

Instructional Overview

Book Club

Little House in the Big Woods
By: Laura Ingalls Wilder
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: Q

Instructional Focus:
Making Inferences

Background:
Making an inference means using what you know to make a guess about what you don't know. Sometimes we call this "reading between the lines". Good readers use the clues in the text along with their own experiences to help them figure out things that are not directly said.

Helping students make inferences will allow them to read the text more critically. The teacher will model drawing inferences as students read this fantasy. When inferring, we make predictions based on validation from the text itself, so it will be important to ask students to find passages from the text that validate their inference. Through making inferences and predictions about text, readers are able to engage more deeply with the text in order to draw conclusions about characters, events, and the author's purpose.

An author's purpose is the reason an author decides to write about a specific topic. It can be:

- to inform
- to persuade
- to entertain

We begin to understand the author's purpose when we look at the details in the text and make inferences from them.

Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1:
(Pages 1–8) Introduce Inferring

Meeting #2:
(Chapters 1–3) Cite the Text to Support Inferences

Meeting #3:
(Chapters 4–5) Inferring the Author's Purpose

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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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Instructional Overview (Continued):

Meeting #4:
(Chapters 6–8) Using Inferences to Make Predictions

Meeting #5:
(Chapters 9–10) Drawing Conclusions Based on Inferences

Meeting #6:
(Chapters 11–13) Reflecting on Inferences and Predictions

Materials and Preparation:

- Determine which students will participate in the *Little House in the Big Woods* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder (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.
 - Optional: Prepare "Making Inferences" student charts (several copies per student)
- Prepare a copy of the "Making Inferences" photograph
- Prepare copies of the "Tracking Author's Purpose" Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- Chart paper
- Prepare the Venn diagram hand out for final discussion
- Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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