

# Instructional Overview

**Ivy and Bean**  
By: Annie Barrows  
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

**Book Club**

**Instructional Focus:**  
How to Use Story Elements to Determine Theme

**Background:**  
Determining the theme of a text requires readers to analyze story elements. In this Book Club, readers will examine character, setting, and plot to infer the central message of a story.

Specifically, readers will examine how characters grow and change throughout the story. They will also identify the problems characters face and how they solve these problems. Readers will then use the key details in the text to identify the theme and make connections to other books and real-life experiences.

**Ivy + Bean Book 1** is an ideal text to introduce the concept of theme to young readers. Through thoughtful, engaging text and illustrations, readers will develop a sense of how two very different characters can look beyond their differences to discover what it means to be a friend. The story explores the theme of friendship with exciting action and dialogue, both of which children will easily relate to.

**Instructional Overview:**

**Meeting #1**  
Set Expectations for Book Club and Introduce Theme

**Meeting #2**  
Chapters 1 – 2: Connecting Characters and Setting to the Theme

**Meeting #3**  
Chapters 3 – 5: Connecting Plot to the Theme

**Meeting #4**  
Chapters 6 – 8: Making Real World Connections to the Theme

**Final Meeting**  
Chapters 9 – 10: Identifying the Theme of Friendship in Other Texts

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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Materials and Preparation



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**Materials and Preparation:**

- Determine which students will participate in the **Ivy and Bean** Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of **Ivy and Bean** by Annie Barrows (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Book Club Calendar** (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Expectations for Book Club** (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the **Book Club Reading Response Board** (1 per student)
- Prepare **Reader's Notebooks** (1 per student)
  - These may be spiral notebooks, or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Prepare **Theme anchor chart** (1 for teacher)
- Prepare **Themes in Songs graphic organizer** (1 copy for teacher)
- Prepare **Friendship with Ivy and Bean graphic organizer** (1 set for each student)
- Prepare **Sample Friendship with Ivy and Bean graphic organizer** (1 set for teacher)
- Prepare **Compare and Contrast graphic organizer** (1 for each student)
- Prepare **Compare and Contrast sample student responses** (1 for teacher)
- Prepare **Plot and Theme anchor chart** (1 for teacher)
- Prepare **What's the Big Idea? Student Response Sheet** (1 for each student)
- Prepare **What's the Big Idea? sample student responses** (1 for teacher)
- Prepare **Making Connections to Real Life** (1 for each pair of students)
- Prepare **Making Connections to Real Life sample student responses** (1 for teacher)
- Prepare **Look in a Book: How to Be a Friend Resource Set** (1 for each student)
- Access to a computer/tablet/smartphone (to access video link)
- Optional: Prepare **Student Self-Evaluation Forms** (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare **Assessment Resources** (1 set per student)

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