



Lesson Plan

Grade: _____

Subject: ELA _____

Date: _____

Topic: Story Elements

Lesson: Identify and Explain
Story Elements

Standards

- **RL.8.3:** Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- **RL.9-10.3:** Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to identify and analyze key elements of a story (setting, plot, characters, conflict, and theme) and explain how they interact to create a cohesive narrative.

Language Objectives

- Students will effectively use and understand specific academic vocabulary related to story elements (such as "plot," "setting," "characters," "conflict," and "theme") in reading and interpreting various short stories or excerpts. This includes identifying and explaining these story elements in their own words.

Marzano's High Yield Strategies

Identifying similarities and differences, reinforcing effort and providing recognition, nonlinguistic representations, cooperative learning.

Essential Question

How do the different elements of a story work together to create a compelling and cohesive narrative?

Possible Assessments

1. **Formative:** Monitor student understanding during the guided practice activity. Provide feedback and assistance as necessary.
2. **Summative:** Collect the independent practice worksheets for assessment. The students should be able to identify and explain each story element in their chosen book.



Activities

I. Anticipatory Set (5 minutes)

Start the lesson by asking students about their favorite movies or books, letting them share briefly why they love them. Draw connections between their explanations and the elements of a story, without explicitly mentioning the terms yet.

II. Direct Instruction (20 minutes)

1. PowerPoint Presentation: Introduce the story elements using a PowerPoint presentation. Define and discuss each element (setting, characters, plot, conflict, and theme) with examples from popular books or movies that most students would be familiar with.
2. Modeling: Model the process of identifying these elements in a story using a short text. Read it aloud and demonstrate how to find each element in the text.

III. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Divide the students into small groups and distribute different short stories. Ask each group to identify the story elements in their assigned texts, using sticky notes to mark the sections in the text where these elements appear.

IV. Independent Practice (15 minutes)

After the group activity, ask each student to choose their own book (it could be a book they are currently reading for pleasure, or a book from the class reading list). Give them time to identify the story elements in their chosen book.

V. Closure (5 minutes)

Wrap up the lesson by asking several students to share their findings from the independent practice activity. Emphasize how understanding story elements can enrich their reading experience.

Materials

Whiteboard/Blackboard
Markers/Chalk
Projector/Computer for PowerPoint presentation
Handouts of short stories (can be excerpts from novels)
Worksheets for group activity
Sticky notes



Possible Scaffolds

For EL Students:

1. **Glossary of Key Terms:** Provide a list of vocabulary words related to story elements, along with their definitions and examples. You could also include translations into their native language to assist comprehension.
2. **Visual Aids:** Use visual aids, like diagrams, charts, or images to help explain story elements. Visuals can be extremely helpful for EL students in understanding new concepts.
3. **Pair Work:** Pair EL students with English-proficient peers during group activities. This can provide additional language support and make EL students feel more comfortable participating.

For SPED Students:

1. **Graphic Organizers:** Provide graphic organizers to help SPED students structure their thoughts and analysis of the story elements. This can be especially helpful for students with organizational difficulties.
2. **Modified Texts:** Use modified texts that are more accessible for students with reading difficulties. These might have simpler language or be shorter in length.
3. **Additional Time:** Allow extra time for reading and assignments. This can be especially beneficial for students with processing or attention difficulties.
4. **Check for Understanding:** Regularly check in with SPED students to ensure they understand the material. This might be through one-on-one discussions, written reflections, or other methods of formative assessment.

Other Lesson Suggestions

1. **Create a Story:** Students use their understanding of story elements to create their own short story. This could be a written narrative, a comic strip, or even a short video.
2. **Storyboarding:** Students illustrate the story elements of a selected text in the form of a storyboard. This would allow them to visually represent the setting, plot progression, character interactions, conflict, and theme.
3. **Character Diary Entries:** Students choose a character from a story and write diary entries from their perspective. This would help deepen their understanding of character development and perspective.
4. **Literature Circles:** In small groups, students have literature circle discussions about a book they've all read. Each student could have a role related to a story element, such as the "setting sleuth" or the "character captain".
5. **Book/Movie Comparison:** Students compare a book and its movie adaptation, focusing on how the story elements are presented in each medium. This would promote critical thinking about how stories can be told in different ways.
6. **Exploring Themes:** Students explore the themes of a story in greater depth, perhaps relating them to their own lives or current events. This could lead to a class discussion, a presentation, or a reflective essay.