A River Runs Through It
MAGIC SQUARES

PURPOSE: A way to make a vocabulary activity come alive is the magic square. The magic square is an arrangement of numbers that can be added across, down, or diagonally, and will always equal the same sum.

DIRECTIONS: Teachers can construct vocabulary exercises by having students match a lettered column of words to a numbered column of definitions. Letters on each square of the grid match the lettered words. Students try to find the magic number by matching the correct word and definition and entering the number in the appropriate square on the grid. The vocabulary for this worksheet is taken from the first thirteen pages of A River Runs Through It, and should be used as students begin the novel as these are terms the students will see throughout the novel. This activity can be done in class or as homework. Depending on the age of students and if they have to look up the definition of each word, this activity could take between 5 and 20 minutes.

COMPLETING THE MAGIC SQUARE: Select from the numbered statements the best match for each vocabulary word. Put the number in the proper space. The total of the numbers will be the same across each row and down each column. Find the magic number.

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A. Catechism 1. to follow a winding path
B. Omitting 2. designed for to a particular function or use
C. Metronome 3. an insulting or abusive word or expression.
D. Angler 4. a person who fishes with a hook and line.
E. Functional 5. to fail to do, make, use, etc.
F. Inevitable 6. principles of right conduct
G. Evidently 7. according to the evidence available
H. Diverted 8. breaking up the surface of
I. Invective 9. a mechanical or electrical instrument that makes repeated clicking sounds for marking rhythm, esp. in practicing music.
J. Hostile 10. pertaining to an enemy; not friendly, warm, or generous
K. Morals 11. unable to be avoided; sure to happen
L. Insurmountable 12. to form an idea of
M. Accustom 13. to become familiar with
N. Scarifying 14. to draw off to a different course or purpose
O. Conceive 15. impossible to overcome
P. Meandering 16. an elementary book with a summary of the principles of the Christian religion in the form of questions and answers.

Carter - BYU – 2008
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