Character Mapping

Summary
Using popular trade books students will create a character map by first working on their own, and then in small groups. Students will share their work with the whole class.

Main Core Tie
English Language Arts Grade 5
Reading: Literature Standard 2

Time Frame
1 class periods of 30 minutes each

Group Size
Small Groups

Materials
Large sheets of art paper or butcher paper
Crayons
Pencils
Popular trade books used in reading groups.
Suggested titles:
- Holes
  , by Louis Sachar
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
  , by Roald Dahl
- Trouble River
  , by Betsy Byars
- Number the Stars
  , by Lois Lowry
- Because of Winn Dixie
  , by Kate DiCamillo

Background for Teachers
The teacher may use any trade books he or she is comfortable with, however, it is important that the teacher is familiar with the characters in each book so that the students can be monitored and assisted with their projects.

Student Prior Knowledge
Students should be comfortable reading the text provided. The material needs to be at the student's independent reading level.

Intended Learning Outcomes
Students will understand how to create an organizational web. They will discuss and recall events from the book they have read.

Instructional Procedures

Have each student select a character from the book they have read.
Using a regular sheet of paper, students will create a web with the character name and a small drawing of the character in the middle of the web.
Students will then add different characteristics of that character on the arms of the web.
When the student has completed the web they will meet with the other children who read the same book and extend the web on a large poster.
The title of the book should be in the center of the poster and each character map will extend from the title.
Each small groups will then share their posters with the rest of the class.

Strategies for Diverse Learners

Struggling students may need to work in pairs to brainstorm ideas. Gifted students could create maps of books they have read on their own.

Extensions

Students could use a ladder organizer to write down events in the order they happened in the story. This lesson can be adapted for use with a read aloud book the teacher presents to the class over a period of time, or as a book report option for small groups that have been reading different selections in literature circles.

Assessment Plan

Teacher will assess student's learning by listening to and observing the final products the students have created.

Authors

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