

Unit 5: Reading Fiction - Character Studies

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **Reading 3, Writing 3**
Time Period: **March**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Summary

Year after year, children get hooked into reading by reading series books. This unit will take advantage of that natural draw and support students in reading with volume, all the while pushing them to deeper comprehension, particularly around characters. This unit is designed as a partnership unit, in which students will choose to read a series with a book buddy. Readers will set goals for reading in class and at home, take notes to prepare for book talks. They will hold each other accountable for using textual evidence to support ideas. As students read across a series, they will learn to compare and contrast books.

Standards

LA.RL.3.1	Ask and answer questions, and make relevant connections to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
LA.RL.3.2	Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message/theme, lesson, or moral and explain how it is revealed through key details in the text.
LA.RL.3.3	Describe the characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the plot.
LA.RL.3.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
LA.RL.3.5	Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.
LA.RL.3.6	Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
LA.SL.3.1.A	Explicitly draw on previously read text or material and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.3.1.C	Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
LA.SL.3.1.D	Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
LA.SL.3.4	Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.
LA.SL.3.6	Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.

Student Learning Objectives

Students will learn to....

- use more precise vocabulary when describing characters.
- develop theories about characters.
- compare and contrast characters across a series.

- compare and contrast literary elements across series.
- identify the lessons taught within and across a series.
- read a book in a partnership setting independent goals.
- prepare for a book talk.
- identify patterns across a series.

Essential Questions

How can I grow ideas about characters as I read across books in a series?

How can I live inside the world of the story?

What lessons can readers learn from characters?

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand that...

- series readers grow theories about characters.
- series readers look for patterns in their books - sometimes these patterns are related to the way the books go, sometimes these patterns are related to the way the characters feel or act.
- series readers carry patterns from one book to the next book.

Application

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- talk with partners about books.
- use text evidence when discussing characters.
- read independently for sustained periods of time.
- stop and jot in a reader's notebook to prepare for book talk.
- draw upon a variety of precise words to describe characters.

Skills

Students will be skilled at ...

- discussing books in a series.
- inferring character traits.
- using text evidence to support opinions.

