

Activities for *Not Nothing* by Gayle Forman

One Book for Nebraska Teens 2026

- Sewing came up several times in the book, and Josey notes that it saved his life. Provide an opportunity for students to create and sew a patch or some other item.
- Challenge the students to write a paragraph that inserts another teen character into the book – why would they be there, what qualities do they have, and would they support Alex and Josey or not? Or:
 - Write a one paragraph story about a side character in the book. For example, spend a day with that character. What might your day look like?
- Have the students select a paragraph or two from the book and create their own Mad Libs page with it. They can challenge each other to be very silly, or to see how close they can get to the actual quote.
- Ask the students to create a puzzle page or other activity that relates to the book but is something we haven't offered before (or not offered lately).
- Take a look at the book: *Ten Word Tiny Tales*. Challenge the students to write a ten-word tale about someone or something in the book. Ten words is much more restrictive than a paragraph!
- Round Robin, write a sentence and then pass to next person. At the end, take turns reading the stories that were created.
- “Would You Rather” scenarios:
 - Ask the students to write a “Would You Rather” choice that relates to the book. If they are willing, read some aloud for the student to make their choices.
 - Example:
 - Would You Rather spend your summer working with Maya-Jade at the nursing home or painting houses outside in the hot sun?