

# Media Masters Rock – BONUS LESSON Study Guide

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

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade

**Length:** 30–35 minutes

## Alabama DLCS Alignment (Grade 5)

- **5.DL.1** – Demonstrate safe, ethical, and responsible digital behavior in increasingly complex online environments
- **5.DL.2** – Evaluate digital content for credibility, truthfulness, and the creator’s purpose
- **5.CC.1** – Apply critical thinking to detect misleading, biased, or incomplete digital information
- **5.CC.2** – Explain how motivations like money, fame, and popularity influence online content
- **5.RA.1** – Use self-regulation when responding to emotional or confusing online material

## Before Watching the Video

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

“Fifth graders are online more than ever — and that means you’ll see things that are real, not real, harmful, silly, or even designed to trick you. Today we’ll meet the Critical Thinking Characters — each one makes a different mistake online — and your job is to identify WHY they made it and how a Media Master fixes it.”

### **Ask:**

- “Why do you think people fall for online tricks?”
- “Which thinking mistake do YOU think students your age struggle with the most?”
- “What does it mean to ‘check for truth’ online?”

Encourage deeper discussion (students can share experiences).

## Watch the Video

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

**Run Time:** 2–4 minutes

### **Listening Focus for Grade 5:**

“Listen for the THINKING MISTAKE, the CONSEQUENCE of that mistake, and the MEDIA MASTER MOVE that would fix it.”



## After Watching – Discussion Questions

- 1. Which character’s mistake causes the most harm if it spreads? Why?**
- 2. Which character do you think represents a real issue on today’s internet?**
- 3. Why is being a ‘Scroll Zombie’ dangerous even if you don’t post anything?**
- 4. Why is ‘Everyone Says Ellie’ an example of popularity bias?**
- 5. How might Headline Harry accidentally spread misinformation?**
- 6. Which Media Master Move do you think will matter most in middle school?**

Encourage students to support answers with reasoning:

- “Because it spreads lies quickly.”
- “Because it hurts people’s feelings and reputation.”
- “Because people trust headlines without checking facts.”



## Activity:

Critical Thinking Case Files (Analysis + Fix-It Work)\*\*

### **Objective:**

Recognize thinking errors, analyze consequences, and apply Media Master strategies.

**Materials:** Notebook or worksheet

## PART 1 – Character Analysis

Provide this list (or project it):

**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 **four** characters. For each character, write:

1. **The Thinking Mistake** (what they did wrong)
2. **Why They Did It** (their motive, emotion, or assumption)
3. **The Consequence** (harm, confusion, misinformation, unkindness)

Example:

“Re-Post Robot shared something without checking. He wanted to share fast. The consequence is spreading lies to lots of people.”

## PART 2 – Fix It with a Media Master Move

Media Master Moves:

- Pause and reflect
- Check before you share
- Choose kindness, not clicks
- Ask questions (Who made this? Why?)
- Read the whole article, not just the title
- Get information from more than one source
- Listen to different viewpoints
- Take breaks — control your screen time

**Student Task:**

For each character analyzed, write the correct Media Master Move AND explain why it works.

Example:

“Headline Harry should read the whole story. This works because headlines can be misleading.”

## **PART 3 – Real-Life Reflection**

Students answer:

**“Which of these thinking mistakes have YOU seen online (or in real life)? What Media Master Move would fix it?”**

Answer should be 3–5 sentences.

Encourage real examples:

- Fake challenges
- Misleading memes
- Edited videos
- Rumors in group chats

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

Create Your Own Critical Thinking Character\*\*

**Student Task:**

Invent a new character showing another real-life online mistake.

They must include:

1. **Character Name**
2. **Mistake They Make**
3. **Why They Make It**
4. **The Consequence**
5. **The Media Master Move That Fixes It**

6. (Optional) A drawing

Example:

**“Screenshot Steve — believes everything if it comes as a screenshot. Media Master Move: Look for real sources and check for context.”**



## Wrap-Up

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

“You now understand the thinking mistakes people make online — and even better, how to fix them! Remember: THINK FIRST before you click, CHECK FOR TRUTH before you share, and CHOOSE KINDNESS every time you post.”

### **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 true Media Masters — and smart thinkers make the internet better!”

###