

MINI LESSON



Cause and Effect

Objective: SW be able to determine the meaning of cause and effect, their differences and how to classify them in a variety of texts.

Materials: An uncooked egg in a sealed plastic bag, a copy of the story, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst, I.S.N.'s and pencils

"I do": TW hold up the baggie with the uncooked egg inside and DROP it! This will introduce cause and effect. TW ask the students "What happened?" TW then explain that:

A cause is something that makes something else happen. Out of two events, it is the event that happens first. To determine the cause, ask the question "Why Did it Happen?"

An effect is what happens as a result of the cause. Of two related events, it's the one that happens second or last. To determine the effect, ask the question "What Happened?"

TW then read Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, aloud to the students. Using the story, the TW then use a cause and effect thinking map to determine the causes and effects from the story. TW ask students if they noticed any causes from the story, "Alexander had a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day". TW then ask students to determine the effects. Together, they will fill out a cause and effect map.

"We do": During mini lesson, SW take notes on cause and effect and fill out the map along with the teacher. SW then think of their own "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days" and write them down on note cards or sticky notes. Then with a partner, they will trade a note card and write on the back, what they think caused it. TW say "Switch" and SW repeat this process with a new partner until the cards are completed or time is up!

"You do": After SSR time, SW think of any causes or effects that happened in their own story. SW turn in a cause and effect map of their story as an "exit ticket" on their way out. TW use this to assess understanding of the activity.

Extension: SW write about a time when they had a terrible.... bad day and the causes of that day.

Conferencing: TW work with small groups to practice cause and effect.

