

Lesson Skill: Understanding the impact of cause-effect relationships

Strand Reading--fiction

SOL 6.5
7.5
8.5

Materials

- Copies of a novel or story being read for class
- Copies of the attached Impact of Cause-and-Effect Relationships worksheet

Lesson

1. In a novel or story being read for class, identify for students a cause-and-effect relationship.
2. Have students use the attached Impact of Cause-and-Effect Relationships worksheet to list the cause and the effect in the event.
3. Help students verbalize the impact that the cause-and-effect relationship has on the plot, and have them write it in the appropriate box.
4. Continue with examples of cause-and-effect relationships until students can continue independently or in small groups.
5. Have students complete the worksheet either individually or in groups.
6. When students have completed their worksheets, hold a class discussion on all the cause-and-effect relationships found and their impact on the plot. Point out that the cause-effect relationships have a huge influence on moving the plot forward.

Impact of Cause-and-Effect Relationships

After reading the first five chapters of _____ by _____, complete the chart below.

Cause	Effect	Impact on Plot

This story would be very different if any of these causes were altered. Select one cause, write a new version of it, and write how the story would change as a result.

Cause	New Version of the Cause	Changes to the Story