

Monster

Story Outline

Purpose:

To outline the most important information in the story, *Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers, so that students can focus on the basics of the text

Grade Levels:

This story map can be designed for any age group and any level with great ease. The map for *Monster* is suggested to be taught to 10th graders.

Description:

A Story Outline requires the student to think of the most basic elements of the story in order to synthesize the information.

First the basics will be stated. The setting, characters involved and basic plot summary requires the student to filter the information not as pertinent to the plot of the story as secondary information.

Second, the story outline performs best when students are having a difficult time understanding the text or when plot and theme isn't being understood. As students fill the Story Outline out, the importance of certain elements in the story come into view. This outline can be used with any book and adapted to any level. The students will divide these elements up into six segments.

Finally, students will describe the solution/solutions to the issue at hand and describe the overarching morals and themes in order to establish that the students have synthesized the information.

Application:

For this activity, I would divide the class into groups of three. This activity would be placed at the beginning of *Monster* (before page 100), as a means to aid the students in understanding the timeline and situational information in the story. In small groups the students would fill out the story outline worksheet. In order to complete this assignment, the students would need thirty minutes.

To check for understanding after the groups have finished, I would direct a class discussion, first addressing the main characters and basics of the story line, then directing the conversation to the timeline of important events, themes, and morals. From the class discussion, I would be able to check for understanding and grade students based on their worksheets completed with concrete thinking skills.