

Mini-lesson Planning Sheet

Unit of Study: **Reading Like a Fan/Literary Essays**
 Mini-lesson Topic: **Learning Lessons Similar to Characters'**

Date: **3/14/2014**



<p>Connection <i>What reminders do I need to give?</i></p>	<p>What we tend to say: <i>Yesterday we talked about.....</i> <i>Today I will teach you.....</i></p>	<p>This week, we have learned that writers do our best literary writing when we LOVE the story we're writing about. We also learned that literary essayists often analyze characters from a variety of one author's works. In this way, we are able to discern "themes" in an author's writing, which is important when writing literary essays. Today, we are going to work on connections. Finding connections in our personal lives to the lessons learned by characters in these stories.</p>
<p>Teach <i>What are the steps?</i> <i>Will I use an anchor chart?</i> <i>What will my language sound like?</i></p>	<p><i>Watch me as I</i> <i>Did you see how I</i></p>	<p>Teaching Point: As we rehearse ideas about characters, lessons, issues, or themes, we may also write moments in our our own lives when we have learned a similar lesson or that illustrates the same idea, issue, or theme. We may be able to use this connection, this moment later in our essay.</p> <p>Let's look back at the example I gave you on Wednesday about how India Opal from Because of Winn Dixie and Rob from The Tiger Rising both learned lessons about forgiveness. India Opal had to forgive her mother and father (and even herself). Rob had to forgive his parents also in order to grow as character.</p> <p>I wonder how I can relate that to my life? I remember one time when I felt betrayed by my parents. I got into a very special high school which was really tough to get into and earned a full scholarship, so that my parents wouldn't have to pay anything. They refused to let me go. I felt they were being selfish and weren't really looking out for my best interests. It took me years to forgive them, but, when I finally did, I realized how relieving it was to let all of that anger go. It taught me a big lesson! I may be able to use this connection story in my literary essay as evidence of my argument!</p>
<p>Active Engagement <i>How will students participate & practice?</i></p>	<p><i>Turn and talk to your partner about</i> <i>3, 2, 1, talking is done!</i></p>	<p>Another lesson that India Opal and Rob both learned in their novels is the power of friendship. India Opal made unlikely friends with almost everyone she met, perhaps even more powerful than her friendship with Winn-Dixie. These friendships helped her get through some tough times! Rob's friendship with Sistine and with Willy Mae also helped him through some tough times... even helped him to "open his suitcase." I'm going to give you a minute or so to think of a connection to this theme of friendship. Think about a time when you've made an unlikely friend, and how that friendship affected you. After a minute, have students share with their partner.</p>
<p>Link <i>Name the skill/strategy</i> <i>Invite students to try it.</i></p>	<p><i>Today and every day.....</i> <i>Who thinks they will try this strategy today?</i></p>	<p>Reader's and Writers, now that we've learned how good readers notice common themes among an author's work, and that good literary essayists often make connections to their own lives based on the lessons learned by the characters in the novels they love, I hope you will try to make some of these connections today during workshop. And everyday!</p>