Analyzing Conflict in "The Veldt" Lesson Plan

Standards

1. **RL.9-10.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

2. **RL.9-10.2** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

3. **RL.9-10.3** Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

4. **L.9-10.6** Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Procedures

This lesson is best done after you read "The Veldt."

1. **Discuss conflict** in "The Veldt."
2. **Find specific examples** of conflict in "The Veldt"
3. **Determine the type of conflict** and write it in the center column.
4. **Interpret the example** and explain its significance to the story.
5. **Discuss student discoveries** with a small group and/or full class discussion.
6. **Optional**: Write a conflict analysis of "The Veldt."

Assessment

The graphic organizer is an excellent opportunity to practice and discuss the lesson's stated objectives. In most cases it should be considered a formative assignment.

Understanding Conflict

Conflict plays the central role in the development of the plot, characters, and theme of a short story. Types of conflict that exist in literature include *person vs person, person vs nature, person vs supernatural (or technology), individual vs society,* and *individual vs. self*.

Directions: Fill in the chart below with specific examples of conflict from the short story, what type of conflict is typified by the example, and an explanation of why the example is significant to the story.

Specific Example	Type of Conflict	Explanation
George and Lydia find something not quite right in the nursery.	Person vs Person	On the surface, this appears to be a classic person vs. technology conflict, but its not the technology that's opposing George and Lydia. It's Peter and Wendy. The nursery is simply a manifestation of their displeasure with their parents.

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George and Lydia realize they've spoiled their children and spoiled themselves. They struggle to decide what to do.	Individuals vs Self	Parenting is difficult. It appears that the Hadley's attempt to circumvent their responsibilities as parents has caused more problems.
George and Lydia think the nursery scene is too real.	Person vs Technology	This is one of those predictions Bradbury makes in his writing that has come scarily true. So many individuals believe what they see on social media. This is a problem. If all you knew of me came from my Facebook page, you would think I was a glamorous world traveler who surfs all the time and has set multiple distance running records.
Peter throws a fit when the nursery is shut off for a few days.	Person vs Person	George and Lydia discipline their children. The children have a meltdown. This interaction has been repeated billions of times throughout history.
The lions in the veldt repeatedly kill and eat something.	Person vs Person Person vs Technology Person vs Nature	A discussion of this conflict will determine which type of conflict this merits. Since Peter has programmed technology to eat his parents, it is person vs person. If you view it as technology going wrong, it's person vs technology. If you view it as strictly lions eating people, it's person vs. nature.
Peter and Wendy lock their parents in the nursery. Bad things happen to them.	Person vs Person	There are three things at play here. George and Lydia—as well as the 7-billion inhabitants on Earth—cannot control nature. George and Lydia cannot control the technology that's supposed to make their lives better. George and Lydia clearly have no control over their children.

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