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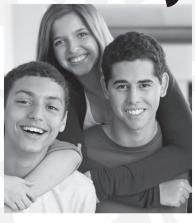
Reading

Reading Informational Texts Reading Literature

















Ordinary People

BY JUDITH GUEST



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Pre-Reading

Inferring Meaning

Objective: Drawing inferences about the meaning of the book's title

Activity

Ordinary People is a novel about a typical American family during the 1970s. Think about the title of the book and then read the back cover, including the media quotes. Although the blurb is short, it provides some clues as to the story's subject matter. What information gives you an idea about the possible meaning of the title and how it relates to the topics of success, pain, healing, and understanding? On the following Inference chart, list the words or phrases you've identified, and explain what meaning can be inferred from them in relation to the novel's title and topics listed. You may find that some words and phrases apply to more than one topic.

INFERENCE CHART

Topic	Words/Phrases	Possible Meaning
Success		
Pain		
11 1·		
Healing		
Understanding		

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Chapter 1

Crafting Mobile Messages

Objective: Creating thought-provoking messages with few words

Activity

This chapter introduces Conrad Jarrett and his desire to have a guiding principle for his life, which he equates to messages on bumper stickers. These messages are often humorous, religious, political, philosophical, or supportive of an organization. They naturally reflect a belief held by the owner of the vehicle.

Using information from the text that you find important, write a bumper sticker message that models a guiding principle appropriate for Conrad.

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	Chapter 5
	Point of View
Objective: Learning how point of view	v affects a story
Activity	
is known first-person narration, in which type of narration gives the reader only of perspective, it may reveal aspects of the To gain a different character's perspective Imagine how the conversation would in the text and what you know about notebook that Dr. Berger keeps on his p	with Dr. Berger. The visit is told from Conrad's point of view. This ch the story is seen and told from the character's perspective. This one perspective. If the same story is seen from another character's e story that the reader may not be aware of or hasn't considered. We on an event, retell Conrad's visit from Dr. Berger's point of view. be interpreted by Dr. Berger based on the information provided Conrad so far. Write your observations as an entry in a private patients. Try to be as analytical as possible, as a doctor would be a basic outline. Be prepared to discuss your interpretation of Dr. on.
Date:	_
Patient:	
Time:	_
Referral:	
History:	
Notes:	

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Chapt	ter 10
<u>Priori</u>	tizing

Activity

In this chapter, Conrad decides to quit the swim team. We have already witnessed Conrad's attempt to find meaning in his life. Many times, people often find their life's purpose by prioritizing what they consider important. Create a T-Chart listing things that Conrad would and would not consider priorities. Then, make a chart of your own priorities, and compare your list to Conrad's.

Objective: Comparing a character's priorities to your own

PRIORITIZING CHART

ırad	S	tudent
Non-Priority	Priority	Non-Priority
	Non-Priority	<u> </u>

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Chapter 14

Relating Disparate Quotations

Objective: Relating disparate quotations to the text

Activity

Aphorists are writers who are known for their adages. They are often quoted for the ease with which their statements can be applied to everyday life. Mason Cooley, an early twentieth-century American aphorist, wrote the following on forgiveness: "Forgiveness is like faith. You have to keep reviving it." Write a brief, informal essay explaining how this quotation applies to the events leading up to and including Chapter 14.

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Name:	Date:
Name.	Date

Chapter 18

Test-Taking Strategies

Objective: Discussing and exchanging test-taking strategies

Activity

Conrad experiences a bit of test anxiety during his English exam. He is tense and has trouble concentrating. How well did Conrad prepare for his exam? (Look back to previous chapters for references to his studying habits.) What could he have done to better prepare himself? Many times, test anxiety can be avoided if proper study skills are utilized.

How do you prepare for a test? Write a list of helpful hints that could have reduced Conrad's test anxiety. Consider what could have been done before the day of the exam and what could have been done on exam day.