

Critical Concepts 7.2B Literary Lesson Plans

Skill Focus: Determining the theme or central idea in a text, analyzing its development over the course of the text, and providing an objective summary.

Vocabulary: theme, central idea, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, summary

October Lesson Objectives (SWBAT):

1. SWBAT determine the theme or central idea in a literary text.
2. SWBAT analyze how the theme or central idea develops through exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
3. SWBAT provide an objective summary of a literary text using academic vocabulary accurately.

Literary Texts Suggestions 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)

- *To the Daisy* by William Wordsworth
- *Alice's Adventures Underground* by Lewis Carroll (excerpt)
- *The Whole History of Grandfather's Chair* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *The Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key

Graphic Organizer: Citing Evidence Refer to your Educational Epiphany Critical Concepts Binder: Graphic Organizers Tab: CC 7.2B-1 (pages 29-32 in the Graphic Organizers Tab)

I Do (Teacher Model – 15 mins)

Text: *To the Daisy* by William Wordsworth

Steps:

1. Distribute the CC7.2B-1 graphic organizer.
2. Review the word bank and discuss definitions of theme, central idea, and story elements (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).
3. Read the first stanza aloud.

Teacher Think-Aloud Example:

- *Theme/Central Idea:* "As I read, I notice Wordsworth often praises the simple beauty of nature. I can infer that a central idea is the admiration of natural beauty and its impact on human emotions."
- *Exposition:* "In the opening stanza, the poet introduces a scene with a daisy in a field. This sets the stage for the poem's exploration of nature and innocence."

- *Rising Action*: "The next lines describe the daisy's growth and interaction with its surroundings. I see the poet building on the initial scene, showing the development of his reflection."
- *Climax*: "The poet reflects on a profound insight about life and nature, highlighting the emotional peak of the poem."
- *Falling Action*: "The subsequent lines bring the reflection back toward everyday observation, resolving the tension created in the climax."
- *Resolution*: "The poem ends with a concluding thought that ties the theme together: nature provides quiet joy and understanding."

Sample Student Graphic Organizer Response:

Section	Response
Theme / Central Idea	Admiration of nature and its impact on human emotions
Exposition	Introduction of a daisy in the field, showing nature's simplicity
Rising Action	Description of the daisy's growth and interaction with surroundings
Climax	Reflection on life and nature's significance
Falling Action	Returning to everyday observation of nature
Resolution	Concluding thought that nature provides joy and understanding

We Do (Guided Practice – 20 mins)

Text: *Alice's Adventures Underground* by Lewis Carroll (excerpt)

Steps:

1. Read the first several paragraphs aloud together.
2. Ask students:
 - What is the theme or central idea so far?
 - How is the theme developing through the story elements?

Teacher Think-Aloud:

- "I notice Alice's curiosity drives the story forward. This suggests that the theme could be curiosity leading to self-discovery. Let's find text evidence to support that."
- "The falling action shows Alice solving problems in Wonderland, which develops our understanding of the theme."

Sample Class Response:

Section	Response
---------	----------

Theme / Central Idea	Curiosity and exploration lead to self-discovery
Exposition	Alice is introduced and sees the rabbit hole
Rising Action	Alice follows the rabbit and discovers Wonderland
Climax	Alice confronts the challenges in Wonderland
Falling Action	Alice navigates her way through the obstacles
Resolution	Alice gains understanding and learns from her adventure

You Do with Partner (Collaborative Practice – 30 mins)

Text: *The Whole History of Grandfather's Chair* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (excerpt)

Steps:

1. Partners read the excerpt together.
2. Complete the graphic organizer collaboratively.
3. Teacher circulates, asking guiding questions:
 - "What is the main message or lesson of the story?"
 - "Which details in each section support the theme?"

Teacher Think-Aloud:

"I notice the chair is passed through generations. This suggests a theme of family heritage and continuity. Partners, discuss and write your responses."

Sample Possible Partner Response:

Section	Response
Theme / Central Idea	Family legacy and the passage of time
Exposition	Introduction of the grandfather's chair and its significance
Rising Action	Stories shared by family members over time
Climax	A key event where the chair represents wisdom or tradition
Falling Action	Family members reflect on the chair's history
Resolution	Chair symbolizes the continuity of family values

You Do Independently

Text: *The Star Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key

Steps:

1. Students read the text individually and complete the CC7.2B-1 graphic organizer.
2. **Teacher Think-Aloud** (preview before independent work):
"I notice repeated references to the flag surviving battle. This suggests a theme of perseverance and national pride. Look at each stanza to see how the theme develops through exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution."

Sample Independent Response:

Section	Response
Theme / Central Idea	Perseverance and national pride
Exposition	Introduction of the battle and flag
Rising Action	Descriptions of the attack and conflict
Climax	The flag survives the intense bombardment
Falling Action	Observations of the aftermath of the battle
Resolution	Celebration of enduring national pride