

Strategy: CONCEPT MAP

Overview:

Concept mapping is an instructional strategy that represents knowledge through visuals. Concept maps help students “talk through” their thoughts and share ideas, and these maps are beneficial to both auditory and visual learners. Concept maps can be used to generate ideas during brainstorming sessions, to aid learning by integrating new and old knowledge, to assess understanding, or to diagnose misunderstanding; and concept maps can be used in a variety of ways to help students organize their learning.

The instructional activity below is an example of how a concept map can be used as an instructional strategy.

Instructional Strategy:

You may want to demonstrate for your class how to create a concept map. Begin with a central idea, topic, or term and add characteristics, definitions, relationships, or other attributes related to current study. A concept map helps students’ practice critical thinking by finding and describing relationships.

When students are ready to concept map on their own, have them select the most important word from a unit, story, or informational passage. Have them place the word in the center of a piece of paper. Encourage them to think about the word and then circle it or draw a box around it. Ask them to write other important words outside the circles and then use arrows to connect the words in graphics, establishing a relationship between the terms.

You are ready to TeachItNow! Here is how you can use the concept map strategy to teach story events. A learning target, instructional activity, and assessment technique are provided.

Learning Target:

Students will define the elements of a story. Students will also categorize information from a short story based on the story elements.

Instructional Activity:

Teach Story Events with the “CONCEPT MAP” Strategy


Apply the “Concept Map” strategy to teaching students about story events through the creation of a story map. This map will visually show students how the plot is structured with the basic elements of the setting, the main character, the problem, the main events, the climax, and the

resolution. This application will help students become more involved with the text and aid in text comprehension.

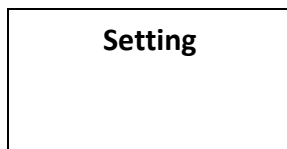
Place these words on the board: "Title of Story," "Setting," "Main Character," "Main Events," "Problem," "Climax," and "Resolution." Review the definitions of these short story elements. Have students write each term in a graphic element as they read the story. Have students take notes to discuss each element as they read. Events should be in correct sequence. Additional graphics and arrows can be added to the concept map.

EVENTS

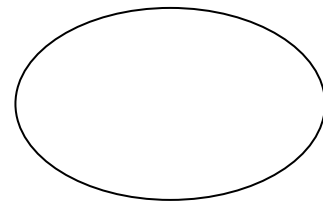
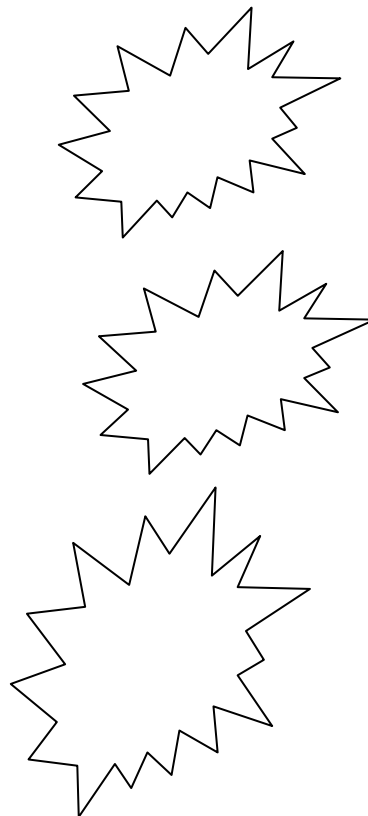
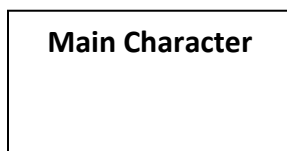
Title of Story



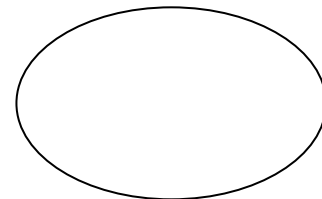
Setting



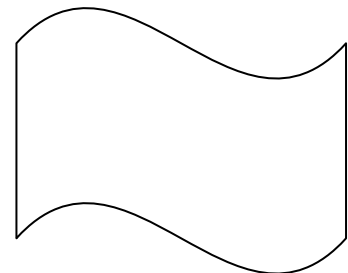
Main Character



Problem



Climax



Resolution

Formative Assessment:

Place students in groups to discuss the concept map of the story and make any revisions. Once all groups have completed discussions and revisions, each group can be assigned a particular part of the concept map to report on to the rest of the class. If you are reading a book or novel, you can add to the concept map at the conclusion of each chapter.