

Teacher's Corner

Using Literature as a teaching tool helps students answer the: who, what, where, when, why and how in stories with rich content and strong vocabulary elements. As students respond to Literature verbally or in written form, it helps them demonstrate key understandings as they explore details and themes that are relevant in our world. The following common core questions can be used to generate further discussions and writing assignments.

AMAZING ANNABELLE DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

Chapter One

- Why is December such a festive time of the year?
- Make a list of some traditional things that are done during the Hanukkah Holiday.

Chapter Two

- Why does Annabelle enjoy being on this committee and what is this committee doing?
- What was Mrs. Kessler's opinion about the Holiday Bash?

Chapter Three

- Why was Saturday a special day for the Copeland Family?
- Why did Annabelle give in to her sister and vote for the Scotch Pine tree instead?

Chapter Four

- How are Hanukkah and Kwanzaa similar and different?
- Why do you think Mrs. Mitchell's Kwanzaa assignment created such a buzz in the classroom?

Chapter Five

- Why did Annabelle want to change the name of the event and how did everyone feel about her idea?
- What was Mrs. Kessler's concern about the name change and how did Mrs. Jacobson ease her worries?

Chapter Six

- What task did Annabelle and Adele have and how did Annabelle feel about Adele?
- What are some of the ideas they come up with for the Kwanzaa Station?

Chapter Seven

- What surprise did Jeanie have up her sleeve for the Kwanzaa Presentation?
- What did Annabelle see in Jeanie as she did her dance?
- What surprise did Mrs. Mitchell have for the class and how did Jeanie feel about this surprise?

Chapter Eight

- How did Victoria make Barry upset?
- Who was Annabelle's partner for the writing assignment and how were they on different paths?

Chapter Nine

- Why was everyone buzzing with chatter on the bus ride home?
- How did Dexter end up challenging Annabelle during their writing assignment?

Chapter Ten

- Why did Mrs. Mitchell take it easy on the class during the day of the big event?
- Why do you think Mrs. Kessler got into the holiday spirit and how did she show it?

Lesson Plan for:

Amazing Annabelle Celebrates December Holidays

Title of Lesson: **Sharing Cultures**

Common Core Standard:

Chronological Reasoning and Causation-Students will explain how three or more events are related to one another.

Objective:

I would like the students to know that there are three major holidays in December and understand the culture, traditions, similarities and differences related to each.

Materials Needed:

- Amazing Annabelle Celebrates December Holidays book**
- December Holidays Chart**
- Differences and Similarities Venn Diagram Worksheet**

Lesson Application:

After reading the story, Amazing Annabelle Celebrates December Holidays, students will be placed into three groups to discuss one assigned December holiday, either Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa. Group members will locate in the book where it talks about each holiday and write down their findings on December Holiday Chart. Students can also do a google search to find more information to write on their chart. Each group will decide how they will present their information to the class. One suggestion would be to allow each member in the group to do or say something associated with this holiday, (sing a song, recite or act out a poem or just read a specific part from their chart.)

Allow the students to be as creative as they can, just as Annabelle's group was with their Kwanzaa presentation in chapter seven. Have a separate conversation about differences and similarities in holidays if

they are not mentioned in presentations. Complete Differences & Similarities Venn Diagram worksheet individually.

Assessment:

Collect individual December Holiday Charts and Venn Diagrams for written participation and accuracy and take notes from actual class participation from group presentations.

Name _____

December Holiday Chart

List information you have learned about each of the holidays.

Christmas	
Kwanzaa	
Hanukkah	

Name _____

Differences & Similarities in Holidays

Choose two different December holidays to compare using a Venn Diagram.

Same

