

# Instructional Overview

**Book Club**

**Out of My Mind**  
By: Sharon Draper  
Grade Level: 4 / Guided Reading Level: 5

**Instructional Focus:**  
Determining Theme

**Background:**  
Theme is a reoccurring idea that an author weaves throughout a work of literature that delivers a message. A book can have several themes, although there are typically one or two themes that are more prominent than others. Theme is intertwined with the author's purpose for writing and is supported by the main character(s) actions, dialogue, and thoughts.  
**Out of My Mind** is a perfect novel for a Book Club focused on theme because the themes it presents are relevant and tangible for fourth grade readers. There are several themes woven throughout this coming of age story and students will have the opportunity to explore more than one throughout the Book Club.

**Instructional Overview:**  
**Meeting #1**  
Set Expectations and Introduce Theme  
**Meeting #2** (Chapters 1 – 5)  
Summarizing the Text  
**Meeting #3** (Chapters 6 – 9)  
Supporting Theme with the Main Character's Actions  
**Meeting #4** (Chapters 10 – 13)  
Determining Theme Using the Main Character's Dialogue and Thoughts  
**Meeting #5** (Chapters 14 – 18)  
Identifying Additional Themes  
**Meeting #6** (Chapters 19 – 23)  
Revisiting Theme and Character Actions  
**Meeting #7** (Chapters 24 – 27)  
Reviewing Theme and Character Dialogue and Thoughts  
**Meeting #8** (Chapters 28 – 33)  
Reflecting on Theme

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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 Out of My Mind Book Club (4-6 students)
- ☐ Gather copies of **Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper (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)
- ☐ Prepare How to be a Theme Detective anchor chart
- ☐ Prepare Theme Detective graphic organizer
- ☐ Prepare Somebody Wanted But So Then anchor chart
- ☐ Prepare Out of My Mind Summary Chart (1 per student)
- ☐ Gather sticky notes and chart paper (for use throughout Book Club)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation forms (1 per student per meeting)
- ☐ Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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