

***Petey* by Ben Mikaelson (Published by Hyperion)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 6

Summary

A boy with cerebral palsy is misdiagnosed as an infant and grows up in a mental institution. Due to his limited communication skills, Petey has only a few people in his life who understand him. The people that come and go in his life are the workers at the mental institution who befriend Petey. When Petey is an old man, he befriends a young boy who saves him from being picked on by bullies. Petey and Trevor learn to trust each other and rely on their friendship to survive.

Connection to the Curriculum

Petey is a touching story of friendship, discovery, and domination of the human spirit over physical obstacles. The author also examines the issues of old age and physical handicaps throughout the book. Students can examine cause-effect relationships in addition to exploring the rich characterization techniques employed by Mikaelson.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 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:

1.2.1- The student uses knowledge of conventions and text features to read fluently at instructional or independent reading levels.

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

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

1.4.16- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (e.g., characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

1.4.20- The student identifies and describes the author's purpose (e.g., to inform, to give directions, to entertain) and basic techniques the author uses to achieve that purpose.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of major and minor characters (e.g. their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and explains how those aspects influence characters' interactions with other characters and elements of the plot, including resolution of the major conflict.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and explains the importance of the setting to the story or literary text.

2.2.9- 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.)

Petey examines the issue of a misdiagnosed disability. Petey is forced to live in an institution for the wrong reasons.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities