

Engage Your Students and
Impress Your Administration

Lesson Plan for Any Novel

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Reading a novel as a class requires teachers to be creative when it comes to keeping students engaged. The following lesson plan can be used daily during the reading of a novel to keep students focused on language and engaged in the text you are all reading.

How the Lesson Works

Step one:

Before class starts, pull a sentence from what you read with students the day prior. Try to choose one that is truly remarkable for some reason. I like to start with sentences that have remarkable verbs (this is easy for kids to grasp).

Step Two:

Write the sentence on the board before students walk in.

Step Three:

When students enter class, ask them to read the sentence and ask what makes this sentence worthy of study. Then point out the verbs and talk about how the sentence meaning would have changed if the author had chosen different verbs.



Step Four:

As you read the novel in class, ask students to be on the lookout for other call-out-worthy sentences with *amazing* verbs. This will:

- give them a purpose for reading
- break up the class period as students raise their hands to offer up their sentences
- provide an opportunity for students to discuss as they read, which will solidify comprehension of what they read
- encourage students to look deeply at language and craft as they read.

Once students master the art of studying verbs, it is time to start looking for other components of language that make sentences fabulous and begin studying those.