



Analyzing Theme and Author's Structure

Curriculum Area(s): Literature	
Grade Level: 9	
Time Required: Ongoing	Instructional Groupings: Whole group or small group
<p>Standards: RL.10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.</p> <p>RL.10.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.</p> <p>W.9.1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</p>	
Materials: novel, computer, blog	
Overview: To critically discuss the theme and structure of a novel.	
What will I differentiate? Novels can be based on interest and academic levels.	
How will I differentiate? Interest, learning profiles and learning environment	
As a result of this lesson/unit, students will...	
Understand: Can students critically analyze the theme and structure of a novel?	
<p>Know: Basic computer skills</p> <p>Vocabulary: theme, summary, parallel plots, flashbacks</p>	<p>Do (Skills): Using a blog, discuss the central ideas and structure of a novel.</p>
Pre-Assessment: Students will complete quizzes to check comprehension and understanding of text after each chapter.	
<p>Steps in the Lesson:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will read a novel in sections or chapters. Some example novels include <i>The Gift of the Magi</i>, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>, <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>, <i>The Great Gatsby</i>, <i>Jane Eyre</i>, <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>, and <i>The Namesake</i>. 2. Introduce students to a blog and explain that students will be creating a profile to use to discuss the novel. 3. Create a blog for each novel and model how to use the blog for students who may not be familiar. 4. Explain that students will discuss what happens, their thoughts, central ideas of the novel, and analysis of the theme during their readings. Explain that students will be 	

expected to participate and include their thoughts throughout the reading.

5. Explain that students need to make appropriate comments but they are highly encouraged to argue and support their opinion in a constructive manner.
6. Encourage students to begin reading and using the blog. Most of the reading and blogging will be completed outside of the classroom.

Differentiation: Multiple blogs can be set up for different novels based on student interest and academic level.

Closure Activity/Wrap-up: Students will use the ideas from the blog and discuss the theme of the novel once finished reading in a classroom setting.

Post-Assessment: Students will be assessed on their participation in blogging and the content of their blogs. Students will also be assessed using their quizzes.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://wordpress.com/>

<http://www.weebly.com/>

<http://www.blogster.com/>