

Teaching Themes of Unlikely Friendships & Common Understandings



“The Bear Feast Story”

[The Bear Feast:](#)

Story Summary: A story of unlikely friendships, acceptance and love, a lonely old man ponders if he should start a new life somewhere else. After deciding that a move wouldn't change his predicament, he goes into the forest seeking answers. What he finds are grizzly bears who he decides might just be the answers to his prayers. Although they speak a different language and are usually considered fierce enemies, he decides to invite them to a feast. What he learns from them is truly the lesson of a lifetime.

Materials:

- [Story Text](#)
- [Character & Decision Maps](#)

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.10, 3.1-3.10

Unit Essential Question:

How has “having things in common” played an important role in your relationships with others?

Objective:

Students will recount folktales and determine the central message/moral while exploring the theme of Unlikely Friendships through Characterization, reviewing how characters respond to the challenge of differences.

Anticipatory Set: Have you ever forged an unlikely friendship or partnership with someone? (5mins)

Activities:

- **Read Aloud:** Assign the different roles in the story (could give students 2 parts if working in small groups) or divide class in half to create two reading groups, depending on class size. Students read the story aloud, creating a “Reader’s Theater Round” working on fluency and expression. Groups should stop at the end of each paragraph to discuss the setting, main characters, and main events.
- **Character Map:** of “The Old Man” to analyze his specific character traits and how his actions effected the outcome of the story.
 - Students analyze The Old Man’s choices and what is shows about his character.

- Finally, have students individually or in groups, participate in a “What Would You Do?”
 - Provide certain scenarios of Unlikely Friendships and have students respond either written or orally what they would do.

Closing:

Have students answer the following questions:

- What made the characters in this story special? What do we learn about their character from their actions?
- **Extension:** Explain a time when you were in a similar situation: What did you do and how did your actions affect the outcome? Could you have done anything differently?