Analyzing Plot in "A Worn Path" 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. **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 should be done as you read or after you read "A Worn Path." It can be done as part of a whole class reading or done as an individual reading, depending on the skill level and knowledge of students.

- 1. Discuss plot.
- 2. Fill out the chart.
- 3. Discuss student discoveries with a small group and/or full class discussion.
- 4. Optional: Write a summary of "A Worn Path."

Assessment

The chart is an excellent opportunity to practice and discuss the lesson's stated objectives. In most cases it should be considered a formative assignment. In order to determine individual student mastery, there are questions on the short story quiz (included).

"A WORN PATH" STORY MAP

Directions. Complete this plot story map as you read "A Worn Path."

Setting		Basic Situation:
Time:		
Place:		
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Characters:		
Problem/Conflict:		
Problemy connect.		
	Plot/Even	its: 1.
\leftarrow		2.
		3.
		4.
Resolution:		

Directions. Complete this plot story map as you read "A Worn Path."

Setting

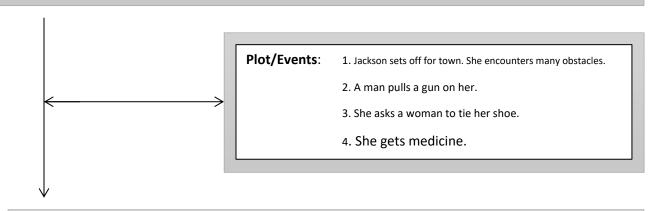
Time: Post Civil-War Mississippi

Place: Natchez Trail and Natchez, Mississippi

Basic Situation: Phoenix Jackson must make the long walk into town. She follows a difficult trail that traverses many different obstacles—natural and human.

Characters: Phoenix Jackson is the story's protagonist. She's a resilient, determined woman trying to tend to the medical needs of her grandson. Other characters include the man with the gun, the nurse, and the receptionist.

Problem/Conflict: The specific problem is Phoenix attempting a cross country hike to get her grandson's medicine. This is merely symbolic, for the real conflict is the difficulty of life in post Civil-War Mississippi for a black woman.



Resolution: Although her life hasn't changed drastically, Phoenix makes the trek into town and leaves with medicine and a windmill toy for her grandson. Phoenix's journey is cyclical like the paper windmill. She goes to town for her grandson's medicine, returns home, and then ventures out again the next time the "time come around." A weaker person might throw in the towel and give up. But not Phoenix.