

Lesson: Language Arts Grades 4-6 Plot Sequence & Cause and Effect



Cause and Effect

Introduction

Objective:

Student will be able to recognize cause and effect relationships within The Children's Theatre production, *Charlotte's Web*, and those found in their own lives.

Academic Content Standards:

- ❖ National Council of Teachers of English and International Reading Association Standards for English Language Arts: #3
 - *Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and appreciate text.*
- ❖ Ohio Academic Content Standards for Language Arts #5 Reading Applications: Literary Text Standard
 - *Students demonstrate their comprehension by describing and discussing the elements of literature (e.g. setting, character and plot)...and responding to text in critical and creative ways.*
 - *Benchmarks: C (4th, 5th & 6th Grades)*

Getting Started

Materials:

- Handout A

Vocabulary:

- Cause
- Effect

Technology:

Create a cause and effect graphic organizer using computer drawing or graphing software (e.g., *Inspiration*) for another book or story.

Lesson

Orientation Activity:

Take a large textbook and drop it on the floor so that it makes a loud sound upon impact. After getting the students' attention, ask, "What did I just do?" The students should notice that a book was dropped on the floor and the impact made a loud sound. Then ask, "What was your reaction?" Some answers might include, "I looked at the teacher," "I jumped in my chair," or "The book made a surprised sound." Explain that the dropping of the book was done to illustrate the concept, "cause and effect." The book falling is considered the cause, the students' reactions to it is considered the effect. Teacher and students create a working definition for the words "cause and effect." Ask for examples of other cause and effect relationships that the students recognize in their own lives, asking for more and more complex examples.

Learning Activity:

Pass out *Handout A*. Explain that there were many cause and effect relationships in the production, *Charlotte's Web*. These cause and effect relationships make the story more complex and interesting to watch. Ask students to recognize any cause and effect relationships within the storyline of the

play and discuss their ideas. Next, review the directions on *Handout A* and question #1 as a class. Have students in small groups recognize the cause and effect relationships in #2-10. Regroup as a class to review the answers. If students finish early, ask them to create their own cause and effect worksheet where they make up one or two word cause and effect relationships. For example:

Cause -Tired Effect - Sleep.

Evaluation and Follow-Up

Assessment Tools and Methods:

Handout A results

Class participation in discussion

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Social Studies and Science - Connect the cause and effect relationship concept to historical events and decisions made in scientific experiments.

Handout A



Name _____

Directions: For each sentence pair, write “C” on the line to label the statement that is the cause or “E” on the line to label the statement if it is an effect.

1. _____ Mr. Arable wants to kill the runt baby piglet.
_____ A baby piglet is born that is a runt.
2. _____ Fern wanted to keep the new runt piglet.
_____ Fern kept the piglet and fed it with a bottle.
3. _____ Wilbur is eating too much and getting fatter.
_____ Mr. Arable wants to sell Wilbur.
4. _____ Charlotte asks Wilbur, “Do you want a friend?”
_____ Wilbur says he is lonely.
5. _____ Wilbur gets two spoonfuls of sulphur and molasses.
_____ Wilbur doesn't eat his slop when Lurvy brings it to his trough.
6. _____ Avery tries to capture the spider in the barn (Charlotte).
_____ Fern pushes Avery into the trough.
7. _____ Charlotte knows that Wilbur will be sold after he gets fat.
_____ Charlotte writes, “SOME PIG,” in her web.
8. _____ People come from all over to see Wilbur at the Zuckerman Farm.
_____ Charlotte writes, “SOME PIG,” in her web.
9. _____ Charlotte is getting more and more tired.
_____ Charlotte is nearing the end of her life span.
10. _____ Five hundred and fourteen new spiders hatch.
_____ Charlotte lays her egg sac and Wilbur and Templeton take it back to the farm.