

Bend In the Road
Lesson Plan
September 4, 2012

Topic/Title: Themes in literary works.

Grade level: 6th – 8th Grade

ELA Content Standards

6th Grade -- Narrative Analysis

3.6 Identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.

7th Grade -- Narrative Analysis

3.4 Identify and analyze recurring themes across works (e.g., the value of bravery, loyalty, and friendship; the effects of loneliness).

8th Grade -- Narrative Analysis

3.5 Identify and analyze recurring themes (e.g., good versus evil) across traditional and contemporary works.

Objective – Students will be able to determine and write about the themes in a theatrical literary work

Activating Prior Knowledge

Prior to seeing the musical

Teacher will:

1. provide general background information on Anne of Green Gables.
2. use a map to show students where Prince Edward Island is located.
3. use KWL chart to determine what students know about orphans and orphanages in the late 1800s.
 - a. Resources
 - i. http://www.ehow.com/info_8467200_orphans-1900s.html
 - ii. <http://orphantraindepot.com/OrphanTrainHistory.html>

Instruction

After seeing the musical

Teacher will:

1. define theme to students.
 - a. Theme is the secret message that the writer wants you to discover for yourself as you share the experiences of the characters.
 - b. Themes focus on the “Big” ideas in literature that endures and focuses on the big topics in life: understanding the nature of love, accepting responsibility, discovering the joys and problems of friendship.
 - c. Examples:
 - i. Charlotte’s Web – Friends come in all shapes and sizes.
 - ii. The Outsiders - Courtesy and propriety can exist even among the most lawless of social groups

2. lead a whole-class discussion or facilitate small group discussions regarding some of the themes addressed in the musical. Such themes revolve around the subjects of:
 - a. belonging
 - b. acceptance
 - c. love
 - d. commitment
 - e. friendship

Individual Practice (Teacher may need to scaffold based on level and student's needs).

Students will:

1. select one theme from the musical and create a Circle Map describing evidence from the musical to support the theme.
2. use ideas from Circle Map to create an informal outline (StepUp) to prepare for writing.

Assessment (Please adjust as necessary.)

Students will write a Response to theatrical literary work using the following prompt.

There are several themes expressed in *Bend in the Road*. Write an essay where you define a theme and provide examples from the musical to support your ideas.