

Teacher's Resource Guide

DISTRICT 13



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Learning Activities for
Vocabulary
Initial Understanding
Developing Interpretation
Personal Reflection and Response
Demonstrating a Critical Stance

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www.sdlback.com

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ISBN-13: 978-1-62250-781-8
ISBN-10: 1-62250-781-9
eBook: 978-1-61247-996-5

Printed in the United States of America
17 16 15 14 13 1 2 3 4 5

To the Teacher

District 13

In each book of the District 13 series, the main character has to make a choice. Using sports as a backdrop, the characters confront significant issues, such as, coming of age, dating, fitting in, friendship, drugs, self-esteem, and school.

Organization

Note that the books are not sequential, and they may be presented in any order. This teacher resource guide provides ideas and reproducible worksheets to support the concepts introduced in the books. It also provides support for students' reading skills. The answer key at the end of this guide provides direct concept instruction ideas for teachers in addition to the answers.

Different Ways to Present the Student Readers

Reading the books together as a whole class might be helpful for lower-functioning students and English language learners. Students who are more able should be encouraged to read the book on their own, after reading one or two chapters as a class. If your students are already familiar with the setting and characters within the District 13 series, you might have them use their prior knowledge as a jumping off point to a class discussion.

Although many of the activities are designed for use after reading the student readers, some activities are best completed before students read. A few activities may be used during the reading. All of the activities in the teacher resource guide are designed for a variety of teaching styles and student proficiency levels. You can distribute all of the activities at once, or pick and choose the skills you want to reinforce.

How to Build Connections

Each student reader gives students more insight into the choices teens have to make. Since common themes, such as teen pressure, appear across the stories, you may wish to have students create cause and effect charts, concept webs, or Venn diagrams, and have your students add to them as you read the series together.

Reading Strategies

The activities in this teacher resource guide focus on giving lower-level readers the tools to construct, extend, and examine the meaning of the text they read. Included are essential elements in reading literacy as identified by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary skills include decoding words, using words correctly, understanding meanings, and extending the actual amount of words the students know. Increased competency with vocabulary increases fluency when reading both silently and aloud. As students decode or recognize words more easily, they will be able to determine and extend the meaning of entire passages more easily as well.

Initial Understanding

Initial understanding of text is the initial impression or unreflected understanding of what was read. Skills include identifying details and facts from text read, and recognizing aspects of literal texts, such as sequence of events or main ideas. Without initial understanding, no reader would be able to comprehend the text on a more complex level.

Interpretation

Interpreting a text goes beyond the initial impression to develop a more complete understanding of what was read. The reader must distinguish between and compare separate concepts in a text to extend its meaning. Examples of interpreting skills include differentiating facts from opinions, making comparisons, summarizing, and identifying cause and effect relationships.

Reflection

Personal reflection requires students to relate the choices featured in each student reader to their own choices in life. As students connect their own experiences with what they read, the information becomes clearer. Having internalized ideas, students can more easily express their responses.

Critical Response

Critically responding to text requires readers to detach themselves from the text in order to consider and evaluate it. A critical response may include identifying the intended audience and author's purpose, and critiquing the text in terms of whether it achieved both of these needs.

Vocabulary • Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Use words and related ideas from the story, *Hit Just Right*, and the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.

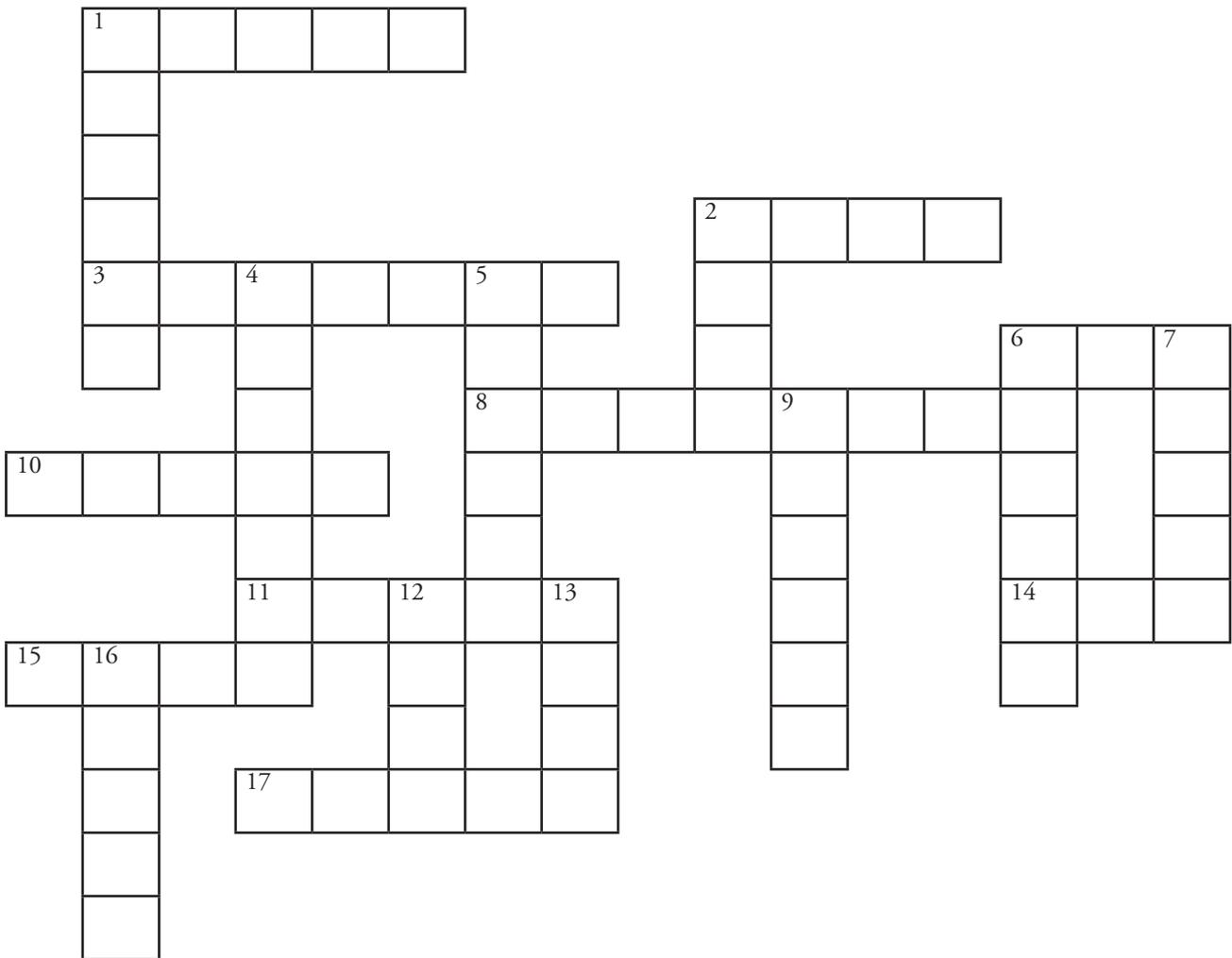
Catch the Words

Across:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. intimidate someone | 8. antonym for confident | 15. just |
| 2. second word in the title of the story | 10. faithful | 17. sequential arrangement |
| 3. Carlos's best friend | 11. the same | |
| 6. vehicle for many people | 14. stomach muscles | |

Down:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. hitter in baseball | 6. antonym for protect | 13. person that tells falsehoods |
| 2. antagonist in the story | 7. rescues | 16. questioned |
| 4. synonym for cinema | 9. protagonist in the story | |
| 5. goes on a date with Esteban | 12. second-hand | |



Vocabulary • Word Scramble

Unscrambled and Alike

Directions: Read the definitions or clue. Unscramble the letters to form a word from the story, *Hit Just Right*. Then write a synonym or a related word for each.

	Unscrambled Word	Synonym or Related Word
1. mechanical device: himnace	_____	_____
2. discarded material: rabegag	_____	_____
3. when you feel very bad, you feel: liberroh	_____	_____
4. denim pants: anjes	_____	_____
5. at ease: fromcableot	_____	_____
6. not worse: tebret	_____	_____
7. Spanish word for boy: oiñn	_____	_____
8. say you are sorry: lizeagpoo	_____	_____
9. abandoned someone: chitted	_____	_____
10. nickname Carlos hates: butyb	_____	_____

Initial Understanding • Event Map

Most narrative stories are constructed around a sequence of events. Careful readers gain a deeper understanding of a text and its central meaning by examining the events that take place in a story.

Directions: Re-read Chapter 6 of the story, *Hit Just Right*. Identify the main event that occurs in the chapter. Then fill out the event map below.

