

-THE HUNGRY TEACHER ©martina cahili





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Day 2 of 13	out o	f the Dust	Pages 20-41
Common	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Core Standards	Literature: 1, 4, 5, 9, 10 Writing: 1, 2	Literature: 1, 4, 5, 9, 10 Writing: 1, 2	Literature: 1, 4, 5, 9, 10 Writing: 1, 2
Learning Target	<ul> <li>analysis of what the from the text.</li> <li>I can compare and or character and a means of understar</li> <li>I can write argumer relevant evidence.</li> <li>I can write informat convey ideas, cond</li> </ul>	al evidence that most st e text says explicitly as w d contrast a fictional por historical account of th ading how authors of fic nts to support claims with ive/explanatory texts to cepts, and information th analysis of relevant conte	ell as inferences drawn trayal of a time, place, e same period as a tion use or alter history. h clear reasons and examine a topic and hrough the selection,
Guiding Question	situation during this		
Question			ng situation, their of characters they are?
Hook Question	1. Why do you think th	his book is called, Out of	the Dust?
Compre- hension Questions	<ul> <li>complete? Partial ri</li> <li>2. What does the poe situation during this dust.</li> <li>3. What does the poe</li> </ul>	hymes. m, "Rules of Dining," rev time period? <mark>Everything</mark> m, "State Tests," reveal o r mother? <mark>Her mother is</mark>	is always covered in about Billie Jo's
Compre- hension Questions	<ul> <li>wants to leave her I</li> <li>8. How does the struct meaning? It's almost the music.</li> <li>9. Who's F.D.R.? Frank</li> <li>10. What does the poetime period? What</li> </ul>	ture of the poem, "On S st like the poem, is movi lin D. Roosevelt (the pre m, "Not Too Much To As does it reveal about Billi h, but people like Billie J	tage," contribute to its ng around to the beat of sident at the time).
Learning Period	<ol> <li>Have students do a question.</li> <li>Students present the</li> <li>Students return to the</li> </ol>	ogether as a class. ocabulary while reading I five minute quick write eir ideas in a Socratic Se	to the interpretive eminar. otebooks and write their

## EXAMPLE OF A LESSON PLAN

EACH LESSON PLAN INCLUDES:

- 5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, AND/OR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CCSS LITERATURE AND WRITING STANDARDS.
  - LEARMING TARGETS
  - GUIDING, INTERPRETIVE, AND HOOK QUESTIONS.
- COMPREHENSION
   QUESTIONS (WITH
   SUGGESTED ANSWERS)
- LEARNING PERIOD
- CLOSING

example of standards page

6th Grade			SS STANDARD ALICI	MENT IS
Writing Standard	Lessons			
6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	_  I IN	CLUDED IN EACH U	NII. IHE
6.W.2 Write informative (automation starts to automice a tartis and CONVE	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9,		WRITING STANDA	IRDS ARE
select <b>READING LITERATURE STANDARD</b>	LESSONS		INCLUDED A	ND THEN
Write 5.RL.1 event Quote accurately from a text when explaining wh				
The contract of the contract o			LIIEKA	TURE OR
Determin details in	e Standard	Lessons	INFORMATIONAL	READING
7.W.1         drama n         6.RL.1           Write         poem re         Cite textual evidence to support and explicitly as well as inferences drawn		1, 2, 3, 4, 5	STANDARDS ARE I	
7.W.2 Write or event 0 betermine a theme or central idea o	of a text and how it is	5, 9, 11, 12		
select in the te: conveyed through particular details; text distinct from personal opinions or			BASED	ON THE
Write Used in a Describe how a particular star 7th G	Grade Reading Litera	ture Standard	Lessons	NOVEL `S
and v S.RL.5 change as the plot moves to Cite s what	several pieces of textual e t the text says explicitly as a several several pieces of text says explicitly as a several sev			GENRE.
together story, drd in a taxt including figuration			5, 9, 11, 12	GLIVKL.
8.W.1 Write releved Describe tone. Determination development	rmine a theme or centre elopment over the cours	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading	Literature Standard	Lessons
8.W.2 Write 5.RL.7 Analyze how a particular ser 7.RL.3		8.RL.1		1, 2, 3, 4, 5
select novel, m	yze how particular elem , how setting shapes the		ce that most strongly supports an analysis plicitly as well as inferences drawn from	
8.W.3 poem). Explain how an author devel Deter	ermine the meaning of v text, including figurative	8.RL.2 Determine a theme or a	central idea of a text and analyze its	5, 9, 11, 12
and v 5.RL.9 Compare and contrast the e (e.g.,	yze the impact of rhyme , alliteration) on a speci	development over the o to the characters, settin	course of the text, including its relationship g, and plot; provide an objective	
similar th version of the text, including "hear" when reading the text <b>7.RL</b> .		summary of the text. 8.RL.3		3, 7, 11
By the et 6.RL.8 (not applicable to liter	yze how a drama's or p quy, sonnet) contribute		lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or n, reveal aspects of a character, or	
the grad 6.RL.9 Analy	yze how an author deve of different characters	8.RL.4 Determine the meaning	of words and phrases as they are used in	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
stories and poems; historical of their approaches to simila Com	7 Inpare and contrast a wr		ve and connotative meanings; analyze vord choices on meaning and tone, illusions to other texts	
6.RL10 By the end of the year, read effect	o, filmed, staged, or mu	8.RL.5	the structure of two or more texts and	2, 4, 10
complexity band proficiently high end of the range.	d, color, or camera foc 8 (not applicable to liter		ig structure of each text contributes to its	
	9 Ipare and contrast a fic acter and a historical a ns of understanding how	and the audience or rea	s in the points of view of the characters ader (e.g., created through the use of such effects as suspense or humor.	1, 6, 12
PAGE IS BROKEN DOWN	ry.	or drama stays faithful to	hich a filmed or live production of a story o or departs from the text or script, made by the director or actors.	13
	plexity band proficiently end of the range.	8.RL.8 (not applicable to		N/A
STANDARDS. IF THE UNIT 📖			work of fiction draws on themes, patterns types from myths, traditional stories, or	2, 8, 13
is made for multiple grades	S MADE FOR MULTIPLE GRADES,			
THERE IS A SEPARATE STANDAR	2D <b>S</b>		read and comprehend literature, including ems, at the high end of grades 6-8 text	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
page for each grade.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	THE HUNGRY TEACHER

what has been added or updated?

If you have owned these units for a long time, I am so sorry for the long overdue updates. I made them when I taught fifth grade and I just kept switching grades. I can say, I feel like it was worth the wait, because I added SO MANY new resources and components to each one.

### SUGGESTED ANSWERS AND SUGGESTED VOCABULARY

#### LESSON ONE

Suggest Answer

#### **Comprehension Questions Suggested Answer Keys**

- Questions
- What point of view is the story told from? How do you know?
- 2. What can we infer about the time frame they live in, based on evidence from the text?
- How are Flint, Michigan and Alabama different? Evidence from the text?
- 4. How are Momma and Dad different, based on the evidence from the text?
- Compare and contrast the narrator and his brother, Byron.
- 6. What is the Watson family like, based on evidence from the text?

- First person, Kenny's point of view. Kenny uses "I" and "we" ("We all huddled as close as we could because we knew Dad was going to hy to make us forget about being cold...")
   We can infer the Watsons live in 1963. (Kenny mentions "new 1963 cars".)
- Flint, MI is colder than Alabama. (Momma says that Flint is like living in an Igloo, and she should have listened to Moses and stayed in AL.) Alabama has more racial tension (Dad mentions "Colored Only" bathrooms)
- Momma is more serious, and Dad is a jokester. (Dad tells the story of Hambone Henderson, and Momma covers her teeth and tries not to laugh after scolding Dad.)
- Byron is a "juvenile delinquent" that's "cold" and mean. Kenny gets picked on and doesn't stand up for himself. They both are members of the Watson family.
- 6. The tille of Chapter 1 calls the Watson's "weird". Byron sticks his tongue to the mirror and Dad does silly impressions. The Watson's also do not have a lot of money. They rent their home, the heat goes out, and they drive

#### Vocabulary Word Suggestions

a beat up car

1. Generate - cause

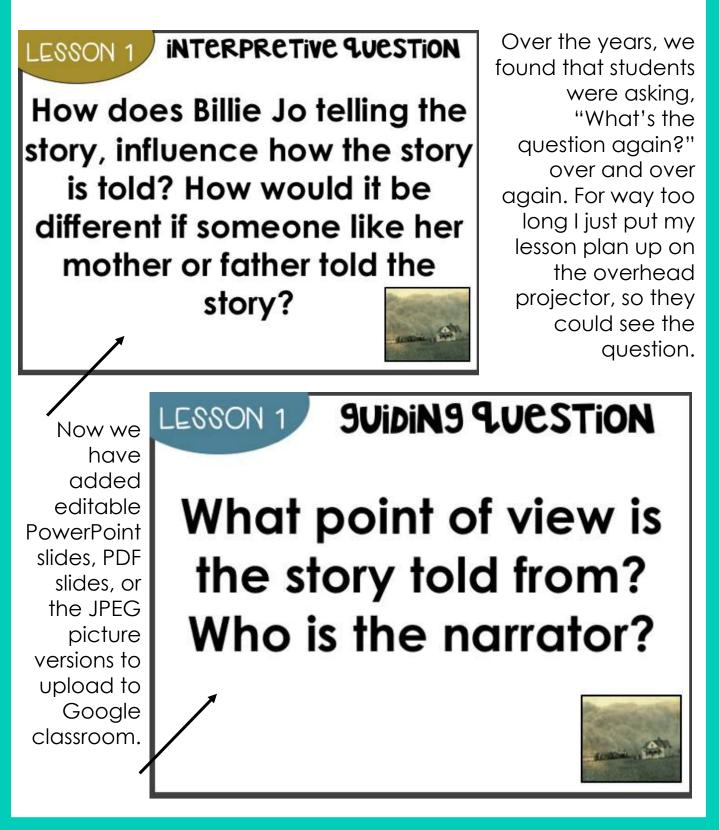
- 2. Icebox refrigerator
- Square slang for old-fashioned, dull
   Juvenile young person
- Delinquent someone who commits or may commit a crime

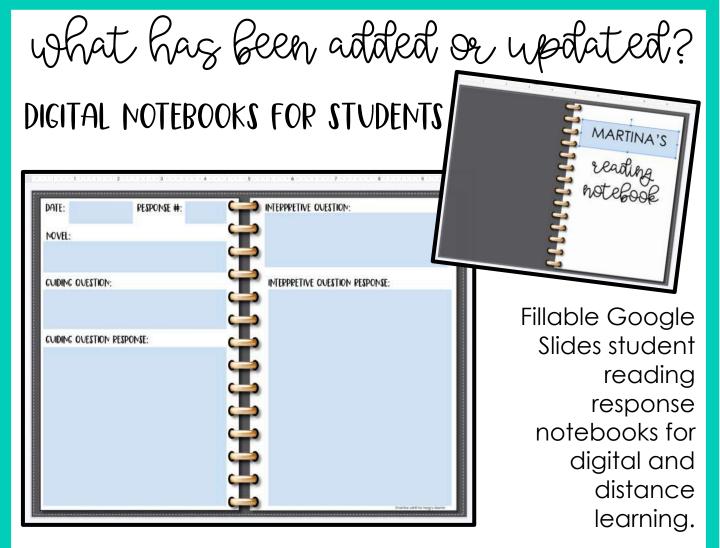
Some answer keys are a separate page found after the lesson, while others have them included right on the original lessonplan. Each unit now has suggested answers for the comprehension questions. I have also added five suggested vocabulary words for each lesson.

Day I of 13	Ou	t of the Dust	Pages I-I9
Common	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Core Standards	Literature: 1, 4, 6, 10 Writing: 1, 2	Literature: 1, 4, 6, 10 Writing: 1, 2	Literature: 1, 4, 6, 10 Writing: 1, 2
Learning Target	<ul> <li>analysis of what i from the text.</li> <li>I can analyze ho view of different</li> <li>I can write argun relevant evidenc</li> <li>I can write inform convey ideas, co</li> </ul>	w an author develops characters or narrators nents to support claims e. ative/explanatory text	and contrasts the points of in a text. with clear reasons and s to examine a topic and on through the selection,
Guiding Question	1. What point of vie	w is the story told from	? Who is the narrator?
Interpretive Question		• .	nce how the story is told? e her mother or father told
Hook Question	1. What do you kno	w about the Dust Bowl	İŞ
Compre- hension Questions	<ol> <li>Why do you think</li> <li>What point of vie person point of v boy).</li> <li>How was Billie Jo</li> </ol>	the author chose to w w is the story told from	? Who is the narrator? First of a farmer who wanted a 'her parent's home
	6. Why is Billie Jo up and Mr. Romney competition, and	Jo be when her new si set about all the rabbit ? They're basically killin d because the rabbits of mans keep plowing up	ts being killed by Mr. Noble g for the sake of are eating stuff they



DISPLAY SLIDES FOR THE GUIDING AND INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS.





Students can type their reading responses and vocabulary work into the fillable boxes. Teachers can add or take away as many pages as needed and/or make a new digital "notebook" for each new unit.

DATE:		VO	CABULARY	-	Word (Pg. #) Part of Speech	Definition	Sentence	Illustration
vovel:								
Word (Pg. #) Part of Speech	Definition	Sentence	Illustration		Word (Pg. #) Part of Speech	Definition	Sentence	Illustration
Word (Pg. #) Part of Speech	Definition	Sentence	Illustration		Word (Pg. #) Part of Speech	Definition	Sentence	Illustration
					Par or speech			
				1				

### what has been added or updated? EDITABLE AND DIGITAL GRADING RUBRICS FOR TEACHERS

#### Reading Response Rubrics

I used the rubric on the next page to periodically grade my students' reading response notebooks. I like this first one because it assessed their reading, writing, and language each time.

There are also some other rubrics for you to use if you wanted to focus on specific standards and subjects each time you graded them.

I checked them every two or three weeks during our unit, so it worked out to be three times during the reading of the book.

My teaching partner sometimes has her students grade each others, which I do occasionally. This is a great way for students to think about their audience and notice what you are looking for when you are grading.

Rubric 1	Great for when you collect reading notebooks and are grading them in general. Assesses reading, writing, and language standards all on one rubric (this is what I typically use).
Rubric 2	Great for assessing their argumentative writing skills.
Rubric 3	Great for assessing their informative/expository writing skills.
Rubric 4	Great for assessing their narrative writing skills.
Rubric 5	Great for assessing how they show growth in their writing each day. This is perfect for this unit because the students do their quick write, get feedback and information from their peers and then go back and write to make their writing better.
Rubric 6	Great for assessing students on the language standards and on their vocabulary.
Rubric 7	Great for assessing students' comprehension of literature.
Rubric 8	Great for assessing students' comprehension and analysis of informational texts.

Name:	Date:	
Component	Trait	Score 0-4
Reading Literature 5.RL.1	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	
Reading Literature 5.RL.10	Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	
Opinion Writing 5.W.1	Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.	
Informative Writing 5.W.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	
Narrative Writing 5.W.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.	
Language 5.L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	
Language 5.L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	
language 5.L.6	Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.	
Strength		
Goal		
Grade		

All eight reading response rubrics come in three versions:

- 1. PDF for easy printing
- Editable PowerPoint version
- 3. Editable Google slides version. I insert these into students' digital notebook responses and grade in Google Slides.

Component	Trait	Score 0-4
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Language 5.L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	
<b>Langvage</b> 5.L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	
Language 5.L.6	Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.	
Strength		
Goal		
Grade		

### what has been added or updated? SMALL GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE ANECDOTAL NOTES

F	OCUSED nall group	Month/Week: UNIT: Text: Skills: Grade: Period:	<u> </u>
intervention	Skills and activities	TO USE:	STUDENTS:
proficient	Skills and activities	TO USE:	STUDENTS:
enconnent	SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES	TO USE:	STUDENTS:

If you do form small groups, then the second is for taking notes while conducting the small group lesson or individual conferences. Some anecdotal note catchers have been added for teachers.

One is for collecting notes while you are grading notebooks, doing quick checks, or observing Socratic Seminars.

Students who need support or enrichment can be placed in small groups based on skills you notice during these teaching practices. Or they can just help guide wholeclass instruction.

SMALL C	GROUP WEEKLY ANECDOTAL		
instruct	GRADE: PERIOD:		
CINTERVENTION PROFICIENT DENNICHMENT GROUP MEMBERS:	Activity/lesson/teaching point peflection/next time		
Divtepvention Dipopicert Devrichtent Croup Menbers:	ACTIVITY/LESSON/TEACHING POINT PEFLECTION/MEXT TIME NOTES:		
Divtepvention proficient enviciment <u>CPOUP Menbers</u> :	ACTIVITY/LESSON/TEACHING POINT PEFLECTION/NEXT TIME		
	MORTING CONNEL. THE IRANCEY TEACH		

frequently asked questions

## WHEN DO YOU ASK THE HOOK QUESTION? HOW DO YOU HAVE STUDENTS RESPOND?

- I ask the question before we start reading (verbally) just to get them "hooked" on the chapter(s). Sometimes I don't ask it.
- I don't make them write anything.

### DO YOU HAVE ASSESSMENTS?

• I think when teachers ask this, they are looking for a comprehension/summative assessment for the novels. These are simply not those kind of units. From a teaching philosophy standpoint, the novels are used as the tool that helps students dig deeper into literature and informational reading standards, plus the writing standards. The students have to understand and comprehend the novel in order to be able to discuss and write the reading responses. The rubrics are the assessments.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CURRICULUM BUNDLES AND THE GROWING BUNDLES?

- The growing bundle only has the novel reading units. It does contain all my 5th grade reading units (14 of them) or my 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading units (10 of them). Anytime I make a new reading unit, it will be added to the growing bundle.
- The curriculum has 10 pre-selected reading units (all genres) but also 40 lessons to teach literature terms and informational terms as well. Some people get the growing bundle (to have more options for reading units) and then purchase the literature and informational units separately! The curriculum does not get additional units added (it does get updates though!)
- If you are looking for your reading lessons and materials done for the year, then the curriculum. If you want more flexibility, get the growing bundle and then get the informational and literature units later if you need them.

frequently asked questions

### WHAT SHOULD I BE READING WHILE WE DO THE LITERATURE UNIT?

- Whatever you want! You could use a different read aloud novel that's not in the units, picture books, or even short films online. *Wonder* has been added as a "bonus" unit, so that could be your read aloud for this unit.
- The literature unit is meant to be the foundation for all the novel studies/reading units. You are using these to expose students to all the literature terms, while having them make their interactive notebooks examples.
- These notebooks kind of become like their own textbooks that they can reference the rest of the year.

#### WHEN DO I ASK THE COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS?

- This is probably one of my most asked questions and I still don't have the perfect answer but this is my honest one: These are 100% included for teacher discretion. I rarely ask them and when I do ask them, I ask about one or two. I ask them during the read aloud and just have a couple students verbally answer.
- On the other hand, I have used some of these same novels and reading units for books clubs or literature circles, and in those instances, I use the comprehension questions to guide the discussion.

#### WHEN DO I ASK THE GUIDING QUESTION?

• I ask the guiding question before we start reading that day. It's essentially to "guide" their thinking. I keep it displayed while I'm reading so they don't keep asking, "What was the question again?" The students then do a really quick write (3-5 minutes) after the read aloud to answer the question.

#### WHEN DO I ASK THE INTERPRETIVE QUESTION?

• After the Socratic Seminar (students use their quick write from the Guiding Question to help them have a discussion with their classmates during the Seminar). While students are doing the Socratic Seminar you are writing discussions notes (more on that later) on the whiteboard. Then when you ask the interpretive questions, they use the notes to write the answer to their interpretive question.

### USING THIS RESOURCE IN YOUR CLASSROOM:

My first three years of teaching, I was a fifth grade teacher. I had 90 minutes for just my reading instruction. My fourth year of teaching, I was a sixth grade ELA teacher with just 90 minutes for both reading and writing. As I type this, I am going into my 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and my 5<sup>th</sup> year of teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA. I have 55 minutes class periods with each class.

I tell you this because I have changed how I do these reading units each time I have changed grade levels and I encourage you to find what works for you. I will give you break down of each, so you can see my general vision for these units, and I how I have made them work in grades 5 through 8.

### in fifth grade:

I did the entire lesson in my classroom. We read, did a quick write, the Socratic seminar, and then did a re-write. I also still did 40 minutes of small-group and independent reading in this time frame.

### in sixth grade:

I altered how I implemented these systems. We still did the reading in class, but we would usually have a Socratic seminar and then write or I would just ask the guiding or interpretive question and have them write.

### in seventh and eighth grade: I again, changed how I implemented these units. Essentially this is always

I again, changed how I implemented these units. Essentially this is always changing, depending on the needs of students, pacing, the novel, and other work. Some days we read the chapters in class and just had a class discussion. Other days, we read as a class, then had a Socratic Seminar (I leave my charting on the board) and then we write the response the next day. Other times, we read, then come to class ready for the Socratic seminar at the start of class, and would write, right after the discussion.

The following page has a lesson break-down for you to see as well.

	5 <sup>th</sup> grade daily lesson routine
5 min.	Status of the Class (Check-in with students to see what they are reading and what they plan to do for round one of Daily 5)
20 min.	Round one of Daily 5 •Students can read, write, listen to reading, or do word work.
20 min.	Read the novel study chapters out loud to the class
5 min.	Students answer the guiding or interpretive question (Sometimes I ask the guiding question and sometimes I ask the interpretive question and we rewrite). I really encourage them to try and find evidence from the text.
20 min.	Round two of Daily 5 •Students can read, write, listen to reading, or do word work
10 min.	<ul> <li>Socratic Seminar</li> <li>Present the interpretive question and have the students share their first writing responses and/or share what they would add</li> <li>Your job is to just write what they say on a chart or on the white board.</li> </ul>
10 min.	Re-write their response by using the thinking of their classmates
	6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE DAILY LESSON ROUTINE
10 min.	Bell ringer (Language Arts warm-up).
20 min.	Read the novel study chapters out loud to the class
10 min.	Students answer the guiding or interpretive question and/or Socratic Seminar. Sometimes, we would do the seminar, I would leave their thinking on the board, and then we would do our writing the next day.
20 min.	Round one of independent work •Students can read, write, or type
25 min.	Curriculum lesson (reading skills, writing skill/essay modeling, or grammar/language instruction).
20 min.	Round two of independent work •Students can read, write, or type

### 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE DAILY LESSON ROUTINE

5 min.	Bell ringer (Language Arts warm-up).
20 min.	Read the novel study chapters out loud to the class or if assigned as homework we then go straight into the Socratic Seminar. We also discuss the vocabulary.
10 min.	Write response to guiding or interpretive questions in reading notebook.
15 min.	Reading time. Students can start their assigned reading or they have 15 minutes of silent reading time or time for book clubs.
5 min.	Closing, discussion, or exit ticket.

# THE SOCRATIC SEMINAR

The following information can all be found at <u>ReadWriteThink.org</u>

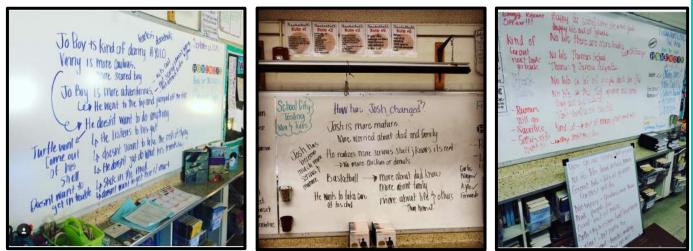
#### <u>Research Basis</u>

Socratic seminars are named for their embodiment of Socrates' belief in the power of asking questions, prize inquiry over information and discussion over debate. Socratic seminars acknowledge the highly social nature of learning and align with the work of John Dewey, Lev Vygotsky, Jean Piaget, and Paulo Friere.

Elfie Israel succinctly defines Socratic seminars and implies their rich benefits for students:

The Socratic seminar is a formal discussion, based on a text, in which the leader asks open-ended questions. Within the context of the discussion, students listen closely to the comments of others, thinking critically for themselves, and articulate their own thoughts and their responses to the thoughts of others. They learn to work cooperatively and to question intelligently and civilly. (89)

Israel, Elfie. "Examining Multiple Perspectives in Literature." In Inquiry and the Literary Text: Constructing Discussions n the English Classroom. James Holden and John S. Schmit, eds. Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2002.



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## STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

<u>Choosing a text:</u> Socratic seminars work best with authentic texts that invite authentic inquiry.

<u>Preparing the students:</u> While students should read carefully and prepare well for every class session, it is usually best to tell students ahead of time when they will be expected to participate in a Socratic seminar. Because seminars ask students to keep focusing back on the text, you may distribute sticky notes for students to use to annotate the text as they read.

**Preparing the questions:** Though students may eventually be given responsibility for running the entire session, the teacher usually fills the role of discussion leader as students learn about seminars and questioning. Generate as many openended questions as possible, aiming for questions whose value lies in their exploration, not their answer. Elfie Israel recommends starting and ending with questions that relate more directly to students' lives so the entire conversation is rooted in the context of their real experiences.

**Establishing student expectations**: Because student inquiry and thinking are central to the philosophy of Socratic seminars, it is an authentic move to include students integrally in the establishment of norms for the seminar. Begin by asking students to differentiate between behaviors that characterize debate (persuasion, prepared rebuttals, clear sides) and those that characterize discussion (inquiry, responses that grow from the thoughts of others, communal spirit). Ask students to hold themselves accountable for the norms they agree upon.

**Establishing your role:** Though you may assume leadership through determining which open-ended questions students will explore (at first), the teacher should not see him or herself as a significant participant in the pursuit of those questions. You may find it useful to limit your intrusions to helpful reminders about procedures (e.g. "Maybe this is a good time to turn our attention back the text?" "Do we feel ready to explore a different aspect of the text?"). Resist the urge to correct or redirect, relying instead on other students to respectfully challenge their peers' interpretations or offer alternative views.

<u>Assessing effectiveness:</u> Socratic seminars require assessment that respects the central nature of student-centered inquiry to their success. The most global measure of success is reflection, both on the part of the teacher and students, on the degree to which text-centered student talk dominated the time and work of the session. Reflective writing asking students to describe their participation and set their own goals for future seminars can be effective as well. Understand that, like the seminars themselves, the process of gaining capacity for inquiring into text is more important than "getting it right" at any particular point.

## SOCRATIC SEMINAR TIPS AND TRICKS

The Socratic Seminar approach is the backbone of the units, BUT it is not meant to consume your life and stress you out! I don include it in every lesson, but I assure you I can longer do a full-blown Socratic Seminar every class period.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCRATIC SEMINAR

This can differ from class to class and teacher to teacher, but some of my main purposes for the Socratic Seminar are to:

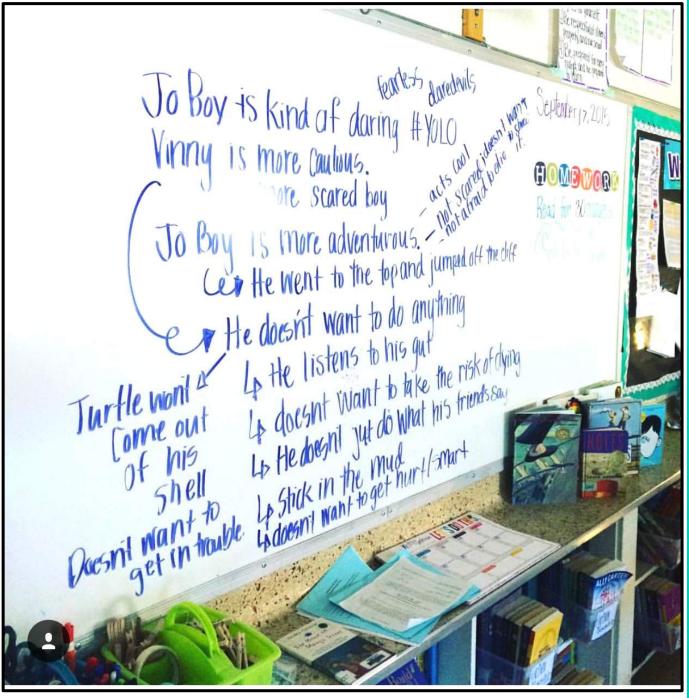
- Have students hear each others thinking
- Practice hearing and understanding different viewpoints
- Debating in a respectful matter
- Make students writing stronger with stronger text evidence

It's not perfect from the start, and sometimes it can take forever in the beginning, but over time it becomes easier, faster, and better.

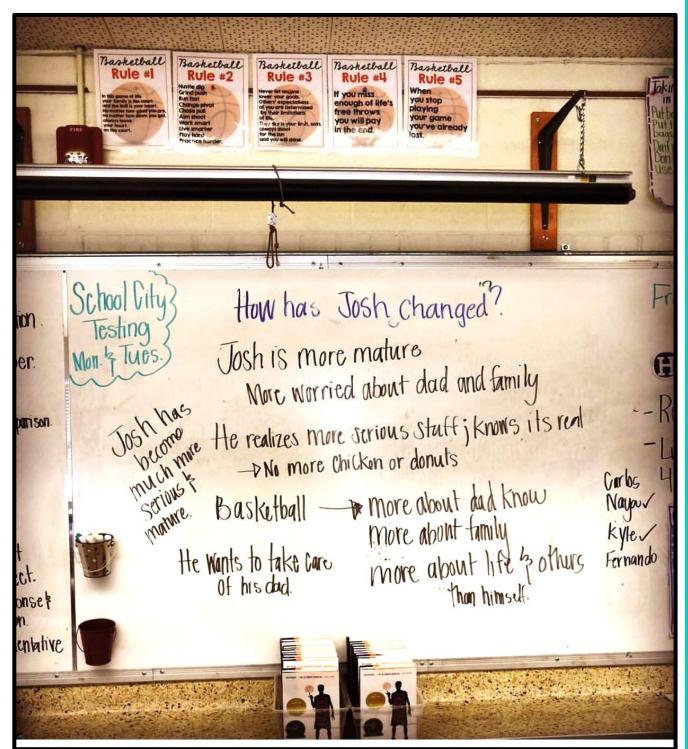
### REALISTIC FREQUENCY OF THE SOCRATIC SEMINAR

- When I taught fifth grade, we honestly did our Socratic Seminar 4-5 days a week in the midst of a reading unit. I had a lot of time because I was selfcontained, and it was a really good way to get my students talking in an academic manner.
- When I went to middle school ELA (with 55-60 minutes class periods), during reading units my goal was once-twice a week. The point is that just because the Socratic Seminar questions are there, it doesn't mean you have to do one every single day.
- I also kept them super short and sweet in middle school ELA by keeping them low-key.
  - We didn't move desks, or get in a circles, etc.
  - We just had the discussion, I took notes, and then they would write.
  - Somedays they would do the writing portion of the guiding questions, and some days they didn't.
  - Sometimes, their only writing was to the interpretive question.
  - When we didn't have a Socratic seminar, I would still just sometimes have them write a reading response for the interpretive question.
  - Somedays we only did vocabulary and no seminar or other writing.
- The point to all of this is that I have provided enough questions and resources for you to do this every single day, but each standard is covered multiple times in multiple units, so it's not imperative that they do it all, all of the time.

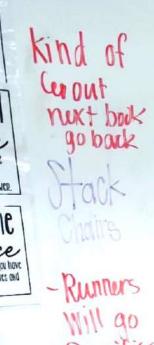
## PICTURES OF MY WRITING DURING Our socratic seminars

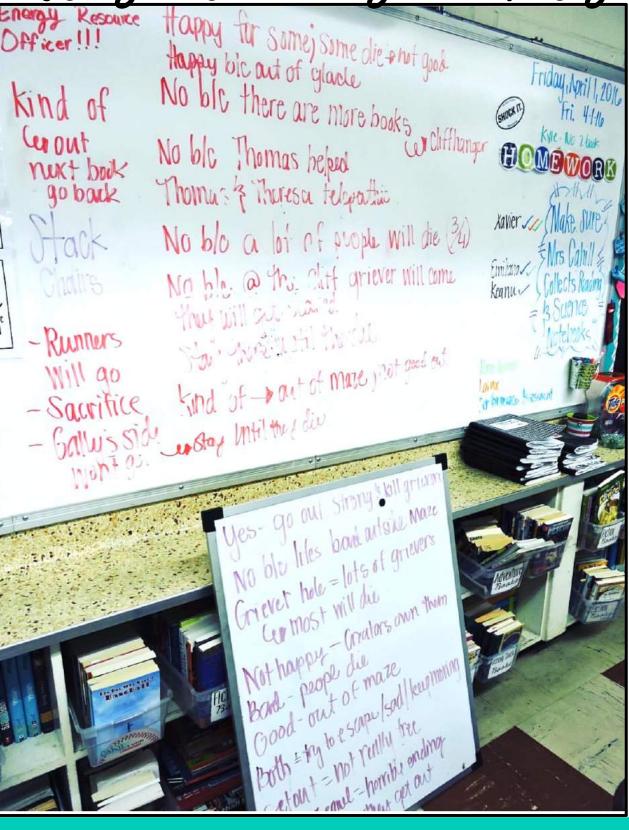


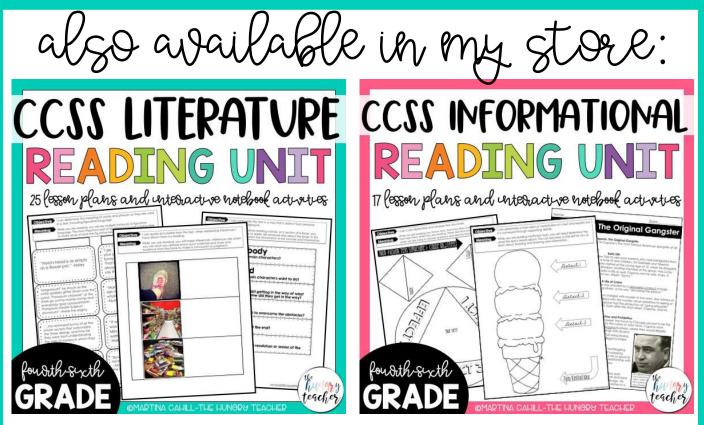
### PICTURES OF MY WRITING DURING Our socratic seminars



## PICTURES OF MY WRITING DURING our socratic seminars

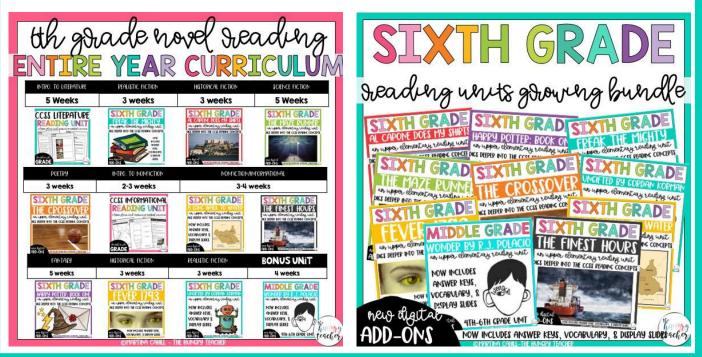






If you have purchased this literature unit, it is set up to teach with my 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade novel units. You will not need to purchase the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum because you will already have this unit.

That being said, a great companion would be my growing bundle because you will have access to my novel units and all future 5<sup>th</sup> grade novel units I create. This also gives you flexibility to choose the units you want to teach with. Or you can purchase the full year-long 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.



the vision

When I started these units, I was not so great at explaining my vision, and as a result have gotten multiple questions about how it all works. I hope you will find the following information useful and you will see what I hope to accomplish with these units and the accompanying novel reading units.

Essentially though, know that my vision is, and always will be, about teaching with novels and getting students reading as many books as possible and really having meaningful conversations about each of them, so as to build a reading community. choose books I LOVE with the hopes that they will end up loving books and reading just as much, if not more, as me.

where do d start and wh

I start with the reading literature unit. I start with this unit because I want my students to understand all the literary terms and questions I will be asking. I aligned this entire unit to the 10 CCSS Literature standards and all of my reading novel units are aligned to the exact same standards. That way when I ask the students, "What is the theme of the books, Holes?" students already know how to analyze our reading for theme. If they can't quite remember or need information on theme, they can go back to our previous notes to refresh their memory. Essentially their literature unit notes become their textbook or reference book.

CCSS LITERATURE REA 25 lesson plans and integradive notebook activities oughthesert

what's next and why?

Next, I start with the literature novels (you can see my exact pacing guide on the front cover). At this point, my students should know all the vocabulary and literary terms I am asking about, in these novels, because we have learned each term in our literature unit.

If you didn't teach the literature unit, NO BIG DEAL! You just may have to have mini-lessons about each concept as they come up in the novel reading units. For example, if you ask them about point of view, you may need to explain what each point of view is before they are able to conduct a Socratic seminar and/or write their response that day.









what's next and why?

After we have read four literature novels, I then head into the informational/non-fiction reading unit. This is designed so students become familiar with the non-fiction and informational terms, so we can head into our non-fiction reading. It's also great for allowing students to compare and analyze fiction and non-fiction. I aligned this entire unit to the 10 CCSS Information Reading standards and my Non-Fiction reading novel units are aligned to the exact same standards.

what's next and why?

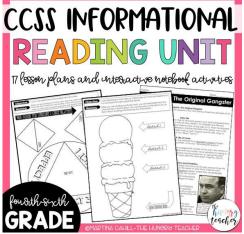
Next, I head into our non-fiction reading unit. My goal is to create more non-fiction, narrative nonfiction, and informational units. I know the importance of non-fiction, especially as our students head into upper elementary and middle school. I have just had some serious difficulty finding true upper elementary non-fiction novels, so please send ideas my way! I also make sure to do a historical fiction unit to get the best of both fiction and non-fiction.

I then finish with whatever I have time for. In this case it is usually my favorite novels, that I wouldn't get to do otherwise.

why these novels?

First of all, I make sure to choose novels I love, but also that I know my students will love. Sometimes I do adjust based on my students (hence, the growing bundle, because sometimes I add new units as I make them.

More importantly though, I make sure my students are exposed to every single genre as appropriate for their grade levels.







NOW INCLUDES ANSWEP KEYS

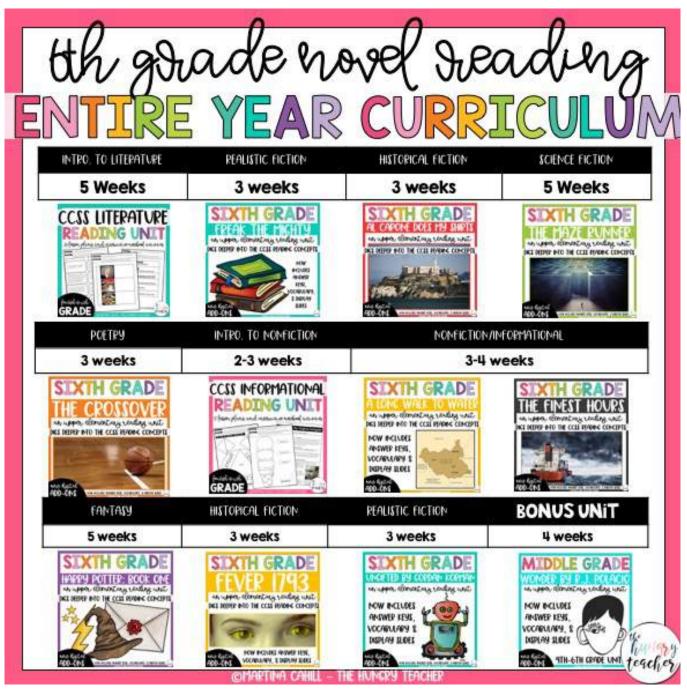
VOCABULARY, &

DISPLAY SLIDES

Sende

### complete mapped out and paced curriculum

NO MATTER HOW YOU UTILIZE THE UNITS (INDVIDUALLY, GROWING BUNDLE OR THE YEAR-LONG CURRICULUM) THE ENTIRE YEAR IS PACED OUT FOR YOU SO THAT STUDENTS GET TO EXPERIENCE ALL THE READING GENRES AND CCSS STANDARDS.



### EXAMPLE OF A READING WORKSHOP IN MY CLASSROOM

This is a scripted lesson of how a typical lesson goes. The script is aligned to day one's lesson plans. This is just to give you an idea of how I use this model of teaching. Lesson taken from day one of my Holes unit.

- 1. "All right readers, please get ready for today's reading of Holes."
  - Students will need their *Holes* books, their reader's notebooks, a pen/pencil, and I also provide sticky notes so they can mark in their books when needed.
- 2. "Today I am going to read chapters 1-3 and while I am reading I want you to be thinking about our guiding question while I am reading."
  - Students aren't really required to take notes or do anything other than follow along and think about our guiding question. However, I do not stop them if they are taking notes. Sometimes they will lose their place, but most students are so engaged in the reading that they will find their way back <sup>©</sup>.
- 3. "The guiding question I want you to think about is: What point of view is the story told from? Provide evidence when possible. Is there more than one? How does this influence how the story is being told?"
- 4. Read Chapters 1-3 as a class.
- 5. I stop at unknown or important vocabulary words as much as possible, and ask the students what they think the words mean. Or sometimes students stop me and ask me what the words mean.
  - There is SO MUCH research to support this, so if you feel like you don't have time for this... well you do. Trust me. Just stop and talk about the words.
- 6. After the reading ask students the interpretive question:
  - There is no wrong or write answer here, but I do stress, that no matter what they write, they must be able to support their answers with reasons, and when applicable, evidence.
- 7. "The interpretive question is:
  - Do you think Sachar made a good choice by telling it from this point(s) of view? Why or why not? Would another point of view make it more effective?"

### SCRIPTED LESSON CONTINUED ...

8. "You now have 4-5 minutes to write your initial response in your reader's notebook. Please write the date and today's chapters at the top of the page and begin writing right away."

#### NOTE: If you do not have a Daily 5 set-up, skip steps 9-10

- 9. "All right readers, while you are finishing I am going to ask you what you are doing for the first round of Daily 5 and you may get started right away."
- 8. Student go off to do their first round of Daily 5.
- 9. "We are now going to do our Socratic Seminar. Remember that your job as learners is to share your thinking while I chart your thinking. Remember the class norms we came up with as a class and to stick to them for the duration of the seminar."
- 10. Restate the interpretative question:
  - Do you think Sachar made a good choice by telling it from this point(s) of view? Why or why not? Would another point of view make it more effective?"
- 13. Students will participate in the Socratic seminar. Chart their thinking on a white board, chart, chalkboard, etc. while they are sharing their thinking. Only chime in or question when you feel necessary and really allow students to have conversations about their reading.
- 14. After students have had enough time to share their thinking say,
  - "All right readers, please draw a line underneath your quick write and do your final write. This time I will give you 8-10 minutes to write your thinking about the interpretive question. Make sure to use the beautiful thinking of your classmates to enhance your response. Also, don't be afraid to look back at the text when necessary."
- 15. After the ten minutes ask students, "Who would like to share their responses with the class?"
- 16. Allow students to share their revised responses.

#### NOTE: If you do not have a Daily 5 set-up, skip steps 17

17. Ask students what they are going to do for their second round of Daily 5.

the rubrics the reading

Component	Trait	Score 0-4
Reading Literature 5.RL.1	Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	
Reading Literature 5.RL.10	Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	
Opinion Writing 5.W.1	Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.	
Informative Writing 5.W.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	
Narrative Writing 5.W.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.	
Language 5.L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	
Language 5.L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	
Language 5.L.6	Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.	
Strength		
Goal		
Grade		

I have included some formative anecdotal records for you to quickly jot down which students need to work on what.

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grade, I use a lot of the other rubrics (about once a week) and picked one response of theirs to grade. I grade a focused set of standards. Sometimes I tell them to pick their "best" one and I grade that.

I also do a lot more quick checks because I can have 150 students, and there's no way I could keep up with it like I did in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It's still super effective and I use the same note catcher pictured here to jot down students who need support. I also have a blog post that explains how I grade it all super efficiently: https://thehungryteacherblog.com/2019/0 1/if-youve-been-following-me-forawhile.html

I have included eight different rubrics, but when I taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 90% of the time I used the Reading Response Rubric (pictured below).

When I taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th grade I only had 24-40 students. I would occasionally collect their notebooks (about every two weeks) and grade the last two weeks worth of reading responses. This rubric allowed me to assess all these skills.

I would then use the rubric to form small groups because I could see who needed to work on what skills.

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THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS

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Fifth Grade: Holes by Louis Sachar

reading notebooks examp

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS

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Fifth Grade: Holes by Louis Sachar

reading notebooks examp

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS

I think you need determination and hard working. You have to have these to digall those holes. I think stenley has that trait although he could work hander on that. also think you need to be ready to take on adchallenge. That also paseto go, for daging the holes. Stan lec does pretty good at that. Stanley s wants a Break though. To be dible to dig holes, wonder dround, and talk to the chief. Stanley defently has that. think you need determination and hard working. You have to have those to dig all the gigantic holes. Stanley has those. I also thigh you need to be ready to take on a challenge. Digging all that holes is probably very hard. Of do that ( Another trait I think you have to determination. To dig and be done quick. Stanle can do that, but sometimes takes him longe then expexted. Two other characture traits is kind and respectfull. Of course that is it you don't want to get in more trouble then you already are. Stanley has done pretty good at that.

Fifth Grade: Holes by Louis Sachar

reading notebooks examp

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS

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Sixth Grade: The Maze Runner by James Dashner

reading notebooks examp

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Sixth Grade: The Maze Runner by James Dashner

reading notebooks example

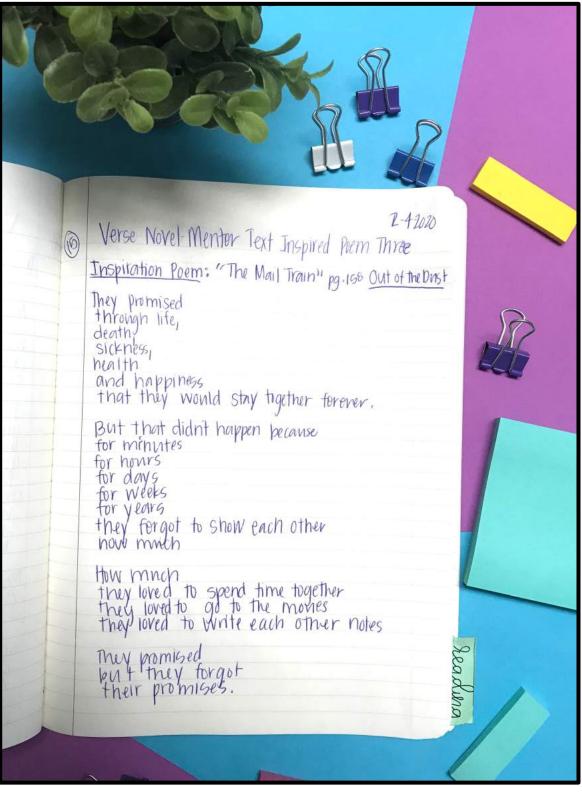
THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS

Ungifted How does Donovan's family react to find out he is not gifted? Donovan's mon's reaction was she started Crying, but she cries on two reality shows. I know this because in the text, it said, "My mother cried, but this wasn't exactly breaking news. She cried whenever anyone got voted off the island on reality TV. Dono vans dad's reaction was his dad told him he suspected some thing all along and then he told Donoyan a story. I know this because it said in the text, "Mosty though it said he had never truly believed I was gifted in the first place." Ponovan's sister, Katie seemed like the was kind of happy, Donovan got kicked out. It seemed like that because the text said, "Worse, hatie was quitting Human Growth and Devolpment." Then she said, "Summer school will be good for them." What lessons can we learn from Donovan's dad's reaction? رددددد The life lessons I can learn from Donovan's dad's reaction is in life it is always important to be happy. Even if some thing bad has happened always thy to be happy like ponovan has to go back to Hand Caste Middle he could think maybe it is good to be back because I actually Know the answers to problems. I know when something bad is happening to my mom I

#### Sixth Grade: Ungifted by Gordan Korman

reading notebooks examp

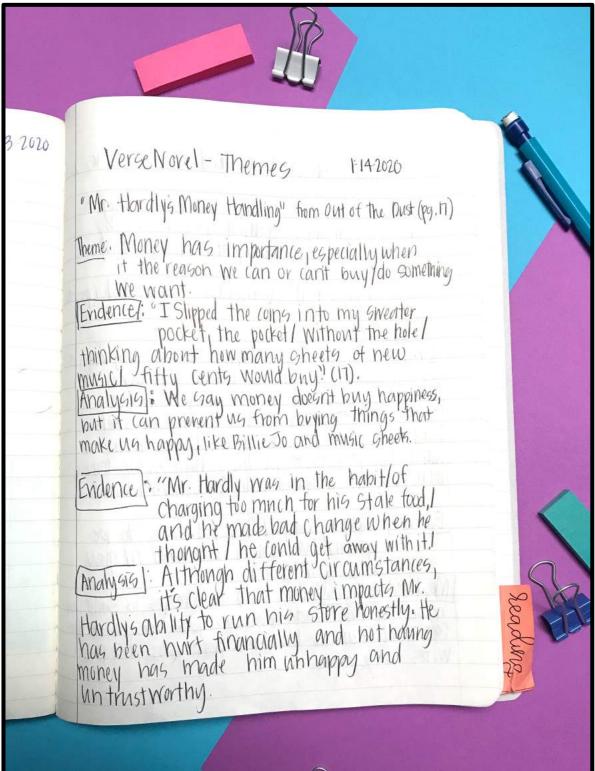
THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS



Middle School: Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

reading notebooks examp

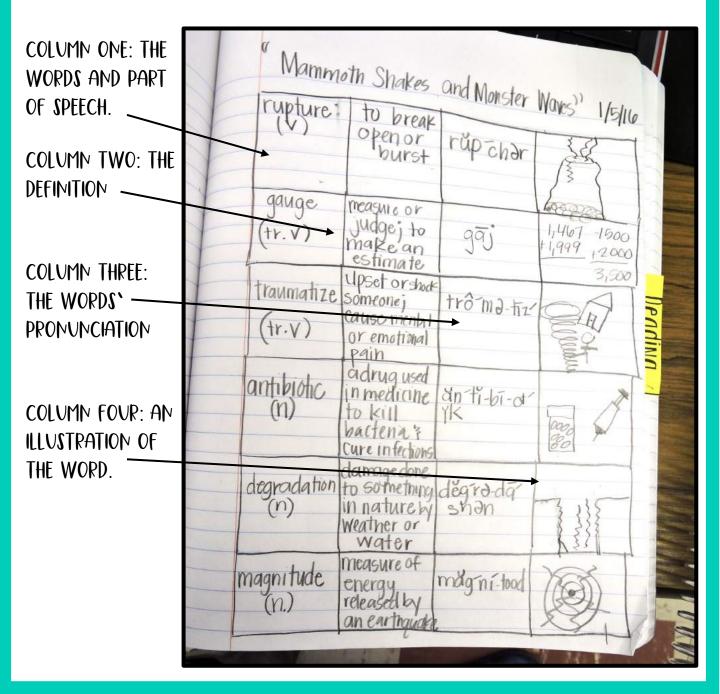
THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES ARE REAL STUDENT EXAMPLES FROM SOME OF THE READING UNITS



#### Middle School: Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

## VOCABULARY INSTRUCTION

One of the newest and most requested updates to the units is suggested vocabulary. While I am reading aloud, I do try to stop and discuss words students might not know. As the year goes on, we get faster at reading, discussing, and writing. This allows me to do more explicit vocabulary instruction. When we are reading a novel, we just make a section for vocabulary and add words as we go. Somedays this means we add one word, and other days we can get through three-four words. We do vocab in the format below. I honesty just use Google to look up all the extra stuff.

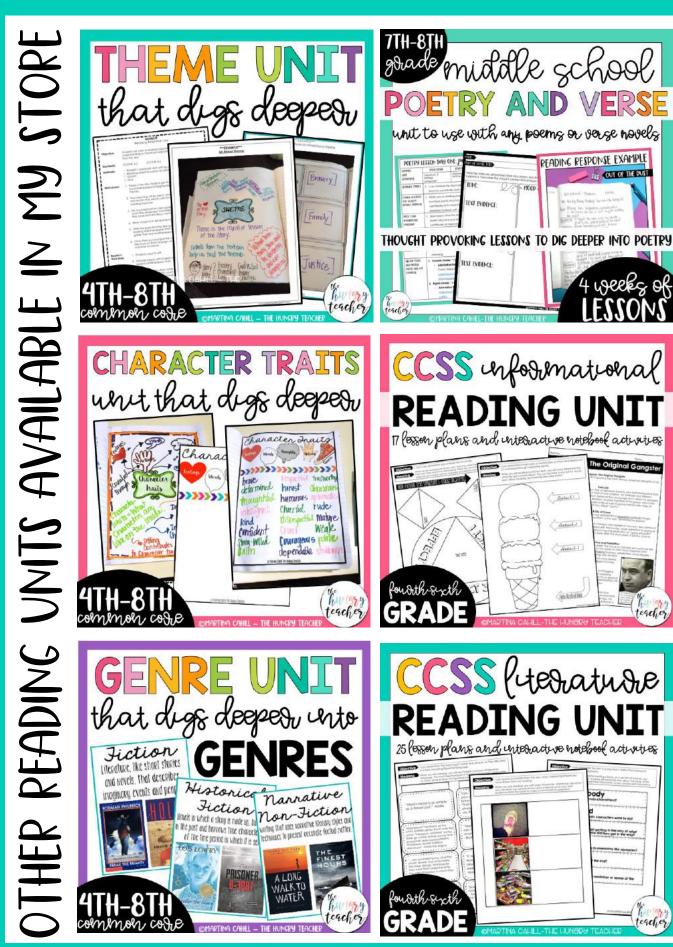


## OPTIONS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE LESSON

When I taught fifth grade I was self-contained and had my students all day. That meant that our reading block alone was 90 minutes. It worked that our closing was always sharing our writing/thinking. But as I moved to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and had my kids for a total of 90 minutes, and then moved up even further to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and had 55 precious minutes, I realized that my "closing" section needed a change.

In general, I wanted my daily closing to be more varied and keep my students engaged. In the lesson I always just write, "Have students share their thinking aloud," but these are some other activities I do for our closing:

- 1. <u>Vocabulary:</u> Instead of a Socratic seminar and the writing assignment I will ask students to find 4-5 interesting or unknown words while they (or I) are reading. They then fill out a vocab organizer {shown in the examples in the vocabulary section}. For the closing, I would have students share their words, and tell me what they think they mean based on context clues.
- 2. <u>Vocabulary Two:</u> Using the words I have preselected in the lessons, I have students write four of them, and then ask them to fill out the same vocabulary organizer shown in the examples on the previous pages. I want them to find the words while we are reading, and do the activity after.
- 3. <u>Peer editing, assessing, or conferencing:</u> Instead of writing a response I give students a rubric (found in the last pages of this resource) and tell them to assess each other based on the rubric. We then share what we learned from the sessions.
- 4. <u>Formative assessments</u>: This is where I might just do a quick check about broad topics like, "What is one theme of the story so far? Provide evidence." This is for me to see if they understand the vocabulary we are discussing and who still might need help learning concepts like theme, point of view, plot, figurative language, etc.
- 5. <u>Summative assessments:</u> This is more like a comprehension test and I just pick one or two questions from the comprehension questions section of the lesson, ask the students, have them turn it in, and then I grade. In my opinion, this would only be applicable if students are reading the books for homework or in book clubs.



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OUT OF THE DUST

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# OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN MY TEACHERSPAYTEACHERS STORE









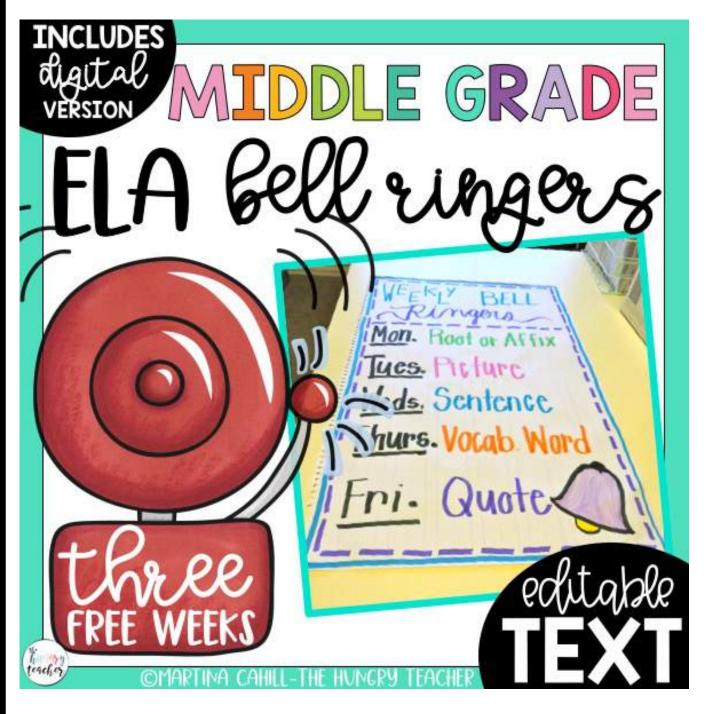


novels from a variety of genres



the hungry teacher newsletter

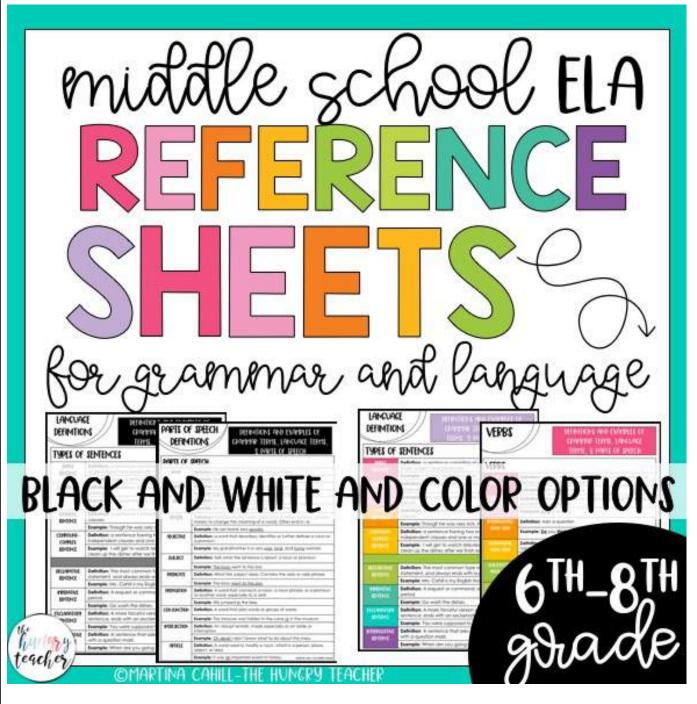
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