

Character and Life Skills

Video Title: Diligence, Self-Awareness

Lesson Title: Diligence Story

Grade Level: High School



Project and Purpose:

Students analyze children's books focusing on the theme of diligence.

Essential Question:

How is diligence expressed in children's stories?

NOTE: This lesson can be extended over several days if you choose to do the extension of having students write original children's picture books and stories. Several programs/apps exist online to support their writing including: Adobe Slate (Free) Book Creator (\$4.99) Write About This (\$3.99), and Book Writer (\$4.99).

Materials:

- Children's books on the theme of diligence (a suggested list is provided; check with a local librarian for other titles), at least one book per student
- Children's Picture Books Analysis Worksheet
- Writing tools and/or computer writing program

NOTE: Before class, select one book with the theme of diligence that you particularly like to share with the class.

Teacher

1. Use the discussion questions provided online to review the definition of diligence as seen in the video Diligence. Talk about the video as a story and discuss the elements of it as Jody's story.
2. Explain that students will work with picture books to explore how the theme of diligence is used in children's stories. Students will analyze two or more children's picture books on this theme, and if there is time, they will write an original children's story focusing on diligence.
3. Share the book you have selected and consider conducting a read aloud. Ask students to discuss how the theme of diligence is evident in the story.
4. By this point, some students will most likely wonder why they are working with such elementary texts, but explain that while they are for early readers, they also offer an easy way to read or listen to an entire story and discuss the craft and themes in one period, and they are FUN.
5. Display and/or review the children's books you have brought with you to class and allow the students to explore the "pile" and eventually select a book they would like to analyze.
6. Distribute or post the Children's Picture Book Analysis worksheet and discuss the elements and questions that will help them with their analyses.

7. Pair students with a partner and allow them to arrange their desks and move as necessary. Partners should read their stories to each other and also work on their analysis together.
8. When students have completed their analyses, have them turn over their pages to write a three-sentence summary of the story that focuses on the theme of diligence:
 - One sentence describes the beginning and includes the main character's name and the problem.
 - The second sentence tells about a bit of the plot or action and hints at the climax or the most exciting/important event.
 - The third sentence hints at the ending without giving it away.
9. When students have completed their analyses and their three-sentence summaries, have them form groups of four or six to share their stories with others. Encourage them to find similarities and differences among their selected stories.

Conclusion:

Have students write a brief response to the essential question OR discuss as a whole group:
How is diligence expressed in children's stories?

Extension:

Have students create original children's stories on the theme of diligence and share with each other and with prekindergarten and kindergarten classes at your feeder school or a local early childhood center.

Name:

Children's Picture Book Analysis

Use the chart to analyze how the book you have chosen illustrates the elements of a good children's picture book.

Title of Book:

Element	Analysis
The Characters and Characterizations	
What is the main character's main quality or trait?	
What two qualities or traits can young children identify with or sympathize with?	
What is the character's problem?	
How does the character solve the problem? (By self or with help of others?)	
How does the character change by the end of the story?	
The Text	
Is the story told in simple sentences and short paragraphs?	
What literary devices are used? (Consider: rhyme, imagery, repetition, simile, personification, alliteration, rhythm, onomatopoeia, etc.)	
How does the author give the reader a reason to turn the page?	
The Illustrations	
What is the medium? (collage, drawing, photos, etc.)	
How do the illustrations support the text?	
What two things repeat in every illustration? Why is this important?	

- **How is the theme of diligence presented in the text, illustrations, and characterizations?**

Children's Books about Diligence

The books listed come from the site Library Thing which lists books most often tagged by librarians and book publishers with theme words.

Art From Her Heart by Kathy Whitehead

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams

A Doll for Navidades by Esmeralda Santiago

The Gingerbread Girl by Lisa Campbell Ernst

The Great Pie Robbery by Richard Scarry

The Hare and the Tortoise

Henny Penny by Paul Galdone

Hiromi's Hands by Lynne Barasch

Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton

The Knight, the Princess, and the Magic Rock, A Classic Persian Tale by Sara Azizi

Lazy Bugs, Live Without Us If You Can by Imagine Brothers

Little Kunoichi The Ninja Girl by Sanae Ishida

The Little Red Hen by Jerry Pinkney

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

Milly, Molly and the Queen's Visit by Pittar Morrell

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall, Barabara Cooney (illustrator)

Out of the Ballpark by Alex Rodriguez

Pepito the Brave by Scott Beck

Sergio Saves the Game by Edel Rodriguez

Snipp, Snapp, Snurr Learn to Swim by Maj Lindman

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson

The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Wiggle by Beatrix Potter

There Goes Ted Williams: The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived by Matt Tavares

Trouble for Thomas and Other Stories by Reverand W. Awdry

Vampirina Ballerina by Anne Marie Pace

What About Me? By Ed Young

The Wooden Sword: A Jewish Folktale from Afghanistan by Ann Redisch Stampler