Unit 3: Joyland and the Struggle With Others

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s):
Time Period: **November**
Length: **10 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

A classic bildungsroman combined with the elements of a murder mystery provide the backdrop for a long look at relationship struggles and victories.

Enduring Understandings

- The Bildungsroman presents a coming of age story that is rich with character development and mental/physical struggle.
- Modern Horror presents themes of psychological alienation; the human is alone in an absurd universe.
- The setting of a work of horror can add tremendous depth to the tension and mood of the story - this is incredibly true in the North Carolina coastal setting of *Joyland*.
- Oftentimes character interaction can provide misleading clues, as evidenced by some of the red herrings present in this novel.

Essential Questions

- What aspects of *Joyland* lend itself to the genre of bildungsroman and how is Devin a prime example of the protagonist of such a work?
- What elements of the mystery genre are present in *Joyland*?
- In what ways is "carny" speak both helpful (to the employees) and derogatory (to the patrons)?
- In what ways does Stephen King's personal life intersect with his literature?
- Though *Joyland* is not a classic work of horror, what subgenres appear throughout the work?

Content

Works of Study

- *Joyland*
- *The Stephen King Companion: Four Decades of Fear From the Master of Horror*
- Excerpts from *American Horror Story*: Season Four - Freak Show
- Excerpts from *Creepshow* 1 and 2 (collaborative film efforts by Stephen King and George Romero)
- Excerpts from *The Dead Zone* and *Silver Bullet* when applicable to text (in this order it works because we meet the fortune teller in the beginning and the handicapped child Mike a little over halfway

through).

Skills

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases (some noted above in the vocabulary section) as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text.
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text (after modeling of one by teacher) and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story (in this case mystery/horror).
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (in the case of Joyland, the presentation of characters, clues, and other details regarding the murder mystery).
- Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events (in this case, it will be the original mystery writing).