Determining Theme Lesson Plans for 5 Book Club Meetings

The following preview shows all of the Book Club Meetings for Holes by Louis Sachar

4 Part Lesson Plans

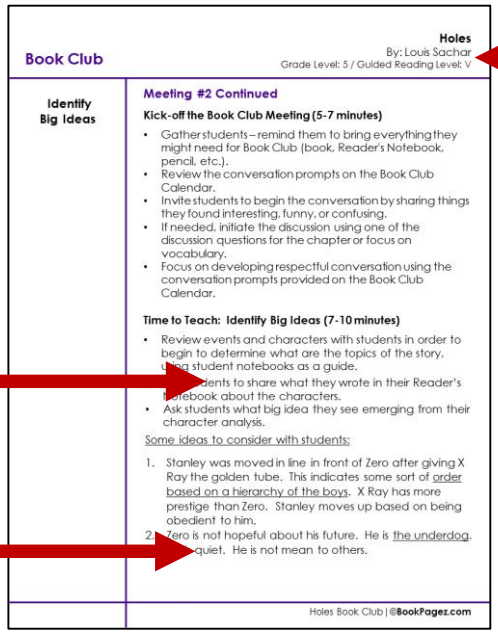
Guided Reading Level

Specific Instructional Focus

Discussion Questions by Chapter

Key Vocabulary by Chapter

Step by Step Guided Mini Lesson



Book Club

Holes
By: Louis Sachar
Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: V

Identify Big Ideas

Meeting #2 Continued

Kick-off the Book Club Meeting (5-7 minutes)

- Gather students – remind them to bring everything they might need for Book Club (book, Reader's Notebook, pencil, etc.).
- Review the conversation prompts on the Book Club Calendar.
- Invite students to begin the conversation by sharing things they found interesting, funny, or confusing.
- If needed, initiate the discussion using one of the discussion questions for the chapter or focus on vocabulary.
- Focus on developing respectful conversation using the conversation prompts provided on the Book Club Calendar.

Time to Teach: Identify Big Ideas (7-10 minutes)

- Review events and characters with students in order to begin to determine what are the topics of the story, using student notebooks as a guide.
- Invite students to share what they wrote in their Reader's Notebook about the characters.
- Ask students what big idea they see emerging from their character analysis.

Some ideas to consider with students:

1. Stanley was moved in line in front of Zero after giving X Ray the golden tube. This indicates some sort of order based on a hierarchy of the boys. X Ray has more prestige than Zero. Stanley moves up based on being obedient to him.
2. Zero is not hopeful about his future. He is the underdog. He is quiet. He is not mean to others.

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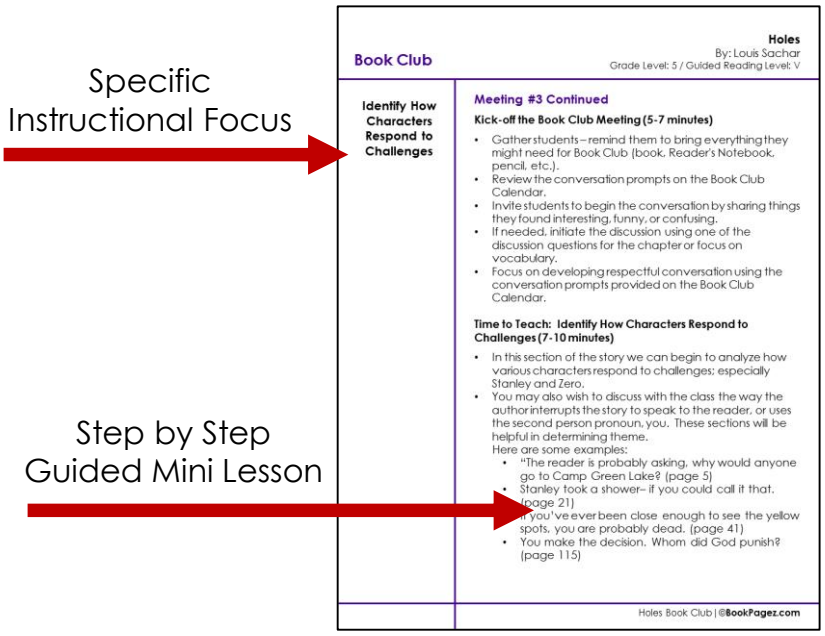

Book Club

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Identify How Characters Respond to Challenges

Meeting #3 Continued

Kick-off the Book Club Meeting (5-7 minutes)

- Gather students – remind them to bring everything they might need for Book Club (book, Reader's Notebook, pencil, etc.).
- Review the conversation prompts on the Book Club Calendar.
- Invite students to begin the conversation by sharing things they found interesting, funny, or confusing.
- If needed, initiate the discussion using one of the discussion questions for the chapter or focus on vocabulary.
- Focus on developing respectful conversation using the conversation prompts provided on the Book Club Calendar.

Time to Teach: Identify How Characters Respond to Challenges (7-10 minutes)

- In this section of the story we can begin to analyze how various characters respond to challenges; especially Stanley and Zero.
- You may also wish to discuss with the class the way the author interrupts the story to speak to the reader, or uses the second person pronoun, you. These sections will be helpful in determining theme.

Here are some examples:

- "The reader is probably asking, why would anyone go to Camp Green Lake? (page 5)
- Stanley took a shower– if you could call it that. (page 21)
- If you've ever been close enough to see the yellow spots, you are probably dead. (page 41)
- You make the decision. Whom did God punish? (page 115)

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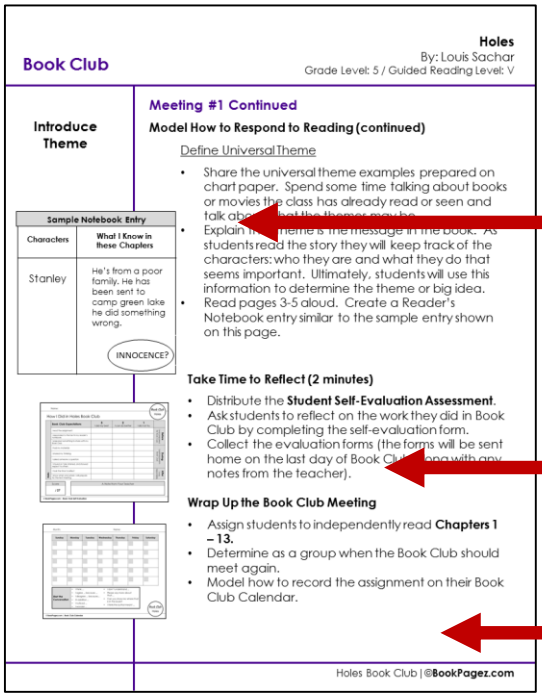
Sample Reader's Notebook Entries

Reflection and Self-Evaluation

Scheduling and Reader Responsibility



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Introduce Theme

Meeting #1 Continued

Model How to Respond to Reading (continued)

Define Universal Theme

- Share the universal theme examples prepared on chart paper. Spend some time talking about books or movies the class has already read or seen and talk about what the themes may be.
- Explain that a theme is the message in the book. As students read the story they will keep track of the characters: who they are and what they do that seems important. Ultimately, students will use this information to determine the theme or big idea.
- Read pages 3-5 aloud. Create a Reader's Notebook entry similar to the sample entry shown on this page.

Sample Notebook Entry

Characters	What I Know in these Chapters
Stanley	He's from a poor family. He has been sent to camp green lake he did something wrong.

INNOCENCE?

Take Time to Reflect (2 minutes)

- Distribute the **Student Self-Evaluation Assessment**.
- Ask students to reflect on the work they did in Book Club by completing the self-evaluation form.
- Collect the evaluation forms (the forms will be sent home on the last day of Book Club along with any notes from the teacher).

Wrap Up the Book Club Meeting

- Assign students to independently read **Chapters 1 – 13.**
- Determine as a group when the Book Club should meet again.
- Model how to record the assignment on their Book Club Calendar.

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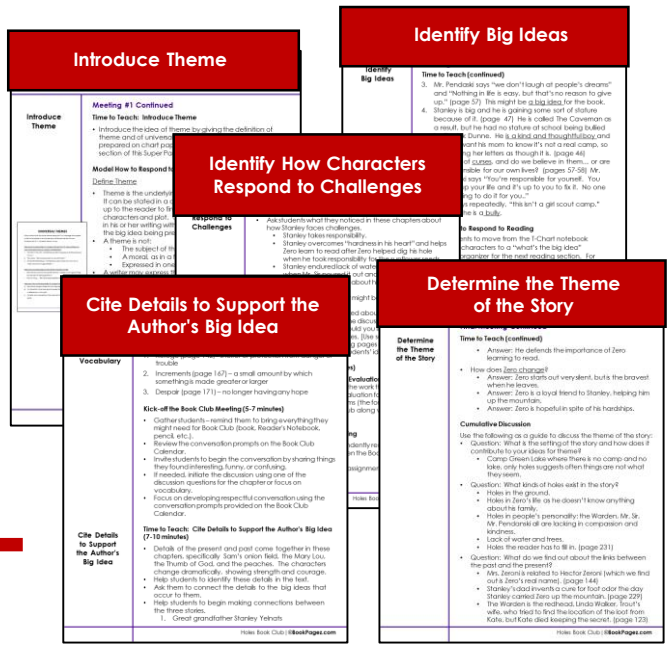

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