**Literacy Planning**

**The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis 4-6 Weeks**

**Concept Question: Why is it important to know yourself and to understand the points of view of others in order to successfully face and solve conflicts?**

**Central Theme: There’s a strength in all of us that gives us the courage to deal with our problems.**

Week 7 – 11/18 to 11/22

11/18 - YWBAT use your understanding of the Greek root, ‘pyr’ to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words

Success is: being able to define, spell and illustrate your vocabulary words

* Frontload this week’s vocabulary: pyre, pyromania, pyrotechnics, pyrite

11/19 - YWBAT use context clues to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

YWBAT identify details of a story in order to increase comprehension and draw conclusions

Success is: using sticky notes, background knowledge and context to narrow down a definition

Success is: use evidence to draw inferences

* Watson chapter 12 comprehension check:
  + Write a paragraph answering the following question:
    - Grandma Sands tells Momma that "things are different from what they were when you left. Nearly everything changes." What does Grandma Sands mean by this? What has changed? How does this change affect the characters in the story?
* Do you agree or disagree with Kenny’s analysis of the stages of trouble on page 173? Explain your response using examples from your life. What are some strategies you have used to avoid trouble?
* Writing – Watson’s class essay: analyze prompt; consider audience, purpose and structure
  + Compare and contrast Byron’s character in the beginning of the novel and the end of the novel
* Reciprocal Teaching: What is the Carbon Cycle?
* Book club: Phantom Tollbooth and Hoot
* Read Watsons chapter 13
  + Words/questions/connections
  + Comprehension check: character’s actions/perspectives, making predictions
  + Whole class discussion: When Kenny was underwater, struggling against the whirlpool, he imagined that he saw Joey dressed as an angel. She told him to swim to the surface, and then Byron saw him and was able to save him from drowning. How does this relate to the Central Theme of the book about finding the courage to deal with our problems?

11/20 - YWBAT use context clues to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

YWBAT identify details of a story in order to increase comprehension and draw conclusions

Success is: using sticky notes, background knowledge and context to narrow down a definition

Success is: use evidence to draw inferences

* Writing – Watson’s class essay: planning
* Reciprocal Teaching: What is the Carbon Cycle?
* Book club: Zach’s Lie
* Read Watsons chapter 14
  + Scaffold: students who researched the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing help remind students of the incident
  + Read
  + Words/questions/connections
  + Comprehension check: Character Perspective, Making Inferences, Prediction making.
  + Whole class discussion – Being president in the 1960’s
  + Write: Do you think that there is any kind of connection between Kenny seeing Joetta when he was in danger of drowning and Joetta seeing Kenny when she was in danger of being killed by a bomb? What is the significance of these siblings seeing each other during times of danger?

11/21 - YWBAT use context clues to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

YWBAT identify details of a story in order to increase comprehension and draw conclusions

Success is: using sticky notes, background knowledge and context to narrow down a definition

Success is: use evidence to draw inferences

* Writing – Watson’s class essay: introduction as a class
* Reciprocal Teaching: What is the Carbon Cycle?
  + Discuss: what is the author’s purpose? What text structure is this?
* Book club: Bud, Not Buddy
* Watsons Chapter 15
  + Words/questions/connections
  + Comprehension check: Character Perspective, Making Inferences, Prediction making
  + Byron told Kenny that there was no such thing as magic powers, but Kenny felt that Byron was wrong. He believed that they were real and could be found in the kindnesses in life, like having understanding parents and supportive siblings. What do you think the author is trying to symbolize with the use of the Wool Pooh, Angels and other magic powers?

11/22 - YWBAT use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.

Success is: demonstrating mastery on the vocabulary assessment.

* Vocabulary assessment