

Downriver

7th Grade ELA Lesson

Summary

1. ELA
2. Novel Study: Downriver, by Will Hobbs
3. 7th Grade
4. Objective: Students will evaluate the choices made by the teens in the novel and make personal connections to the characters
5. 90 minute block

Implementation

Learning Context

This lesson comes at the end of the novel- students have spent time each day reflecting on the events and characters

Procedure

- a. Anticipatory Set

Do Now: The teens in the novel made a number of very dangerous decisions- share a time (or times) when you, a friend, a sibling, or an older acquaintance behaved in a way that ended up being a bad idea


2. Direct Instruction

What's going on in our brains? Why does it seem like teens tend to make some really questionable choices? Watch the following videos and pause for discussion:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzT_SBI31-s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8zrKaE_dzw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dISmdb5zfiQ>



While watching the videos, students should write:

Three interesting facts

Two questions

One connection

3. Share out

4. Group Work:

With your table groups, discuss how what you learned about the brain applies to the choices made by the characters in the novel

Each group will be assigned a character: on the provided poster paper, create a visual that shows the questionable decisions made by the character and share what changes in the brain likely contributed to those choices. Be prepared to share with the class.