

“Charles”



Concept: Reading Short Stories and
Understanding Elements of Plot

Essential Question #1

What strategies can we use to read and analyze fictional short stories?

Ask Questions

Make Predictions

Visualize

Make Inferences

Clarify

Vocabulary Preview--Strategies

As you read, think about using the strategies:

Ask questions... about things that seem significant or interest.

Make predictions... about what is going to happen next. As you read, gather clues to confirm or change your predictions.

Vocabulary Preview

Visualize... the story. Form pictures in your mind to help see the characters and the setting.

Make inferences... or educated guesses about what is not stated directly.

Clarify... or check that you understand what you read. Reread any difficult parts.

Set a Purpose



A fiction writer presents characters and actions that say something about life. What will you get from this story?

Preview the story by skimming the text and looking for unfamiliar words. Based on your preview, what is one prediction that you can make about this short story?

Write your prediction in your notes.

Essential Question #2

How do effective writers organize the plot of their fictional short stories?

Authors divide short stories into five stages: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution

Think Back

Do you remember your first day in kindergarten?

Was there a “bad kid” in your classroom? What kinds of behaviors were labeled as “bad” for this student?



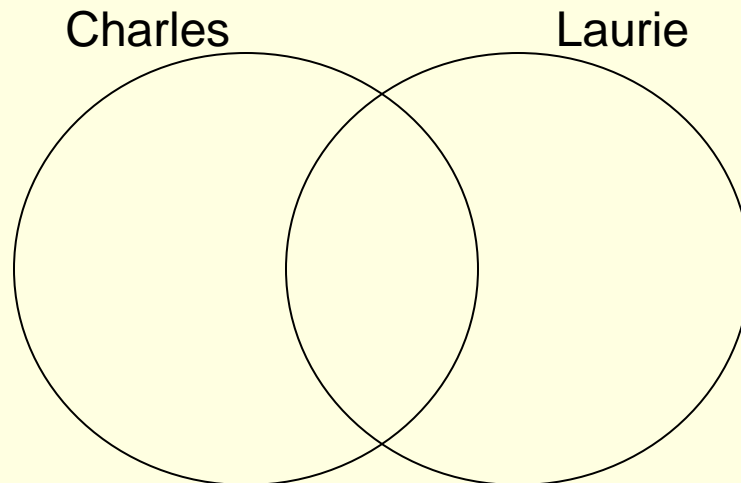
How did your teacher “handle” any behavior problems in class?

This is the story of Laurie’s experience in kindergarten. As you read, connect the events of this story to your own experiences. Are there any similarities?

Post-Reading Activity

After reading this story, think about the following two questions and answer them in your notes:

1. Did you predict the outcome? If so, when did you figure it out?
2. How are Laurie and “Charles” alike? Draw a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences.



Post-Reading Theme Activity-- Life Lessons

After reading about these characters, what life lesson can you learn from their experience?

In your notes, write a one-sentence theme and then follow-up with an explanation based on the specific details from the story.

Remember: A theme is NOT story-specific.