

Instructional Overview

Sideways Stories from Wayside School
By: Louis Sachar
Grade Level: 3 / Guided Reading Level: P

Book Club

Instructional Focus:
Asking and Answering Questions

Background:
It is important for readers to ask themselves questions before, during, and after reading to help them understand the text more deeply. Asking questions sets a purpose for focused reading and allows the students to use the text and illustrations to think about what they already know and what they want to find out.

Sideways Stories from Wayside School is an excellent text for a Book Club focused on asking questions because the unusual and outlandish happenings of each chapter require the reader to wonder about the details that are unlike anything they have ever experienced.

Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1
Introduce Understanding a Story by Asking Questions

Meeting #2 (Chapters 1 – 6)
Asking Important Questions (Thin vs. Thick)

Meeting #3 (Chapters 7 – 12)
Finding Answers to Your Questions

Meeting #4 (Chapters 13 – 18)
Supporting Your Answers with the Text

Meeting #5 (Chapters 19 – 24)
Making Logical Inferences to Answer Questions

Meeting #6 (Chapters 25 – 30)
Asking and Answering Questions

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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:

- ☐ Determine which students will participate in the *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* Book Club (4-6 students)
- ☐ Gather copies of *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar (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 Goldy Handout (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Understanding a Story by Asking Questions Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Thick or Thin? Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Asking and Answering Thin Questions Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Asking and Answering Thick Questions Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Making Inferences to Answer Thick Questions Graphic Organizer (1 per student)
- ☐ Prepare Cumulative Activity (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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