

Instructional Overview

Book Club	Crenshaw By: Katherine Applegate Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: Q
Instructional Focus: Determining Theme	
Background: The theme of a story is the idea or message that the author wants to share. Readers can reflect on theme by asking themselves, "What is this story really about?". Since the theme is rarely explicitly stated, readers must develop the skill of using clues in the text to identify the author's intended theme. Clues are often found in the characters' thoughts, dialogue, and actions and woven throughout the story's plot.	
Crenshaw is an ideal anchor text for a Book Club focused on determining theme because it deals with a topic that all students are familiar with: friendship. Throughout the Book Club, readers will be able to follow the author's ideas about friendship by looking at both the relationship between the main character and his imaginary friend, and the main character and his real-life friend, Marisol.	
Instructional Overview:	
Meeting #1 (Chapters 1 – 9) Set Expectations and Introduce Theme	
Meeting #2 (Chapters 10 – 17) Identifying Main Ideas and Supporting Details	
Meeting #3 (Chapters 18 – 31) Recognizing How Characters Support Theme	
Meeting #4 (Chapters 32 – 41) Discovering the Relationship between Plot and Theme Development	
Meeting #5 (Chapters 42 – 52) Connecting Main Ideas and Supporting Details to Determining Theme	
Final Meeting Determining a Theme that the Author Conveyed Throughout the Story	
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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Book Club Meetings and the Instructional Focus for Each Meeting



List of Materials and Preparation



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Materials and Preparation:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Determine which students will participate in the Crenshaw Book Club (4-6 students)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gather copies of Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Friendship Circle Map anchor chart (1 large for use with the group)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tracking Friendship graphic organizer (1 per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Idea and Supporting Details anchor chart (1 large for use with the group)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Plot Diagram anchor chart (1 large to use with the group)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Materials for the Culminating Activity—large paper or poster boards	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gather Sticky Notes and Chart Paper (for use throughout Book Club)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)	
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