

Grade: 2nd

Subject: Language Arts/ Writing

Approximate Time Required: 30 minutes

Lesson Title: Casting Call

Unit Title: Story Elements

Gaining Attention: How many of you have ever been to the movies or to a play? Usually right outside the movie theater there are large posters that have a picture on them, and they list the cast of the movie or play.

Informing the learner of the objective: Today, we are going to show our ability to recognize a character and more specifically recall characters of the book Civil War on Sunday by completing a “Casting Call” poster for the book.

Stimulating recall of prerequisite learning: Let’s talk a little bit about what a character is and why characters are important in books or movies. Does anyone in here know what a character is? (a person or animal in a book or movie). Can anyone name a character from a book that they have just read? (i.e. Junie B. Jones or Jack and Annie).

Presenting the stimulus material:

We have been reading the book Civil War on Sunday together in class. Can someone tell me who the characters are in this book so far? (Jack, Annie, Clara, Soldier, Johnny the drummer). Since we know who the characters are we are going to pretend that we are putting on a play for this story. First, we have to make a list of character traits for each of the characters we identified above. Let’s do that together on the board. Now that we have a list of character traits for each of the characters, we are going to split into groups of three. When we break into our groups, it is your job together to think of a person (anyone you know) who has the same character traits as the characters in this book. Once everyone has agreed on a person for each of the characters, then you will make a “Casting Call” poster to announce who is being “cast” into each role. (Provide example for a different book).

Eliciting the desired behavior: Break the students into groups. Give each of them a poster board, markers, colored pencils, etc. Instruct them to make a poster “casting” the people they chose to play the roles for their play of Civil War on Sunday. They should include the names of their “stars” as well as who they are playing, and a picture of them if possible.

Providing Feedback: I will walk around the classroom to monitor student work, and to make sure that all students are participating. I plan to provide each group with comments and feedback on how they are doing throughout the project, and also when they have completed it and turned it in.

Assessing the behavior: Students will be assessed on how well they participate during the creation of their “Casting Call,” as well as on their finished project.