



2017 Sequoyah Book Awards Lessons + Activities

Day Two:

Sequoyah Book Award Week Focuses on the Intermediate Masterlist of books for grades 6-8

Get your students reading and involved in the third-oldest youth-choice literary award program in the nation. Your students can help determine the winners of the 2017 Sequoyah Book Award during voting next spring.

Visit bit.ly/1kC6na7 to find out more about this 57-year-old Oklahoma reading tradition. You'll also be able to download the masterlist of high school Sequoyah books, reading certificates, and a smorgasbord of promotional materials and ideas for Sequoyah titles.

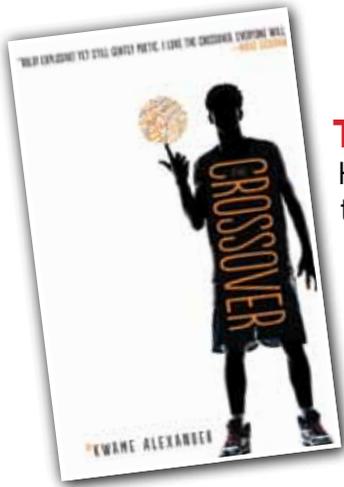


Characters in Stories: Beyond Protagonist and Antagonist

Fictional worlds are full of colorful characters. A protagonist in a novel or short story is the main character, and the character with which most readers identify. An antagonist is a character that opposes the protagonist. The adversarial relationship between these two character types often drives the action of a story.

Beyond protagonist and antagonist, there are other ways to type characters in a story, and characters can fit more than one type:

- **Round** characters have complex personalities. Most protagonists are round characters. Antagonists can also be round characters.
- **Flat** characters are like rough sketches, and few of their personality traits are described. Think of round characters as three-dimensional, and flat characters as two-dimensional.
- **Dynamic** characters experience an internal change over time in response to the events in the story.
- **Static** characters do not change during the course of the story.
- **Stock** characters are stereotypes that readers recognize immediately. Think of the sidekick, or the geeky kid with eyeglasses, or a mad scientist.
- **Foil** characters contrast with other characters, and are usually a device to learn more about the qualities of the protagonist.
- **Confidant** characters listen to and support the protagonist, and also serve as a way to better understand the main character.



Type those Characters!

Have students list characters in a Sequoyah book and ask them to type the characters. Is this one Round or Flat? Dynamic or Static? Stock, Foil, or Confidant? Have them list the reasons for typing characters certain ways. Which characters fit more than one character type?

Sequoyah Lesson Plan

Curriculum areas:

English, Reading, and Music

- Listen to rap music as a class. (Preview the lyrics before the lesson to make sure they are appropriate for school.)
- Discuss the lyrics. What do they mean? Do the lyrics feature rhyming? Is this important to the song's message? Are there any similes or metaphors in the lyrics? Is there any onomatopoeia?
- Introduce the novel *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander. Explain that the novel is written in free verse, which is narrative poetry. Explain that a narrative poem tells a story and can be about any topic. Sometimes these poems have a rhyming pattern and sometimes they don't.
- Explore, as a class, several narrative poems of the teacher's choice.
- As a class, read the novel *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander.
- Compare and contrast the poems "Filthy McNasty" and "The Show" with the rap music previously shared. How are they alike? How are they different?
- Have students find similes, metaphors and any onomatopoeia within the poems in the novel. Have students pair-share what the similes and metaphors mean. How do the similes, metaphors and onomatopoeia add to the value of the poem and/or the overall story in the book?
- Discuss how the book incorporates vocabulary words such as calamity, pulchritudinous, and churlish.
- After reading the book, investigate and discuss the format of the vocabulary/definition poems such as "crossover," "calamity," and "pulchritudinous."
- Make sure students understand the vocabulary/definition poems. Share the spelling, pronunciation, definition, and at least three examples of the word used in a sentence.
- Model the poem format for the class by incorporating their assistance in coming up with a word, pronouncing and defining the word, and then providing three examples of the word in a sentence.