

Critical Concepts 7.3B Literary Lesson Plans

Skill Focus: CC.7.3B – Analyzing how particular elements of a story interact.

Vocabulary Word Bank: character, conflict, plot, setting, theme

November Lesson Objectives

- SWBAT identify and describe key story elements (character, conflict, plot, setting, theme).
- SWBAT analyze how two story elements interact to influence the story.
- SWBAT use academic vocabulary accurately in written and spoken responses.

Non-Fiction Texts Suggestions for November (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 Pilot* (excerpt) – James Fenimore Cooper
- *The Shunned House* – H.P. Lovecraft
- *The Unknown Soldier* – Angela Morgan
- *The Cunning Hare* (edited) – Andrew Lang

Graphic Organizer: Citing Evidence Refer to your Educational Epiphany Critical Concepts Binder: Graphic Organizers Tab: CC 7.3B (pages 61-64 in the Graphic Organizers Tab)

I Do (Teacher Model – 15 mins)

Text: “The Pilot”

Steps:

1. Distribute CC7.3B graphic organizer.
2. Review vocabulary:

Character = the people in the story

Conflict = a struggle between forces

Plot = sequence of events

Setting = time/place

Theme = central idea or message

3. Read the text aloud.

1. Model using the graphic organizer:

- “As I read this first paragraph, I notice Natty Bumppo is making a choice during a sea battle. That’s our character. The conflict is the battle at sea.”

- "Now, how do these interact? Natty's bravery and decisions affect what happens next in the story. His actions shape the plot and influence the fate of others."

Sample Student Response (Organizer):

- Story Element 1: Character – Natty Bumppo
- Story Element 2: Conflict – Battle at sea
- Explanation: Natty's courage drives the plot forward and impacts other characters' fates, showing how character and conflict interact.

We Do (Guided Practice – 20 mins)

Text: *"The Shunned House"* – H.P. Lovecraft

Steps:

1. Read the text, alternating between teacher and student reading
2. Pause and think aloud for students, while modeling how to complete the organizer;
 - Story Element 1: Setting – abandoned house
 - Story Element 2: Theme – fear and superstition
3. Guide students in filling out the CC7.3B graphic organizer.

Teacher Think-Aloud: "I notice the house is creepy and isolated. That makes me feel tension. How does that connect to theme? The eerie setting intensifies the theme of fear and superstition. The setting affects the characters' actions and moves the plot."

Sample Class Response:

- Story Element 1: Setting – abandoned house
- Story Element 2: Theme – fear and superstition
- Explanation: The eerie setting emphasizes the theme, influencing the characters' actions and creating suspense in the plot.

You Do with Partner (Collaborative Practice – 30 mins)

Text: *"The Unknown Soldier"* – Angela Morgan

Steps:

1. Pairs read the text together.
2. Partners discuss and identify two story element interactions.
(Story Element 1: Character – soldiers Story Element 2: Theme – sacrifice and honor)
3. Fill in graphic organizer collaboratively.
4. **Teacher Think-Aloud while circulating):**
"I notice the text describes soldiers' decisions in battle. How does this relate to the theme? Their choices show sacrifice and courage. This interaction helps us understand how character and theme shape the story's meaning."

5. Confer with groups as they work.

Sample Partner Response:

- **Story Element 1:** Character – Soldiers
- **Story Element 2:** Theme – Sacrifice and honor
- **Explanation:** Soldiers' actions in battle highlight the theme, showing how their character traits reveal the story's central idea.

You Do Independently

Text: "*The Cunning Hare*" – Andrew Lang

Task: Students complete CC 7.3B graphic organizer for the article,

- Students read independently.
- Fill out the organizer

Teacher Think-Aloud (while students are working alone, if scaffolding is needed):

"As I read, I notice the hare's cleverness drives the events of the story. How do these elements interact? The plot unfolds because of the hare's actions, showing how character influences events."

- Story Element 1: Plot – hare outwitting fox
- Story Element 2: Character – clever hare

Sample Independent Response:

- Story Element 1: Plot – hare outwitting the fox
- Story Element 2: Character – clever hare
- Explanation: The hare's intelligence shapes the story's events, showing that character and plot are closely connected.