the motivations behind online posts
- **4.RA.1** – Use self-regulation when responding to online content

### Before Watching the Video

#### **Teacher/Librarian Says:**

“Today we’re meeting the Critical Thinking Characters — each one makes a different mistake online. Your job is to spot their mistake, understand WHY it’s a mistake, and identify the Media Master Move that fixes it. Fourth graders are old enough to understand not just *what* happened, but *why it matters*.”

#### **Ask:**

- “Why do people sometimes believe things online without checking?”
- “Which character do you think YOU might be most similar to?”
- “Why are thinking mistakes dangerous on the internet?”

### Watch the Video

**Title:** BONUS LESSON – *Critical Thinking Characters: Think First Before You Click*

**Run Time:** 2–4 minutes

#### **Listening Focus for Grade 4:**

“Listen for each character’s problem AND the reason it’s harmful. Also listen for the Media Master Move that would prevent the mistake.”



## After Watching – Discussion Questions

1. “Which character’s mistake do you think happens the most often online?”
2. “Why is reacting too fast (like Captain Knee-Jerk) risky?”
3. “Why is sharing before checking (like Re-Post Robot) harmful?”
4. “Why do people believe clickbait headlines like Headline Harry?”
5. “Which Media Master Move do you think you already use?”
6. “Which one do you need to practice more?”

Encourage students to use reasoning such as:

- “Because it can spread misinformation.”
- “Because being unkind online can hurt real people.”
- “Because memes don’t always tell the whole truth.”

### \*\* Activity:

Critical Thinking Characters — Identify, Explain, Fix!\*\*

**Objective:** Recognize thinking errors + apply Media Master strategies.

**Materials:** Pencil, worksheet, or notebook

### Part 1 – Identify the Thinking Mistake

Provide students this list:

#### Characters

- Scroll Zombie Zack
- Captain Knee-Jerk
- Go-With-The-Flow Flo
- Re-Post Robot
- Mean Maddy
- Meme Believer Cassy
- Headline Harry
- Overconfident Ollie
- Snap Judgment Sammy
- Everyone Says Ellie
- Echo Chamber Chad

**Student Task:**

Choose **three** characters and explain each one's mistake in a complete sentence.

Example:

“Re-Post Robot shared a rumor without checking if it was true.”

## Part 2 – Explain Why the Mistake Is a Problem

For the same three characters, answer:

**“Why is this mistake harmful?”**

Examples:

- “Because sharing lies makes the internet worse.”
- “Because copying trends without thinking can be unsafe.”
- “Because making assumptions hurts people.”

## Part 3 – Fix It With a Media Master Move

Students choose the correct Media Master Move and write it as advice:

Media Master Moves:

- Pause and think first.
- Check before you share.
- Choose kindness over clicks.
- Take breaks — you control your screen.
- Be curious — ask questions.
- Read the whole article, not just the title.
- Listen to different opinions.

**Student Task:**

Write a “Fix-It Sentence” for each character:

“\_\_\_\_\_ can fix their mistake by \_\_\_\_\_. This makes them a Media Master.”

## \*\* Extension Challenge (Optional):

Create a New Character!\*\*

**Instructions:**

Have students invent their own Critical Thinking Character:

They must include:

1. The character's name
2. The thinking mistake
3. Why it's harmful
4. The Media Master Move that fixes it
5. A small drawing (optional)

Examples:

- "Gullible Gary — believes anything people tell him online."
- "Instant-Answer Ava — comments without reading the full post."

This allows deeper understanding and creativity.



## Wrap-Up

### Teacher/Librarian Says:

"Every one of these characters made a thinking mistake — but you learned how to turn mistakes into smart choices. When you **THINK FIRST**, **CHECK FOR TRUTH**, and **CHOOSE KINDNESS**, you make the internet safer for everyone."

### Call-and-Response:

Teacher: "When you see something online..."

Students: "**THINK FIRST!**"

Teacher: "Before you share..."

Students: "**CHECK FOR TRUTH!**"

Teacher: "And when you post..."

Students: "**CHOOSE KINDNESS!**"

"You're becoming real Media Masters — smart thinkers make the internet better!"

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