

**Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners:
Gifted Strategies Learning Plan**

Big Idea/ Topic

Short Story Focus – Figurative Language in Short Stories and Beyond

Standard Alignment

ELA.GSE.8. L5: Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

ELA.GSE.8. L6: Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

ELA.GSE.8.RI4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

ELA.GSE.8.RL4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

ELA.GSE.8. W9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

ELA.GSE.8.SL1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Advanced Research

Create a Brochure

With a partner, research the qualifications for a local citizenship award, a student scholarship, an employment opportunity, etc. Use multiple resources to gather evidence, such as journal articles, websites, personal interviews, etc. to find the information you need. Create a brochure that provides an overview of the opportunity (what it is), benefits of the opportunity (why you might want it), and qualifications to be eligible for the opportunity. Be sure to include additional contact information, websites, etc. for more information. Include pictures that will catch your audience’s attention. Include 2-4 examples of figurative language to illustrate your ideas.

Communication

Defending a position

Present the brochure you created in the activity above to your school's administrators. With a partner discuss how you will convince the administrators that your brochure should be made available to all students in middle school. Identify the purpose of your brochure and explain why middle school students need to have access to this brochure. What arguments will you use? What counter arguments will you use? Create a T Chart that shows the pros and cons of presenting the brochure to your classmates. Then, create a PowerPoint of 5 to 10 arguments you will make to achieve your goal.

Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

Group Problem Solving

You have been selected to serve on the 8th grade Student Dance committee. This dance is held each spring to say "Goodbye" to middle school and "Hello" to high school. In today's day and age, social distancing has made large gatherings difficult, but your class decided to try to find a way to have the dance anyway. Your goal is to review evidence about social distancing and large crowds in order to find a way to safely have this dance. As a committee you must outline the pros and cons of having this dance and to develop a plan with protocols that will meet safety guidelines. Be sure to consider number of guests, food served, limits of dance locations, sanitizing necessities, and funds to hold the dance. Plan to present your solution to the Principal using visual and/or media aids. Use Figurative Language as necessary to make comparisons and illustrations of your ideas.

Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills

Poetry

Read a short story. Then, choose at least 10 phrases that stand out to you and create a minimum of a ten-line poem to represent the emotions of the character throughout the story. Be sure that some of the phrases include figurative language. Present your poetry to your class.

Optional: Add drawings to the poem in order to add a flourish to your poem.

Create a Video

With a partner create a video describing a specific scene, or general overview of a character from your reading. Use examples of figurative language to add to your descriptions.

Things to consider:

- What song should be playing?

- How do they appear (look)?
- How do they handle the situation?
- Which hashtags they would add?
- How can you use figurative language to enhance your video?

Awareness of Self—Student’s Well-being

My Collection

Share a collection of items with us that were important to you while you were “Sheltering at Home”. You can present it as a list, a collage, a slideshow, a video...you choose! Have fun with it! You all know of some things that you are glad you didn’t have to live without these past couple of months.

Include at least three things that you did that kept you healthy in your body and mind (example—exercised by shooting baskets for 30 minutes each day or listened to your favorite music every day). Explain how these three things improved your well-being while you were forced to be at home. Use figurative language to illustrate your points.

If you ever have to Shelter in Home again, what are some things you would want to differently for your Well-Being? Make a list giving reasons for each to discuss in small groups.