

Midwest Region PASS Center

READING 6A

Unit I - Introduction to Story Elements

In this unit the student will be introduced to the fact that every story read will have characters, a setting, a plot, and the different styles of a writer to include the author's purpose, the author's opinion, story mood, and story vocabulary. Each of the elements will be defined with a definition and examples. This is followed by activities for student completion using each of the story elements.

Unit II - Reading Skills and the Novel

This novel, The Sign of the Beaver, allows the student to enter wholeheartedly into the life of an early pioneer family and the culture of an Indian family. It shows how the Indian way of life was challenged as white settlers moved into the area. The student will recognize the contrasts in the cultures and how the two cultures met their difficulties and triumphs. The writing techniques of the author will enhance critical reading skills, increase vocabulary, and provide models for descriptive writing. The following reading skills will be defined with examples: main idea, details, figurative language, context clues, analogy, cause and effect, homonyms, climax, and conclusion. This is followed by related activities for student completion.

Unit III - Working with Story Elements

This unit deals with the elements of the novel, The Sign of the Beaver. There are explanations and student activities that will enhance the following; vocabulary, setting, character, style, summary, and evaluation of the book. The student will be asked to write about the feelings and emotions of the characters in the book, write solutions to a problem, and write his/her own philosophy of life.

Unit IV - Constructing Meanings

This unit is a follow-up to the novel The Sign of the Beaver telling of early settlers and the Indians. The student will read about Caddie Woodlawn and her family living in Wisconsin during the 1800s. Scientific stories of the animals mentioned in the novel are included with a moral written at the end of each selection. These stories convey the necessity of protecting animal life and show that everything we do has an effect on our life, whether good or bad. Student activities patterned after state mandated tests include vocabulary, sequencing, predicting, cloze procedure, charts, maps, cause and effect, and writing exercises.

Unit V - Critical Reading

In this unit the student will follow the theme of the novel and read a portion of the history of North American Indians, about brave leaders of the Indian nations, and how they reacted to the changes in their world as the white settlers moved farther and farther west. The student will read accounts of the early settlers and understand the hardships they suffered as they began their explorations in the "New World." There is also the story of the American pioneer John Chapman, who became known as Johnny Appleseed. The student activities, patterned after state mandated tests, are based on the story selections and include: vocabulary, sequence, cloze procedure, maps, poetry, summarization, and several writing activities.