

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts  
**Unit Title:** Developing Comprehension Skills through Connected Series and Junior Journals  
**Grade Level:** 3-5  
**Lesson Number:** 1 of 10

**Duration:** 45 minutes  
**Date:** March 10, 2024  
**Teacher:** Ms. Johnson  
**Room:** 205

## Curriculum Standards Alignment

### Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Determine a main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

### Skills Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

### Cross-Curricular Links:

- English Language Arts: reading comprehension, vocabulary development, writing
- Social Studies: culture, history, geography

## Essential Questions & Big Ideas

### Essential Questions:

- What is the main idea of the story?
- How do the characters contribute to the sequence of events?

### Enduring Understandings:

- Students will understand that reading comprehension is a critical skill for academic success.
- Students will understand that connected series and junior journals can be used to develop comprehension skills.

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## Student Context Analysis

**Class Profile:**

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

**Learning Styles Distribution:**

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

## Pre-Lesson Preparation

### Room Setup:

- Arrange desks in small groups
- Set up whiteboard and markers

### Technology Needs:

- Computers or tablets with internet access

### Materials Preparation:

- Connected series and junior journal texts
- Graphic organizers and worksheets

### Safety Considerations:

- Ensure classroom environment is safe and inclusive

## Detailed Lesson Flow

### Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the topic of connected series and junior journals
- Provide a brief overview of the lesson

### Whole-Class Instruction (10 minutes)

- Provide whole-class instruction on how to use connected series and junior journals
- Demonstrate how to read and analyze the texts

### Engagement Strategies:

- Think-pair-share
- Turn-and-talk

### Small-Group Work (8 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups
- Provide each group with a connected series or junior journal text

### Scaffolding Strategies:

- Provide graphic organizers and worksheets
- Offer one-on-one instruction and feedback

### Independent Reading Time (5 minutes)

- Provide students with independent reading time
- Encourage students to use the skills and strategies learned during the lesson

### Sharing and Discussion (5 minutes)

- Ask students to share their thoughts and opinions about the texts
- Facilitate a class discussion

### **Conclusion (2 minutes)**

- Provide a conclusion to the lesson
- Summarize the key points and reinforce the importance of comprehension skills

## Differentiation & Support Strategies

### For Struggling Learners:

- Provide additional support and scaffolding during small-group work and independent reading time
- Offer one-on-one instruction and feedback

### For Advanced Learners:

- Provide extension tasks, such as creating their own connected series or junior journal text
- Encourage advanced learners to lead small-group discussions and provide feedback to their peers

### ELL Support Strategies:

- Provide visual aids and graphic organizers
- Offer one-on-one instruction and feedback

### Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage students to reflect on their own learning and set goals
- Provide opportunities for students to practice self-awareness and self-regulation

## Assessment & Feedback Plan

### Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Observation
- Quizzes
- Class discussions

### Success Criteria:

- Students will be able to demonstrate improved comprehension skills
- Students will be able to think critically about the texts

### Feedback Methods:

- Verbal feedback
- Written feedback

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## Homework & Extension Activities

### Homework Assignment:

Read a connected series or junior journal text and complete a graphic organizer

### Extension Activities:

- Create a book review or recommendation for a connected series or junior journal text
- Develop a character map or diagram, illustrating the relationships between characters

**Parent/Guardian Connection:**

Encourage parents/guardians to read with their child and discuss the text

## Teacher Reflection Space

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**Pre-Lesson Reflection:**

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

**Post-Lesson Reflection:**

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

## Introduction to Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals are types of texts that can be used to develop comprehension skills in students. Connected series are texts that are part of a larger series, while junior journals are texts that are written for younger readers.

These types of texts can be used to develop comprehension skills in students because they provide a range of opportunities for students to practice reading and analyzing texts. Connected series and junior journals can be used to teach students how to identify main ideas, make inferences, and summarize texts.

## Benefits of Using Connected Series and Junior Journals

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There are several benefits to using connected series and junior journals in the classroom. These texts can be used to develop comprehension skills, promote critical thinking, and encourage a love for reading in students.

Connected series and junior journals can also be used to differentiate instruction and provide opportunities for students to work at their own level. These texts can be used to provide scaffolding for struggling learners and extension activities for advanced learners.

## How to Use Connected Series and Junior Journals in the Classroom

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Connected series and junior journals can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom. These texts can be used for whole-class instruction, small-group work, and independent reading time.

Teachers can use connected series and junior journals to teach students how to identify main ideas, make inferences, and summarize texts. These texts can also be used to promote critical thinking and encourage students to think deeply about the texts they read.

## Teaching Comprehension Skills with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals can be used to teach students a range of comprehension skills, including identifying main ideas, making inferences, and summarizing texts.

Teachers can use these texts to model comprehension skills and provide opportunities for students to practice these skills. Connected series and junior journals can also be used to promote critical thinking and encourage students to think deeply about the texts they read.

## Promoting Critical Thinking with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals can be used to promote critical thinking in students. These texts can be used to encourage students to think deeply about the texts they read and to make connections between the texts and their own experiences.

Teachers can use connected series and junior journals to ask open-ended questions and encourage students to think critically about the texts. These texts can also be used to promote discussion and debate in the classroom.

## Encouraging a Love for Reading with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals can be used to encourage a love for reading in students. These texts can be used to provide opportunities for students to read for pleasure and to explore different genres and authors.

Teachers can use connected series and junior journals to create a positive and supportive reading environment in the classroom. These texts can also be used to promote reading aloud and to encourage students to share their favorite books with their peers.



## Differentiated Instruction with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals can be used to differentiate instruction in the classroom. These texts can be used to provide scaffolding for struggling learners and extension activities for advanced learners.

Teachers can use connected series and junior journals to provide opportunities for students to work at their own level. These texts can also be used to promote independent reading and to encourage students to take ownership of their learning.

## Using Technology to Enhance Instruction with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Technology can be used to enhance instruction with connected series and junior journals. These texts can be used to create digital reading environments and to provide opportunities for students to engage with the texts in new and innovative ways.

Teachers can use digital tools to provide feedback and to assess student understanding. Connected series and junior journals can also be used to promote collaboration and to encourage students to work together to achieve a common goal.

## Assessment and Feedback with Connected Series and Junior Journals

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Connected series and junior journals can be used to assess student understanding and to provide feedback. These texts can be used to evaluate student comprehension and to identify areas where students need additional support.

Teachers can use connected series and junior journals to provide feedback and to guide instruction. These texts can also be used to promote self-assessment and to encourage students to take ownership of their learning.

## Conclusion

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In conclusion, connected series and junior journals are valuable tools for teaching comprehension skills and promoting a love for reading in students. These texts can be used to differentiate instruction, promote critical thinking, and encourage independent reading.

By using connected series and junior journals in the classroom, teachers can provide opportunities for students to develop a range of skills, including comprehension, critical thinking, and communication. These texts can also be used to promote a positive and supportive reading environment and to encourage students to take ownership of their learning.

## References

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Connected series and junior journals can be found in a variety of sources, including bookstores, libraries, and online retailers.

Teachers can also use digital tools to access connected series and junior journals, including e-books and online reading platforms.

## Appendix

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The appendix includes additional resources and materials that can be used to support instruction with connected series and junior journals.

These resources include graphic organizers, worksheets, and assessment tools.

