

5th grade The Homework Machine: Theme, The Hidden Message

Title: <u>Homework Machine</u>	Subject/Course: Reading	
Topic: The novel <u>Homework Machine</u> by Dan Gutman - focus impact of technology on society	Grade: 5	Designer(s): MaryClare Doerfler

Stage 1 - Desired Results

Established Goals:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9 Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Understandings: Students will understand that...

- An author's word choice affects the way in which a reader interacts and responds to the text.
- An author chooses different words in order to foster understandings of the story and its themes
- A theme is a message within a story.
- A theme is often not directly in the text.
- An inference is often needed to find a

Essential Questions:

- Does technology always provide successful solutions for problems or fulfill every human need?
- How does Dan Gutman's word choice help develop reader perception of theme?
- What major themes are present in the novel The Homework Machine and how are they found?
- Is The Homework Machine an example of science fiction? Why or why not?

<p>story's theme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A character's motives will help support a story's theme. • A character's interactions will help support a story's theme. 	
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<p>Students will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text • The definition of theme and how themes are present in literature • How characters' responses to challenges help make a theme evident • Authors word choice is purposeful • Elements of the genre science fiction 	<p>Students will be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw meaningful inferences using supporting evidence and quotes from the text. • Determine a theme within the novel <u>The Homework Machine</u>. • Compare and contrast characters within the novel <u>The Homework Machine</u> • Identify how author's word choice reflects the theme within a novel. • Evaluate themes within the science fiction novel, <u>The Homework Machine</u>.
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Stage 2- Assessment Evidence

<p>Performance Tasks: Theme Storyboard Creation! *Task directions and rubric provided below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal - Your task is to create a storyboard showing one of the themes of <u>The Homework Machine</u> that can be used as a presentation tool. • Role - You are an intern for Pixar Studios. Pixar just bought the rights to create <u>The Homework Machine</u> by Dan Gutman. • Audience - Your audience includes people of all ages who enjoy family friendly movies and stories. • Situation - Your boss has asked you to create a storyboard to present one of 	<p>Other Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Reaction Folders • Whole group discussions • Small group discussions • Tic-Tac-Toe Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will pick two of the following projects to complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a plot chart/story mountain for <u>The Homework Machine</u>. Include exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. - Create a mural or a collage representing the themes of <u>The Homework</u>. - Write a short essay (3 paragraphs) concerning <u>The</u>
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the themes of The Homework Machine in a trailer form.

- **Product, Performance, and Purpose** - You will need to develop a storyboard that presents the themes found within The Homework Machine for an upcoming staff meeting so that the development team can create a movie trailer for all ages.
- **Standards and Criteria for Success** - Your performances needs to meet the criteria presented on the rubric below.

Homework Machine as a science fiction story. Be sure to discuss the technology that was introduced to society and the creation (or lack of creation) of an utopia.

- Write a letter to one character from The Homework Machine to another. Make sure your letter starts by addressing who the receiver is (Dear Snik,) has a body, and ends with a closing (Sincerely, Milner).

Stage 3- Learning Plan

Days One and Two

Overview - Hook Lesson! H

Students will participate in a pre-reading discussion: "Does technology always help people? What is one example when it might not?"

- Read *The Homework Machine* poem by Shel Silverstein.
- Activate Prior Knowledge by reading a bio about Dan Gutman
- Look at a sneak peak description of the novel
- Make predictions about the novel based on the cover and title
- Read and interpret the dedication: "To kids who hate homework but do it anyway."

Day Three

Overview - Novel Introduction Read Aloud/ Character Point of View Discussion W, E

Students will listen and wonder about the novel as the teacher reads the introduction aloud. Students will think about why Dan Gutman chose to open with a diary style entry from Police Chief Rebecca Fish. After reading the introduction, students will answer the following question in complete sentence/s: *The story is about a time prior to Police Chief Rebecca Fish's entry. Why do you think Dan Gutman introduced the story with her words?*

Students will share with the whole group their responses. Students will discuss how different characters have different viewpoints and perspectives.

Days Four - Nine (Chapters 1-5)

Overview - Independent Read and React W, E, R, E, T, O

Students will independently read chapters 1-5 and write a reaction using a reaction starter for each chapter. Students will participate in a class discussion of a given chapter question or

questions at the end of each chapter. Students will frequently be prompted to reread and revise their own reactions, as well as, respond to written teacher questions within their reaction folders.

Day Ten

Overview - Introducing and exploring the concept of theme in order to aid in comprehension. **E, R**

Students will brainstorm *what is theme*. Students will define theme was a literary term and list ways to find a theme within a story (make an inference, ask what is the author trying to teach, ask what are the characters motives, and ask what is the setting). Students will read as a whole group the folktale "The Ant and the Grasshopper." The teacher will model how to determine the theme of this folk tale. Students will then read story short and as a whole group will discuss and determine the theme of the story. Students will then be formally assessed on their understanding of theme through the reading of short stories, identifying the theme, and providing text support for this theme.

Days 11-14 (Chapters 6-10)

Overview- Independent Read and React **W, E, R, E, T, O**

Students will independently read chapters 6-10 and write a reaction using a reaction starter for each chapter. Students will participate in a class discussion of a given chapter question or questions at the end of each chapter. Students will frequently be prompted to reread and revise their own reactions, as well as, respond to written teacher questions within their reaction folders.

Days 15-16

Overview- End of Book Projects **W, E, R**

Students will be given four end of book projects of which they are to choose two. They will work on these in class for two days. These projects will be formally assessed using rubrics.

Day 17

Overview- Performance Task Introduction **W, H, E, O**

- Students will review the concept of theme and how it can be found in a story. They will work as a class to list some of the themes found in The Homework Machine and will find text support for these themes.
- Students will be introduced to their **role** as an intern for Pixar Studios and will be given their **task** of creating a story board.
- Students will be equipped with background information of story boards- what they are used for, how they are made, etc.- and will view a brief Pixar clip of a real story

board creation and presentation.

- Students will create a storyboard as a class for the poem *The Voice* by Shel Silverstein.
- Students will review their goal, role, audience, situation, product, and criteria for success.
- Students will choose one theme to focus on for their storyboard and will begin to draft out the scenes to reflect this theme that will be displayed on their storyboard.

Days 18-21

Overview- Performance Task Completion **R, E**

Students will work on their storyboards in class. They will be prompted to review the rubric in order to ensure that they are meeting their criteria for success.

Days 22-24

Overview - Conclusion **E**

Students will formally present their storyboards to the class. Students will discuss the different themes presented. Students will self-assess their presentation and storyboard.

Performance Task Overview and Directions:

Congratulations! You have just been hired as a new intern for Pixar Studios. For your first assignment, you have been asked to assist in the creation of a movie trailer for The Homework Machine.

Your boss has asked you to create a story board showing the themes of The Homework Machine that can be used as a presentation tool at your staff meeting next week.

Remember, the best movies are appealing to people of all ages, so make sure your themes are relatable to all audiences!

Good luck and be creative!

Performance Task Rubric/ Criteria for Success:

Performance Task Rubric

Name:

	Proficient 5 points	Good 2.5 points	Not Evident 0
Creativity	<p>-My storyboard reflects my own creative ideas, thought, and effort.</p> <p>-It is colorful.</p> <p>-It is visually pleasing.</p> <p>-It represents a finished product.</p>	<p>-My storyboard is similar to another storyboard but was completed in a manner that reflects thought and effort.</p> <p>-It does not contain much color, and/or it is not visually pleasing.</p> <p>-It represents a finished product.</p>	<p>- My storyboard was very clearly based off someone else's and reflects no thought and effort.</p> <p>-My storyboard has no color and looks unfinished.</p>
Theme Recognition	<p>-My storyboard identifies 1 theme found in <u>The Homework Machine</u>.</p> <p>-I have successfully supported this theme on my storyboard through my illustrations and words.</p> <p>-My theme is identifiable.</p>	<p>-My storyboard identifies 1 theme found in <u>The Homework Machine</u>.</p> <p>-I have not supported this theme in a clear way.</p> <p>-A person may have difficulty identifying the theme I am illustrating.</p>	<p>-My storyboard does not identify 1 theme found in <u>The Homework Machine</u></p> <p>-My illustrations and words do support a theme.</p>
Novel Connection	-My storyboard	My storyboard	My storyboard includes 1 or

	includes at least 3 accurate and relevant quotations from the text.	includes 2 accurate and relevant quotations from the text.	no accurate and relevant quotations from the text.
Storyboard Elements	<p>-My storyboard includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A title; ex: <u>The Homework Machine</u> Trailer Storyboard - My name on one side of my storyboard. - 8-10 post-it cards each including an illustration 	<p>-My storyboard includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A title; ex: <u>The Homework Machine</u> Trailer Storyboard - My name on one side of my storyboard. - 5-7 post-it cards each including an illustration 	<p>-My storyboard includes all of the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A title; ex: <u>The Homework Machine</u> Trailer Storyboard - My name on one side of my storyboard. - Less than 5 post-it cards each including an illustration

Reading Comprehension Total: _____/20