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Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 5—4th Grade

Grade: 4th
Topic: Theme and Fables
Instructional unit: Unit 5: Connecting the Reading and Writing Processes: Responding to Literature (in reference to Week 1, #2, 3, 4, 5)
Contributed By: Denise Taylor, Dr. Cynthia L. Allen-Golden, Terry K. Erbsfield, Christine Parker, Julia D. Brackett, Tracy Gutierrez

The task: The teacher introduces the concept of theme by reading several fables with the students and making a list of common components, mainly focusing on the element of theme. Together with the students, the teacher charts the difference in main idea and theme by writing the main idea and the theme of each fable that was read. Students compare the charted information and determine the difference between the two concepts. (For example: The main idea comes from the characters and plot of the individual fable; in contrast, the theme is a concept or lesson that may be found not only in that fable but also in many other fables as well.) Students then get into groups of 2 to 4 students and read a given fable. They then break the fable into its elements of fiction and theme (A graphic organizer is utilized for this part of the task.) (See task from Unit 1, Week 3, #4, Elements of Fiction graphic organizer). Students then share their fable with the rest of the class, especially emphasizing the theme of their fable. All themes are written on a chart as the groups present their fables. Finally, the groups choose a theme from the chart and write their own fable that teaches the same theme. Differentiation: Groups may choose how they present their fable and its theme to the class. They may do it with a graphic organizer, Reader’s Theater, Read-Aloud, etc.

Focus Standard:
ELA4R1 The student demonstrates comprehension and shows evidence of a warranted and responsible explanation of a variety of literary and informational texts.
For literary texts, the student identifies the characteristics of various genres and produces evidence of reading that:
a. Relates theme in works of fiction to personal experience.
b. Identifies and analyzes the elements of plot, character, and setting in stories read, written, viewed, or performed.
g. Identifies similarities and differences between the characters or events and theme in a literary work and the actual experiences in an author’s life.
h. Identifies themes and lessons in folktales, tall tales, and fables.

ELA4LSV1 The student participates in student-to-teacher, student-to-student, and group verbal interactions.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers:
This task should take place after students have been introduced to and worked with the elements of fiction. Theme is a difficult concept for many 4th graders who often confuse theme with main idea or topic. This task focuses on helping students see the difference between these two important elements.