Grades 7-8 Literacy program objectives and activities

* + Focus- Synthesis (Combining prior knowledge with their reading to assess the philosophy and world view which is being promoted in the writing and determining a proper personal response to it).
  + Focus- to produce a thinking student, with skills to analyze and critique information that is before them thus giving them the ability to identify truth, and detect deception.
  + Objectives:
    1. Students will identify the motives, and actions of characters in their reading, and assess their results.
    2. Students will present well reasoned defense for the conclusions they produce.
    3. Students will develop passionate belief as they consider, and classify ethical issues in their reading.
    4. Students will produce various written works which demonstrate their ability to use proper grammar.
  + Suggested writing activities:
    1. Discuss characters’ actions. Interpret and discuss motivations. What can we learn through this character's experience and example to apply to our own experience?
    2. Identify and trace themes. Compare them to real life
    3. Were these actions ethical? By what standard? Explain.
    4. Persuasive Writing- Write an “I think that…” essay in response to the reading—to make a point. Make sure conclusions have a well reasoned defense.
    5. Explain how the story is acting as a commentary on or giving insight into its times. Why do you think the author chose to write this? Has the author written similar books on this topic? In essence, what message is the author trying to communicate?
    6. Make a list based on the story of…
       1. colorful expressions
       2. understatements or overstatements
       3. metaphors, similes, or other figures of speech
       4. things you agree or disagree with
       5. insights into the human heart or behavior that are illustrated or revealed in the piece.
       6. Ways in which one or more characters changed during the course of the story
       7. Examples of *irony*
       8. Examples of foreshadowing