

Teacher: J Birks - - revised

Subject: 8 Reading

Topic: Story Elements – plot, protagonist, antagonist, conflict, character traits and physical traits, theme

Materials: plot diagram and conflict wrksht, computer, youtube.com “Robby”

Location in unit: Towards the end of unit. Pro/antagonist has been practiced for 2 weeks (including physical and character traits), conflict for 1 week and plot components have been taught for 3 days (exposition, rising action, etc.), and theme for 1 day. Teacher has modeled how to completed the graphic organizer with a short cartoon in class and the teacher/class has worked together through another cartoon during class.

Youtube.com – “Robby” 4 min cartoon (no dialogue) – I had a link to the cartoon from my blog page and had it in print form for students without internet access.

Fill in the wrksht box 4 first, identifying the protagonist, what they want/need, what is preventing them from getting it (antagonist), and what it takes to overcome the problem.

On the plot diagram wrksht side, identify:

1. exposition (setting and main characters with physical and character traits),
2. rising action (what action starts the story and the main event that follow
3. climax
4. falling action
5. resolution/denouement

Changes:

Teach this unit before English class does their creative writing component.

At the start of the unit, have students write about conflicts in their personal lives.

Add explanation for conflict type and theme.

Theme: add 3 justifications from the story to support the theme

Show a cartoon with NO plot. Discuss whether it is as enjoyable to watch and why? As a reader/watching do you yearn for a plot? Do you notice a poor or absent one?