

The Outsiders: A Novel

Instructional Unit Resource Guide

Based on Principles of Universal Design and Differentiated Instruction

Christopher Kern

ZCS

Authors' Note

This lesson is designed for 7th Grade Language Arts class. It is taught in the spring (though not required) and takes roughly 4 weeks.

The unit centers around one of the books all 7th grade students at ZMS read. I hope the students develop insight into literary techniques used by the S.E. Hinton in the book *The Outsiders*, develop reading comprehension strategies, research skills, Writing skills and techniques, and presentation techniques.

Students need access to the Internet via computers, library access, availability of video cameras, and video editing software.

Standards

Students will meet the following standards in this unit:

Standard 2: READING: Comprehension

Comprehension involves understanding grade-level-appropriate material. Students develop strategies such as asking questions; making predictions; and identifying and analyzing structure, organization, perspective, and purpose. After Grade 5, the focus is on informational texts.

Standard 3: READING: Literary Response and Analysis

Response to grade-level-appropriate literature includes identifying story elements such as character, theme, plot, and setting, and making connections and comparisons across texts. Literary response enhances students' understanding of history, culture, and the social sciences.

Standard 4: WRITING: Process

The writing process includes prewriting, drafting, editing, and revising. Students progress through these stages to write clear, coherent, and focused paragraphs and essays.

Standard 5: WRITING: Applications

Through the exploration of different types of writing and the characteristics of each, students become proficient at narrative (stories), expository (informational), descriptive (sensory), persuasive (emotional appeal), argumentative (logical defense), and technical writing. Writing demonstrates an awareness of the audience (intended reader) and purpose for writing.

Standard 6: WRITING: English Language Conventions

Conventions include the grade-level-appropriate mechanics of writing, such as penmanship, spelling, grammar, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure, and manuscript form.

Standard 7: LISTENING AND SPEAKING: Skills, Strategies, and Applications

Response to oral communication includes careful listening and evaluation of content. Speaking skills, such as phrasing, pitch, and tone are developed in conjunction with such strategies as narration, exposition, description, and persuasion and are applied to students' delivery of oral presentations.

Planning for Academic Diversity

Before you begin planning your unit, consider the following types of scaffolds that should be built into your unit to support diverse learners:

For **students that cannot read at grade level...**

Try text to speech <http://www.readplease.com>

If a student has **difficulty comprehending the material...**

Try study aids <http://www.sparknotes.com>

If students have **difficulty mastering the vocabulary** of the unit...

Try a visual thesaurus <http://www.visuwords.com>

If you have students who **need the instructional materials in a language other than English...**

Try Babel Fish <http://babelfish.altavista.com>

If you have students who have **difficulty with handwriting**, (either speed or accuracy), then...

Consider dictation <http://www.idictate.com>

If you have **students who need additional challenge**, then...

Search Google or TrackStar for enrichment activities

If your unit **requires students to conduct research**, you might want to use...

Google Toolbar <http://toolbar.google.com/>

Internet Search Engine for Kids <http://www.ivyjoy.com/rayne/kidssearch.html>

Teacher Library

Briefly describe instructional resources that will be useful to teachers when preparing this unit for diverse learners.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/outsidiers/>

summary, information, and literary techniques used in the story, *The Outsiders*.

<http://www.sehinton.com/books/outsidiers.html>

S.E. Hinton page about information regarding her book

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/hinton.html>

free lesson plans for *The Outsiders*

Content Accessibility

The UDL principle of multiple means of representation is an important design principle for creating accessible and engaging instruction. The following resources will be provided to ensure that diverse students have access to the instructional content presented in this unit.

Text-based content: Each student provided with personal copy of the story

Web page content: research relating to gang activity: see Tic-Tac-Toe Board

Audio supports for text: text to speech options.

Audio content: Books on tape provided for those with need

Vocabulary support: Vocabulary posted on Quizlet.com

Assessment

The UDL principle of multiple means of expression is an important design principle for assessment. The following materials and resources will be useful for assessing student knowledge, skills, and application of their learning.

See rubrics provided in Lesson Plan Folder