

Student Age: 16-year-old (9th grade)

Books: *A Different Sort of Normal* by Abigail Ralph, *Noise* by Kathleen Raymundo, and *Buzzing* by Samuel Sattin

Day 1: Introduction to Themes and Authors

Lesson Title: Understanding the Authors and Themes

Learning Objectives:

- Students will identify the main themes of each book.
- Students will learn about the authors' backgrounds and writing styles.
- Students will be able to summarize the books' central ideas.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the three books.
- Author biographies (available online).
- Sticky notes.
- Poster board or a digital presentation tool (like Google Slides).

Lesson Introduction:

Begin with a group discussion about what students know about the genres of the books and the themes of adolescence, belonging, and identity. Ask: "What does it mean to feel 'normal'?" Additionally, share excerpts from each book to pique their interest.

Instructional Procedures:

- **Exploration:** Students will skim through the first chapter of each book, making note of initial impressions on characters and themes.
- **Explanation:** Provide a brief introduction to each author and discuss the importance of understanding an author's perspective.
- **Application:** Students will create a thematic chart on poster board, noting themes and key quotes from each book.
- **Reflection:** Discuss what themes they find most relatable and why. Ask students to write down questions they have about the books.

Assessment and Evaluation:

- Assess participation in discussion and thematic chart creation.
- Informally gauge understanding through student responses and clarification of terms used in the discussion.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Discuss how literature connects to psychology (identity and belonging), as well as creative writing techniques.

Differentiation and Personalization:

Provide options for students to present their findings in different forms, such as a video presentation or a written report, catering to their strengths.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities:

Encourage students to interview a family member about their adolescence and share their perspectives on what “normal” means.

Resources for Further Learning:

- Author interviews on YouTube.
 - Websites such as Goodreads for reader reviews.
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Day 2: Deep Dive into *A Different Sort of Normal*

Lesson Title: Exploring Perspectives in *A Different Sort of Normal*

Learning Objectives:

- Students will analyze the main character's journey in the book.
- Students will compare and contrast their own lives with the protagonist's experiences.

Materials Needed:

- Copy of *A Different Sort of Normal*.
- Journal or notebook.
- Colored pencils.

Lesson Introduction:

Discuss why understanding different perspectives is essential. Read the book's synopsis aloud and consider initial feelings about the protagonist's situation.

Instructional Procedures:

- **Exploration:** In pairs, students will read selected chapters and highlight passages that resonate with them.
- **Explanation:** Discuss the psychological and emotional challenges the protagonist faces.
- **Application:** Students will create a mind map in their journals that connects the character's experiences to their own.
- **Reflection:** Write a paragraph about what they learned about viewing situations from different angles.

Assessment and Evaluation:

- Review journal entries to check for understanding of character development and thematic connections.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Connect character analysis with real-world empathy and psychology lessons.

Differentiation and Personalization:

Some students might benefit from listening to an audiobook version to help with comprehension.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities:

Encourage students to share personal stories in a safe environment (like family or friends) to promote a

sense of shared experience.

Resources for Further Learning:

- Additional texts that deal with similar themes in young adult literature.
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Day 3: Analyzing *Noise*

Lesson Title: The Impact of Sound in *Noise*

Learning Objectives:

- Students will explore the significance of sound in the book.
- Students will identify how sound affects characters' emotions and interactions.

Materials Needed:

- Copy of *Noise*.
- Audio clips (music or environmental sounds relevant to the themes of the book).
- Sound journal.

Lesson Introduction:

Play an audio clip of urban sounds or music to obtain their initial reactions. Discuss what these sounds evoke in them.

Instructional Procedures:

- **Exploration:** Students will listen to the audio clips while reading excerpts from the book that mention sound.
- **Explanation:** Discuss the role of sound in different scenes and its emotional impact.
- **Application:** Students will create a "Sound Journal" noting how different sounds correspond with characters' feelings.
- **Reflection:** Discuss how silence might impact the same scenes and characters.

Assessment and Evaluation:

- Collect Sound Journals for completeness and understanding of sound symbolism in the text.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Explore sound in music, media, and even science (sounds vs. silence).

Differentiation and Personalization:

Allow students to create their own soundscapes that represent their interpretations of the characters' emotions.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities:

Encourage outdoor activities focusing on observing and documenting sounds in nature or urban environments.

Resources for Further Learning:

- Websites that provide free sound libraries for students to explore further.
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Day 4: Themes and Concepts in *Buzzing*

Lesson Title: Discovering the Layers in *Buzzing*

Learning Objectives:

- Students will analyze metaphorical elements in *Buzzing*.
- Students will relate themes from the book to real-life experiences.

Materials Needed:

- Copy of *Buzzing*.
- Art supplies (paper, markers, etc.).
- Internet access for research.

Lesson Introduction:

Introduce the concept of metaphor by sharing a relatable example (e.g., comparing life to a dance).

Instructional Procedures:

- **Exploration:** Read selected excerpts highlighting metaphors and figurative language.
- **Explanation:** Discuss the major themes and consider what each metaphor conveys about stress and communication.
- **Application:** In groups, create visual representations of the metaphors and themes from the book.
- **Reflection:** Have students write about a “buzzing” moment in their life and how they communicated through it.

Assessment and Evaluation:

- Evaluate group work and individual reflections for understanding of metaphors and themes.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Integrate art with literature by analyzing visual representations versus written descriptions.

Differentiation and Personalization:

Provide visual aids and utilize multimedia sources to enhance understanding.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities:

Engage in group discussions to improve communication skills.

Resources for Further Learning:

- TED Talks or online lectures on the use of metaphor in literature and everyday conversations.
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Day 5: Synthesis and Reflection

Lesson Title: Connecting the Dots Between the Stories

Learning Objectives:

- Students will synthesize themes from all three books.
- Students will present their findings and reflections on how the stories interconnect.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of all three books.
- Presentation supplies (poster boards, markers, etc.).
- Digital tools for collaborative presentation (like Google Slides or PowerPoint).

Lesson Introduction:

Open with a discussion on the concept of interconnectedness in literature. Pose questions: “How do different authors address the same theme?”

Instructional Procedures:

- **Exploration:** Students will review their notes and thematic charts.
- **Explanation:** Discuss all three stories to illustrate convergence of themes.
- **Application:** Students will prepare a group presentation connecting themes and issues raised in each book, considering relevance to their lives.
- **Reflection:** Discuss what they learned from the books and how their perceptions of normality evolved.

Assessment and Evaluation:

- Evaluate presentation for clarity, connections made, and understanding of themes.

Integration with Other Subjects:

Allow students to integrate technology through digital presentations, and explore creative writing as a response to the themes.

Differentiation and Personalization:

Allow for multiple forms of presentation (video, poster, spoken word) according to student strengths.

Real-Life Applications and Field Activities:

Encourage students to start a book club or engage with the community through discussion groups centered on the explored themes.

Resources for Further Learning:

- Online literary forums for further discussions on the themes and modern relevance of the books read.

This week-long lesson plan encourages critical thinking, personal connections, and deep engagement with literature while being highly adaptable to the homeschooling environment. It fosters discussion, exploration, and self-reflection while catering to different learning styles and promoting real-world applications of the lessons learned.