Language Lesson Plan
'Comparing the central characters in "Catch a Falling Star" &
"Lucky Horseshoes"'

Appropriate for Grades 2-6

Written by
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Approx. Time – 90 mins

Lesson Description

In this lesson, students will read and compare the central characters in "Catch a Falling Star" and "Lucky Horseshoes." Students will use a Venn Diagram to discuss the differences and similarities between the characters. For the lower elementary grades, this activity can be done as a class. For the upper elementary, this activity can be done as a class or independently. Students should aim to understand that both Fish and Skippy are suffering from different mental health disorders but are finding ways to cope with their illnesses with the help of Iris the Dragon, family, school and friends.

Prior Knowledge

Students will have been read or read "Catch a Falling Star" and "Lucky Horseshoes."

Overall Expectations

Language Expectations
Oral Communication
Students will:
   • listen in order to understand and respond appropriately in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes; and
   • use speaking skills and strategies appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Writing
Students will:
   • generate, gather, and organize ideas and information to write for an intended purpose and audience.

Materials

   • "Catch a Falling Star: A Tale from the Iris the Dragon Series" by Gayle Grass and "Lucky Horseshoes: A Tale from the Iris the Dragon Series" by Gayle Grass
   • Handouts – see BLM1
   • Pencils

Lesson Steps

   1. The teacher will read aloud "Catch a Falling Star" and "Lucky Horseshoes" at different times following up with a discussion about the characters after each reading.
   2. The teacher will let the students know that for this class they will be comparing the two main characters in the Iris the Dragon book series.

Students are to think about the differences and similarities between Skippy and Fish.

3. The teacher will introduce the use of a Venn Diagram when comparing characters. See BLM 1.
4. The teacher will demonstrate on the board how a Venn Diagram is to be used for literature comparisons.
5. Then as a class activity or independently, students can begin to think about the differences and similarities of the two characters and place them in the appropriate sections of the Venn Diagram.
6. When the Venn Diagram is complete, the teacher can ask the students which character they identified with in the books.
7. The teacher can host an appropriate discussion that follows the activity and how students relate to Skippy and Fish.

Suggestions for Discussion

- Teacher should focus on the positive of students saying they can identify with Skippy and Fish.
- Teachers can discuss how we all look, act and say things differently and these differences should be celebrated as we can teach each other new ways of looking or doing things.
- Teachers can reinforce that it is important to talk about our thoughts, feelings and worries to friends, families and teachers and not keep them bottled up inside.
- Teachers can emphasize that when we have a problem it is important to get the right kind of help so we can get better and parallel it with a simple illness such as going to the doctor for a cold.

Comparison of Central Characters in the Iris the Dragon Book Series

Skippy

Fish