

Author: Bridget Alexander, Anna Bilyeu, Alexandra Larson

Title: Cooperative Story-Writing

Duration: Five class periods

Subject Area: ELA

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Unit: Unit Four

Standards:

ELACC4RL2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text

Opening: Read aloud the text *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni. Lead a class discussion that guides students to identify the theme of the story - cooperation. Create an anchor chart in which students identify details from the text that support this theme.

Work Period: Before beginning this lesson, make arrangements with at least one other 4th grade teacher who is able to collaborate on the project.

Present students with a text set of books related to the theme of “cooperation”. Students will self-select and read texts, making note of how details and specific examples from the text illustrate the theme of “cooperation”. (Visit <http://www.librarything.com/tag/cooperation> to find suggested books related to cooperation.)

Students from each class will join a common Edmodo group where teachers have posted questions related to the text set. Students will add comments based on their reading. Questions include:

- How does this book illustrate the theme of “cooperation”? Provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.
- Do any of these books have more than one theme? What details from the text tell you this?
- What connections can you make to this story? Text to text? Text to self? Text to world?

Students will then work together to create a “pass-along” story that relates to the theme of cooperation. Students from each class will be separated into groups: Beginning Group, Middle Group, and End Group. Students in the Beginning Group will work together to complete the Beginning portion of the story map graphic organizer (attached), focusing on including details that relate to the theme of cooperation. Students will then write the beginning of the story and record themselves reading the story using www.recordmp3.org. Students will upload the recording of the beginning of the story to the Edmodo group.

The Middle Group and End Group will repeat this process, using the story map graphic organizer to plan and write their portion of the story, recording the story, and adding it to the Edmodo group.

Closing: Completed story will be posted to Edmodo group. Students from each class will listen to the entire story and add comments to the discussion board related to how the finished story relates to the theme of “cooperation”. (Alternative option: Arrange a Skype conference for students to hold their discussion).

Differentiation: Provide story starters for students who need additional support. Utilize programs such as SOLO writing suite to support students who need additional support.

Differentiation

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small group | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Matrix | <input type="checkbox"/> Choice of product |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaborative group | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project based learning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time or method |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible grouping | <input type="checkbox"/> Problem based learning | <input type="checkbox"/> Compacting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiered instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of text | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see procedures) |