

Language-Based Literacy Activities

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Vocabulary Development

Purpose:

To work on the meaning of new words found in your classroom textbooks and assignments.

Material:

Try to use materials from the classroom textbooks for this activity and take a look at a couple of the examples that follow.

Procedures:

1. In this first activity, pick out words from any of the textbooks you think might be difficult for students who struggle to learn. **(See page 2, Definition & Sentence: War of the Worlds)**. These are some of the words that might be difficult for students in the sixth grade.
2. Next, pick a word to work on and write it down on the board or on the students' paper, and read a sentence from the book that has the word in it. For example, for the word jet, the sentence, "The jet travels at a high speed," could be read.
3. Next, come up with a meaning of the word, a picture for the word, and a word that means the same thing.
4. Work with the students and provide provide suggestions to make this a meaningful activity.
5. Then take the text and read, as a class or in small groups. Have students raise their hands if they understood these target words as they occur in the reading text. Provide enough "wait time" for all students to take turns and participate. Then let students create their own definitions of these words. If needed, the students could go back to the original form containing the definitions. (Recall, you are focusing on students who struggle to learn but you can have all students participate in these activities).

Additional Information:

6. There are so many ways to work on word meanings/vocabulary. For example, you could make up crossword puzzles, games or fun activities **(War of the Words Crossword Puzzle-see page 4)**. It might even be interesting to have the students write their own sentence on each new word. Possibly, they could quiz each other about the words. Another idea is to use a matching or complete the sentence activity. **(See activity on page 5)**

Word	Picture	Vocabulary: Activity #1 Definition and Sentence War of the Worlds	Synonym
astronomer		A scientist who studies outer space _____ _____	
jet		A very fast plane _____ _____	
meteorite		Large rock from outer space _____ _____	
ventriloquist		Entertainer who performs with a dummy who seems to speak _____ _____	
announcer		A person who makes comments or reads news on radio or television _____ _____	
broadcast		A radio or television program or transmission _____ _____	
account		A written or spoken description of events _____ _____	
script		A text of a play _____ _____	
clues		Facts that help solve a problem or mystery _____ _____	

Vocabulary

Name: _____

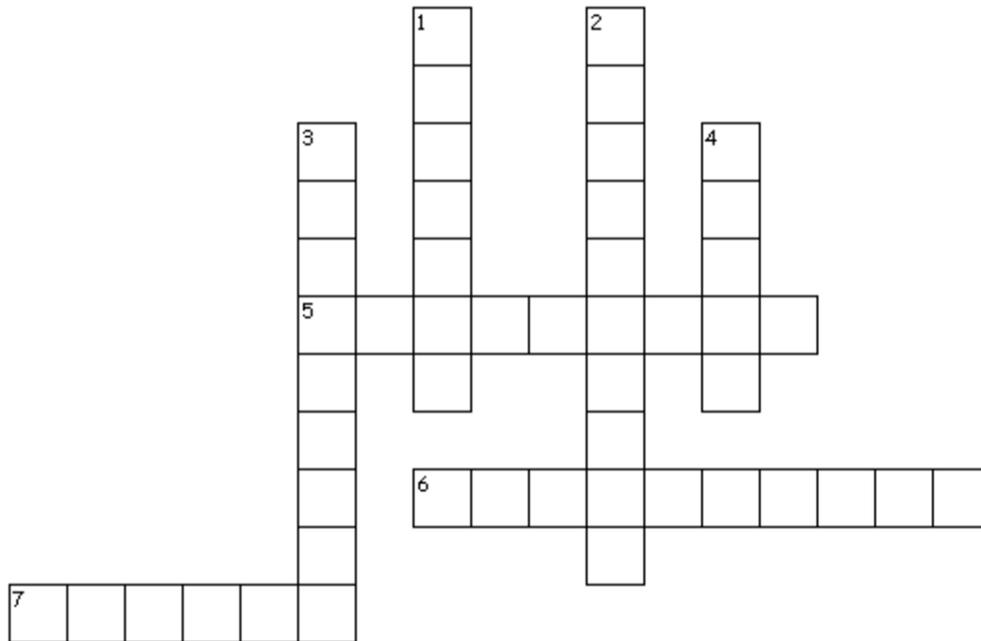
Date: _____

	Word	Picture	Definition	Synonym
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Name _____

Date _____

Vocabulary Activity #2 War of the Worlds



Account
Meteorite

Astronomer
Script

Broadcast
Announcer

Clues

Across

5. A person who announces things in public, on television, or on the radio.
6. The remains of a rock that fell from space and landed on the Earth's surface.
7. The written text of a play or movie; includes everything the performers say and do.

Down

1. A written or spoken description of what happened.
2. A scientist who studies the sun, moon, stars, and planets.
3. A short film and commentary about current news events.
4. Evidence that helps solve a problem.

Date: _____

Name: _____

War of the Worlds

script	jet	newsreel	broadcast	ventriloquist
astronomer	clues	announcer	account	meteorite

Matching

Match each definition with a word

- _____ 1. The written text of a play or movie; includes everything the performers say and do
- _____ 2. A written or spoken description of what happened
- _____ 3. A very fast plane
- _____ 4. A short film and commentary about current news events
- _____ 5. Scientist who studies the sun, moon, stars, planets
- _____ 6. Someone who announces things in public, on television, or on the radio
- _____ 7. Evidence that helps to solve a problem
- _____ 8. A person skilled in speaking in such a way that the voice seems to come from another person
- _____ 9. The remains of a rock that fell from space and landed on the Earth's surface
- _____ 10. Sound or pictures transmitted over radio or television

Complete the Sentence

Write the word that best completes each of the following sentences.

- Actors read their lines from the _____.
- A very fast _____.
- Years ago many people depended on the movie _____ for news.
- Crater Lake was ade by the impact of a giant _____.
- When the _____ performed we couldn't see his lips move.
- An _____ uses a telescope to study stars and planets.
- The police made a sweep of the area, looking for _____.
- Rod Fowler is the _____ for the Channel 8 evening news.
- The football game was _____ on channel 7.
- Judy had to give an _____ of her actions during the robbery.

Figurative Language

Purpose:

To help students understand what is meant by figurative language (using language in a creative and imaginary way, rather than how it typically used).

Materials:

Possibly a book of examples of figurative language.

Procedures:

1. Figurative language means any language that has meaning other than the meaning stated. So, for example, "She's a walking encyclopedia", means that she just knows a lot of information. Another might be, "He's driving me up a wall". This means that he is bugging me or making me crazy. **(See page 7, A Mission to Oshkosh)**
2. You could introduce one idiom to students each day or during each session.
3. An idiom is a word that can have a literal meaning and a meaning that is different from the way it's usually used. For example, "bit off more than you can chew", or "get the ball rolling", "knock it off", "rule of thumb", "sink or swim", or "underdog".
4. Ask the student what some of these idioms mean. Also, students could think of other idioms.
5. Over time, review these types of idioms and encourage students to learn new concepts.

Additional Information:

1. Encourage students to think of idioms that they have heard at home, on TV, in books, etc.
2. Use some kind of game to practice the meanings of the idioms that have been learned.

A Mission to OshKosh

nervous

Millie should have had cold feet upon spying the green alligator-like monster

being brave changed really hard

across the street. Having a stiff upper lip she hurled herself like a Green Bay

Packer at the enormous alligator. She just had to keep her dog Jack away from the

flawless

dangerous reptiles. It seemed like a foolproof plan at the time. But when Millie

running into something that doesn't move

rammed into the monster, it was like hitting a brick wall. She fell to the ground with

made her breathless

a half the wind knocked out of her.

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Comprehension of Characters and Setting in a Literature Book

Purpose:

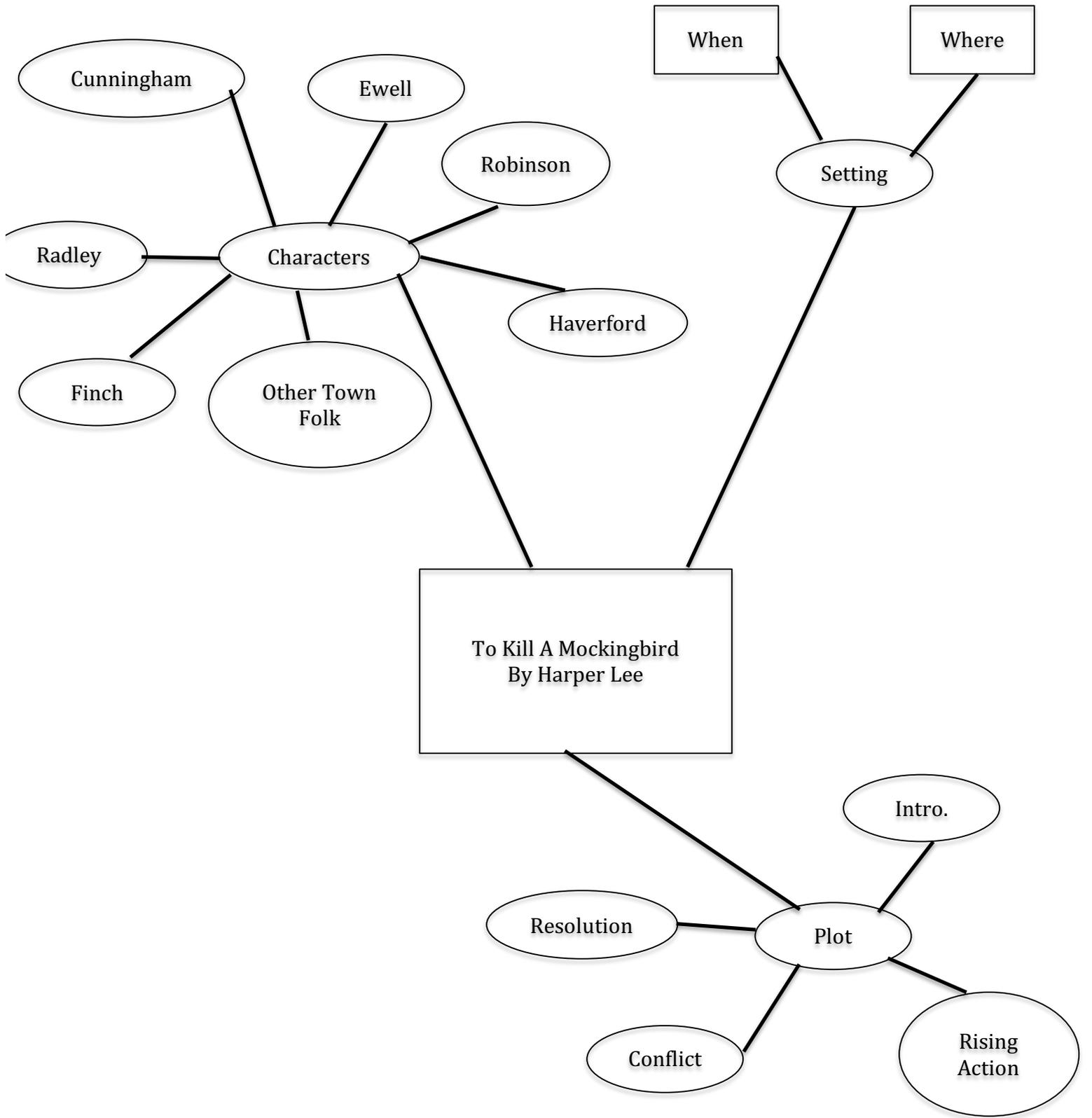
To help students understand characters and settings in the books that they read in school.

Materials:

1. Students' classroom literature book.
2. Attached form.

Procedure:

1. Read the literature book to find the setting of the story and the details about the characters. This information is usually in the first two chapters.
2. Then, students could make a web or some kind of chart of characters and setting details. **(See page 9, graphic organizer)**
3. As students read the story, they can fill in the graphic organizer.
4. This should help them understand characters and setting better so they can talk about it in a class discussion. This is especially helpful for books that have a lot of characters, like *How To Kill a Mockingbird*.



Inferenceing

Purpose:

To help students understand inferenceing.

Materials:

1. Students' classroom textbooks.
2. Attached forms.

Procedures:

1. Inferenceing is the process that the reader must go through to understand the meaning of what is written and what the writer meant. For example, if a textbook says, "It was fall, and winter was coming soon", this implies that the leaves were changing colors and falling off the trees, the weather was becoming cooler, it was football season, and school had started again.
2. If students read "We had a very hard winter", they might think that it was cold, and there was a lot of snow and ice **(See page 11)**
3. Take any textbook and work together to come up with words, phrases, or sentences from a paragraph where you need to use inferenceing **(Show another textbook from their curriculum)**

Inferencing is “The process that the reader must go through to get literal meaning of what is written to what the writer intended to convey.”

Example:

More than half of all accidents in the United States happen on streets and highways. Almost 50,000 people died in automobile accidents in a recent year, and almost 2 million others were seriously injured. These statistics include pedestrians, bicycle riders and automobile drivers and passengers.

What I inferenced from the paragraph above:

It’s easier to not pay attention when driving and get into an accident.

- 1) When people inhale polluted air, harmful materials called pollutants enter their bodies. Regularly breathing certain pollutants increase a person’s chances of developing certain diseases, such as lung cancer and emphysema. Polluted air can also make diseases such as allergies, asthma, colds and pneumonia more severe.

What did you inference from this paragraph?

- 2) Smokers may use many different methods to stop. Some smokers may smoke fewer and fewer cigarettes each day until they have stopped altogether. Other people use a set of special filters, each of which takes a little more nicotine from the smoke. Other people are able to stop smoking all at once and never smoke again. In time they find that the desire goes away.

What did you inference from this paragraph?

Visual Strategies

Purpose:

To help students understand information in their textbooks by using pictures that represent the key points within the text.

Materials:

1. Students' classroom textbooks.

Procedures:

1. Use a story that has pictures to help the students understand the story. **(Show a textbook from their curriculum)**
2. If using a story without pictures students can work together to come up with pictures to help make the story easier to understand. **(Show a textbook from their curriculum)**

Written Language: Complete Versus Incomplete Sentences

Purpose:

To help students understand the difference between complete and incomplete sentences. A lot of students do not write in complete sentences, but this is a very important skill if they want to get a job.

Materials:

1. Students' classroom textbooks.
2. Attached forms.

Procedures:

1. Sentences have two parts a subject and a predicate. The subject names someone or something. Predicates tell what the subject is or does. An easy way to think of it; Subject: Who or what is the sentence about? Predicate: What happened?
2. Try to make a couple of complete sentences. **(Talk to students about sentences, subjects and predicates, and explain why the sentence is complete)**
3. Next have students try to come up with a couple of incomplete sentences. What's missing from these sentences? Why are they not complete? How could you fix them?
4. To practice, students could do a worksheet that has sentences from one of their textbooks in school. Students could figure out if each sentence is complete or incomplete. **(See page 14)**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Complete or Incomplete Sentences
Crash

Directions:

Write the letter **C** in front of the sentence if it is a **complete sentence**.

Write the letter **I** in front of the sentence if it is an **incomplete sentence**.

- ___ 1. Penn turned, sagging.
- ___ 2. He sniffed.
- ___ 3. But I was having problems hating him.
- ___ 4. Draw!
- ___ 5. I glared at him.
- ___ 6. But your real name is John Patrick Coogan
- ___ 7. Because you're my best friend in Pennsylvania.
- ___ 8. I was kind of curious to get a look at the boss dorks.
- ___ 9. And I didn't like him calling me friend.
- ___ 10. I couldn't tell this moron anything.
- ___ 11. I put the turtle on its back in the middle of the sidewalk.
- ___ 12. So I gave it back to him.
- ___ 13. If you beat me in wrestling.
- ___ 14. Did you know your son is a Quaker?
- ___ 15. I dumped the meatball in the middle of their front steps.

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Test Modifications

Purpose:

To help students be successful when taking tests at school by helping them show what they understand.

Materials:

1. Try to get a copy of the test the students would take from their teacher. Then use it to show the students how to be more successful when taking that test.
2. Some changes could be made to the tests such as; adding a word bank for fill-in-the blank questions, reducing the number of choices in multiple choice questions, and taking out confusing words.
3. Another example is the use of highlighting key words in each question to let the students know what to pay attention to. **(See page 16)**

Social Studies
Chapter 9 Test

Name: _____

Date: _____

Choose the correct answer and write it on the line.

___ 1. The Mayas grew **one main crop**. It provided the people with plenty of food.

What crop was it?

- a. Tomatoes b. Corn c. Squash

___ 2. The Mayas were the first people to develop a **system for writing** down their ideas. The system was called _____.

- a. Hieroglyphics b. Pyramids c. Chinampas

___ 3. Who was at the **bottom** of the Mayan social pyramid?

- a. Priests b. Farmers c. Nobles

___ 4. Who was at the top of the Mayan social pyramid?

- a. Farmers b. Traders c. Priests

___ 5. The Aztecs used **floating gardens** to grow their food. These were called _____.

- a. Chinampas b. Hieroglyphics c. Causeways

___ 6. The Aztecs **required all children** to _____.

Paragraph Organizers

Purpose:

To give students an outline for writing paragraphs in a regular classroom.

Materials:

1. Students' classroom textbooks.
2. Hangouts.

Procedures:

1. Many students have a hard time writing paragraphs, even in high school. Often, the organization does not make sense to them, and it is hard to understand how to write a good paragraph.

2. The first example we have is an organizer that works well with older students. Students would come up with the main idea and supporting details. **(See page 18)**

Paragraph Organizer

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Details:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Conclusion: _____

Paragraph

Classroom Behavior Rating Scale

Purpose:

To give students a tool for rating their ongoing communication behavior in the classroom setting.

Materials:

1. See attached example.

Procedures:

1. First, observe the students and talk to them, their teachers, and their parents to figure out which communication behaviors to target. For example, students might need to work on taking turns in a conversation, staying on topic, or not interrupting the person they are talking to.
2. Once several communication behaviors that are challenging for the student is decided, a rating scale is developed. **(See page 20)** It may be helpful to meet with the student, their teachers, and their parents to show how to use the rating scale.
3. For example, the student could rate themselves at the end of each class period, and the teacher could also rate the students at the end of each class.
4. At the end of the day, the student could review the form. The student could compare their answers with the teacher's.

1=Never 2=Occasionally 3=Half of the time 4=Most of the time 5=Always

1 st Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
2 nd Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
3 rd Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
4 th Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
5 th Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
6 th Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
7 th Period	Self Rating	Teacher Rating
I watched the teacher while he/she was talked.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I ignored other students in the class.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I Left my school supplies alone.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

