

# LESSON PLAN: ANALYZING THE CHARACTER OF CRICKET IN SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF MAYBE

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Unit:</b>
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<b>LESSON TOPIC:</b>	In the book <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> , the main character Cricket has several goals about the Bird Room, her mother, and her artwork. In this lesson, students will work with others in a group to identify and analyze Cricket's goals and to explore the ways in which the story reflects her pursuit of those goals.
<b>AIM:</b>	Using the book <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> and the Building Grit Kit, students will learn how to analyze characters in a story including their motivation, goals, obstacles, and strategies that they employed to try to achieve goals.
<b>OBJECTIVES:</b>	Students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Critically examine literature to analyze the main character in a story.</li><li>2. Define the word "goal" and identify the goals of the main character, Cricket.</li><li>3. Identify obstacles Cricket faced in achieving her goals.</li><li>4. Identify strategies that Cricket used to try to achieve her goals and analyze whether or not each strategy was successful.</li><li>5. Identify and analyze alternate strategies that Cricket could have used to try to achieve her goals.</li></ol>
<b>GET STARTED/ DO-NOW:</b>	Instruct the students to look up the definition of the word "goal" in a dictionary or online. Then ask them to write the definition in their own words and to use the word "goal" in a sentence. Ask for volunteers to share their answers and discuss the answers as a class.

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<b>MINI-LESSON:</b>	As a class, complete the Group Activity: Let's Analyze Cricket on Page 8 of the Building Grit Kit. On the board, write down Cricket's goals about the Bird Room, her mother, and her artwork.
<b>MAIN ACTIVITY:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divide the students into groups of three or four. Assign each group of students Goal 1, Goal 2, or Goal 3 on Pages 8-14 of the Building Grit Kit. Depending upon the number of students in the class, you may have more than one group analyzing the same goal.</li> <li>2. Ask the students to fill out the sections "You Be the Judge!" and "You Decide!" in the Building Grit Kit that correspond with the goal their group has been assigned.</li> <li>3. Ask the students to choose one member of their group to present their analysis. Write down the information on the board as it is presented. If more than one group was assigned to a particular goal, ask all of those groups to present their work before moving on to the next goal. Invite students to discuss the differences and similarities in the groups' presentations.</li> </ol>
<b>EXTENSIONS:</b>	<p>Building Grit Kit Pages 32 - 38: Let's Think Bigger</p> <p>Ask students to write down their goals, the obstacles that may arise, ideas for strategies to overcome those obstacles, and the pros and cons of each strategy.</p> <p>Ask each student to share at least one of their goals with another student. Instruct the students to create a poster for the other student encouraging them to reach their goals.</p>
<b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING:</b>	Students' presentations include an accurate analysis of the character Cricket in <i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> including her motivation, goals, obstacles, and strategies that she employed to try to achieve her goals

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<b>MATERIALS:</b>	<p><i>Building Grit Kit</i> by Jo Hackl</p> <p><i>Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe</i> (Random House Children's Books/Yearling Adventure) by Jo Hackl</p> <p>Pencils or pens</p>
<b>STANDARDS:</b>	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1-8.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1-8.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.2-6.2 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.4-8.4 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.5-8.5 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.6-8.6</p>