

***Bearstone* by Will Hobbs (Published by Aladdin)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 6

Summary

Fourteen-year-old Cloyd Atcitty is a troubled native American youth. He has been sent to work on a Colorado farm with Walter, an elderly rancher who has recently lost his wife. Cloyd slowly adjusts to life with Walter after several ups and downs while finding himself and embracing his Ute culture.

Connection to the Curriculum

Hobb's novel offers a unique "boy" perspective through the use of a male narrator/point-of-view. Readers are instantly engaged with the characters and can use prediction skills to anticipate the outcome of the novel. The multi-cultural aspect of the novel gives students an opportunity to explore this part of the curriculum. This novel offers a range of research possibilities; discussion topics; compare/contrast opportunities of literary elements, symbols, etc. This high-interest book will appeal to young adults with its young main character.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.13- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.14- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

Literature:

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g., moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit and/or explicit information from the text.

2.2.7- The student understands the effects history and cultures may have on works of literature.

2.2.8- The student compares and contrasts various languages, traditions, and cultures found in literature.

2.2.3- The student makes connections between specific aspects of literature from a variety of cultures and personal experiences.

A Note on the Text

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

In this story, a Ute Indian orphan struggles to come of age and overcome a conflict of cultures, his anger, and feelings of isolation. He makes a poor decision and destroys his benefactor's fruit orchard but later makes amends for his actions.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities