

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Comprehension,
Critical Thinking

Materials List

- ✓ Brown Paper grocery bag
- ✓ String, yarn, or twine
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Decorative Materials (markers, glue, glitter, crayons, etc.)

This activity can be used to teach:
CO Reading, Writing and Communicating Standard 2: Reading for All Purposes

- Comprehension
- Textual evidence to support analysis
- Characters response and change to plot points

Grades: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

Character Clothes

A costume that shows what a book character is like inside and out



Students create a costume out of paper grocery bags that reveals their level of comprehension about characters they are reading about.

Assembly

1. Open the brown paper bag so that it sits squarely on the table in front of you.
2. Cut out the side panels from both sides, leaving the front, bottom and back attached.
3. Cut the front panel from the bottom and back along the seam.
4. Tape the bottom panel up to the back to form a pocket.
5. Place the front on top of the back piece (turn the front panel so that the blank inside of the bag is forward).
6. Cut a v in the center (if using a grocery bag with handles, the v cut should remove this piece)
7. Round cut where the arms would appear on a shirt or vest.
8. On just the top piece you can add decorative cuts the bottom to add more shape and definition.
9. Punch holes across the top (where the shoulders would be).
10. Lace the front and back panels together using string.
11. Use the front of the vest to display characteristics about the character that are obvious to the reader.
12. Use the inside pocket and panel to display characteristics that are hidden about the character, but are revealed through careful reading and/or comprehension of pivotal events in the story.
13. Present your character clothes to others.

The Literacy Behind the Activity

Book reports have long been a component of the Language Arts experience. Adding in a construction component allows the student to critically evaluate the characters they have read about. The student will need to make choices about what is important as well as what is underlying the story being told by words to discover the feelings of the character. By putting all this thinking into a final project the student has gone beyond the story to understand and make connections between the written word and self.