

Instructional Overview

Book Club

Wishtree

By: Katherine Applegate
Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: T

Instructional Focus:

Figurative Language

Background:

Figurative language refers to words and phrases used by authors to help readers more clearly imagine, feel, and interpret the characters, setting, and events in the story. By incorporating figurative language, authors can share situations, events, and feelings in a way that couldn't be described or expressed with simple words. In order for these words and phrases to be effective, the reader must be able to interpret the figurative language and understand what the author is trying to say.

Wishtree is a perfect text for exploring figurative language due to author Katherine Applegate's use of personification, similes, metaphors, and idioms. Readers will be able to use the figurative language to more deeply connect to the story's characters and to experience the drama and emotion of the text.

Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1 (Poem)

Set Expectations and Introduce Figurative Language

Meeting #2 (Chapters 1 – 11, pages 1-41)

Personification

Meeting #3 (Chapters 12 – 20, pages 42-86)

Similes

Meeting #4 (Chapters 21 – 30, pages 87-128)

Metaphors

Meeting #5 (Chapters 31 – 43, pages 129-172)

Idioms

Final Meeting (Chapters 44 – 51, pages 173-211)

Exploring the Impact of Figurative Language

Instructional Focus

Description of the
Instructional Focus

List of Book Club Meetings
and the Instructional Focus
for Each Meeting

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Book Club

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Materials and Preparation:

- Determine which students will participate in the **Wishtree** Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of **Wishtree** by Katherine Applegate (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)
 - o These may be spiral notebooks or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Prepare Figurative Language anchor chart
- Prepare A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words BookPagez Teacher Tool ([link](#))
- Prepare Painting a Picture with Words graphic organizer
- Prepare Red Bubble Map
- Prepare Idioms from Wishtree activity sheet
- Prepare Guess It! Culminating activity
- 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)

List of Materials and Preparation

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