

Week at a Glance

English Language Arts Teachers

What Students Will Do This Week

This week involves strategic opportunities for students to speak academically about the play they're reading (what they started last week). Students will use several items in the lessons this week to speak, listen, and use the terminology we need them to be using as young scholars! The "Tents for Talking" and the "Walk & Talk" activities this week will help empower both struggling learners and advanced learners alike to think deeper about what they're reading and to go back into the text for clarity and for details they need to support their thinking.

Struggling Learners, Extension, & Differentiation

For an extension activity after the "Walk & Talk" on Day 4, set a timer for about 10 minutes, play some soft instrumental music, and have students write a "free response" about the one question that seemed the most interesting for them. They can write about that question and answer in more detail than what they just discussed, adding in another opportunity to work with using the best text evidence and embedding quotes as was one of the learning tasks from last week.

This helps to extend the learning for all students—below, on, or above grade level—since they've been able to speak and listen about the various topics prior to having to write about anything on their own.

What to Print, Copy, and Prepare

- ▶ Each group of students needs a "tent" to use with the play or excerpt of the play being read today (Day 1 - 2)
- ▶ Exit ticket (Day 3)
- ▶ Practice Passage #3 (Day 4)
- ▶ Walk & Talk instructions & quotes to post around the room (Day 4)
- ▶ Open book drama test / assessment (Day 5)

DO LESS GRADING

Consider the test on Day 5 this week. Do students really need to answer literally every question? And if they do, then do you literally need to read and grade every question? No, you don't. So have students answer each one, but in your mind, YOU know which ones you're going to grade and which ones you're going to pass over. Those saved minutes add up over time.

MAKE FEWER COPIES

The advantage in printing off the questions from the "Walk & Talk" activity on Day 4 and posting them around the room is that it's much less to copy! Plus, it's nice (if you have the space) to allow students to move around the room productively as they talk about the questions and jot down their responses.

Those same questions do appear together on a "worksheet" in case you have a sub and need a different format.