

Critical Concepts 6.2B Literary Lesson Plans

Skill Focus: CC.6.2 – Determine a theme or central idea and how it is conveyed through key details; summarize the text objectively.

Vocabulary:

- Theme
- Central Idea
- Convey
- Distinct
- Summary
- Opinion
- Judgement
- Key Details

October Lesson Objectives

- Students will identify a theme or central idea in a literary text.
- Students will determine how key details convey that theme or idea.
- Students will summarize the text objectively, avoiding personal opinions or judgments.
- Students will apply academic vocabulary in discussion and writing.

Fiction Texts for October (text selections are suggestion only, teachers can change the text to fit their classroom needs, if choosing another text it should come from the Educational Epiphany Curriculum)

- *"The Wind in the Willows"*
- *"Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz"*
- *"The Willow-Wren and the Bear"*
- *"How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin"*

Graphic Organizer: Refer to your Educational Epiphany Critical Concepts Binder: Graphic Organizers Tab: CC 6.2B pages 21-24

I Do (Teacher Model – 15 mins)

Text: *"The Wind in the Willows"* (excerpt by Kenneth Grahame)

Steps:

- Distribute CC 6.2B Graphic Organizer.

- Review vocabulary: theme, central idea, convey, key details, summary, distinct, opinion, judgment.
- Read aloud a section describing the friendship between Mole and Rat as they explore the river.
- Model how to identify the theme and support it with key details.

Sample Teacher Think-Aloud:

- Theme or Central Idea: True friendship is built through shared experiences and kindness.
- Key Details:
 - Mole is nervous about the river, but Rat reassures him kindly.
 - They laugh and enjoy the beauty of nature together.
 - Rat invites Mole into his home.
 - They spend the day talking and sharing stories.
- **Summary:**
The excerpt from *The Wind in the Willows* shows how Mole and Rat develop a close friendship through kindness, shared time, and new experiences. Their relationship highlights the theme that friendship grows stronger through acts of caring and connection.

We Do (Guided Practice – 20 mins)

Text: “Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz” (excerpt by L. Frank Baum)

Steps:

- Read aloud an excerpt where Dorothy and the Wizard face a challenge but remain hopeful and work together.
- As a class, complete the CC 6.2B Graphic Organizer.

Sample Class Response:

- Theme or Central Idea: Working together and staying hopeful helps people overcome difficult situations.
- Key Details:
 - Dorothy trusts the Wizard even in a strange, scary situation.
 - They plan a way to escape together.
 - The characters encourage each other.
 - Despite fear, they stay calm and use teamwork.
- **Summary:**
In this excerpt, Dorothy and the Wizard rely on each other to face a dangerous situation.

Their cooperation and trust support the theme that hope and teamwork can lead to success, even in challenging times.

You Do with Partner (Collaborative Practice – 30 mins)

Text: *"The Willow-Wren and the Bear"* (Grimm Brothers)

Steps:

- Pairs read the fairy tale together.
- Partners complete the CC 6.2B Graphic Organizer, focusing on how the theme is conveyed through key story events.

Possible Partner Response:

- Theme or Central Idea: Even the smallest and seemingly weakest can be powerful when underestimated.
- Key Details:
 - The bear insults the small birds.
 - The willow-wren organizes other birds to fight back.
 - The bear is defeated despite his size.
 - The story ends with the bear learning a lesson.
- **Summary:**
This fairy tale shows that strength doesn't always come from size. When the bear mocks the small birds, they unite and defeat him, showing that cleverness and teamwork can triumph over brute force.

You Do Independently (Homework or In-Class Practice)

Text: *"How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin"* by Rudyard Kipling

Task:

- Students read the excerpt independently.
- Complete CC 6.2B Graphic Organizer, identifying the theme and supporting details.

Expected Response:

- Theme or Central Idea: Actions have consequences, and rudeness can lead to trouble.
- Key Details:
 - The Rhinoceros is rude and doesn't apologize.
 - He ignores the man's request.
 - As revenge, the man plays a trick on him.
 - The Rhino ends up uncomfortable because of his actions.
- **Summary:**
The story teaches a lesson about how being rude and inconsiderate can lead to trouble.

The rhinoceros learns the hard way that how you treat others affects how you are treated in return.

Watsons Go To Birmingham Writing Prompt

In *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* – 1963, Kenny and his family face difficult situations, but they find ways to move forward using hope, love, and resilience. Compare the Watsons' experience to the characters in *The Wind in the Willows* or *Dorothy and the Wizard in Oz*. How do these characters show a similar theme? Use text evidence from both *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* – 1963 and one of the literary texts to support your response.