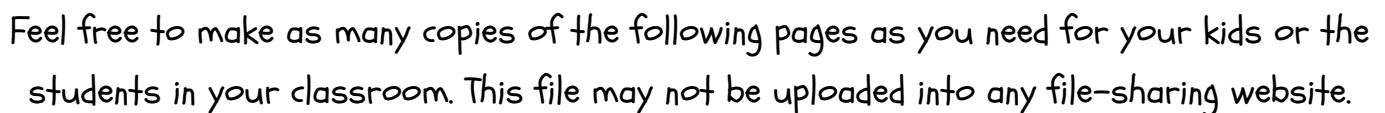


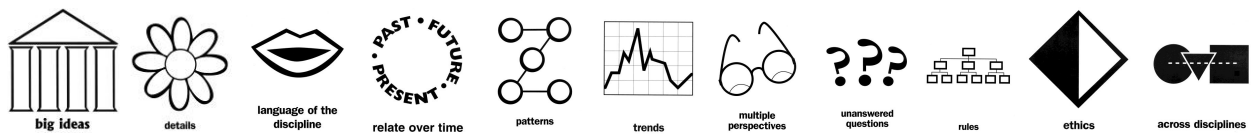
©Made by Liesl at homeschoolden.com



Depth and Complexity Icons

In our new Writing Workshop Unit we are going to go look at books more analytically. I want the kids to look at stories in more depth – not just looking at the plot, setting, character development, and things like that.

Recently, I read a book that had literature lesson plans that use depth and complexity icons. I was curious and dove a little deeper. These icons were developed by Sandra Kaplan as tools for understanding -- they can be used with most any subject or discipline. These icons include



These concepts can help students dive into subject areas in more depth.

Each subject has its own set of vocabulary, different issues that experts face, there are different rules, and different patterns that emerge over time.

For example, scientists have specialized vocabulary that they use. Similarly,

archaeologists have certain words that apply to their field. And in literature, authors approach language differently too, using different techniques.



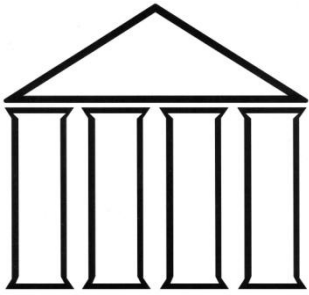
Each discipline might face different ethical dilemmas or controversies. There might be certain (written or unwritten) rules depending on the field. Things may change over time.

Students can also use these icons to help them study and analyze literature on a deeper level.

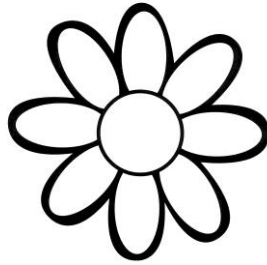
- What are the big ideas/main theme of the story?
- What language techniques does the author use?
- How does the character change over time?
- What patterns or trends do you see in this story?
- Do the characters face any moral or ethical dilemmas?

We are going to use the depth and complexity icons in our writing workshop for the next few weeks for some in-depth literary analysis. We're going to start with some children's literature and then will focus on some of the novels the kids have read.

Depth and Complexity Icons



big ideas



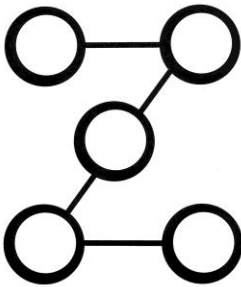
details



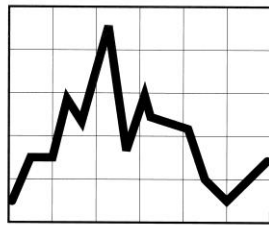
**language of the
discipline**



relate over time



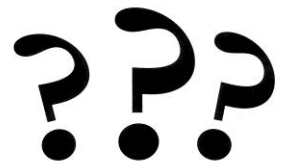
patterns



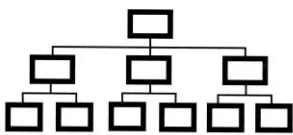
trends



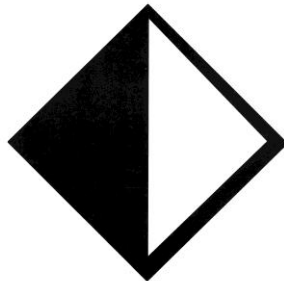
**multiple
perspectives**



**unanswered
questions**



rules














ethics










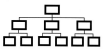



across disciplines

Depth and Complexity Chart

 big ideas	
 details	
 language of the discipline	
 relate over time	
 patterns	
 trends	
 multiple perspectives	
 unanswered questions	
 ethics	
 rules	
 across disciplines	

Depth and Complexity Chart

 <p>big ideas</p>	<p>What is the main theme or main idea? the big idea? How does that influence the character? the problem? the outcome?</p> <p>Compare big ideas among different pieces of literature.</p>
 <p>details</p>	<p>What do the details tell me about the character? an event? the setting?</p> <p>Think about who? what? when? where? why? how?</p>
 <p>language of the discipline</p>	<p>What words/techniques does the author use? similes? metaphors? analogies? adjectives?</p>
 <p>relate over time</p>	<p>What changes over time? a character? their feelings? a problem? an event? a place? an idea? Think about the sequence of events.</p>
 <p>patterns</p>	<p>What elements reoccur? Think about predictability, repetition. Do you notice any cycles?</p> <p>Are there any repeated terms or concepts?</p> <p>Think about patterns of behavior.</p>
 <p>trends</p>	<p>Note factors that cause things to reoccur. Identify patterns of change over time.</p> <p>What are the causes and effects of this trend?</p>
 <p>multiple perspectives</p>	<p>How would others see the situation differently? What are the character's thoughts on another character? a problem? an event? an idea? a place? Does the character's point of view influence another character? the problem? the event? an idea? the outcome?</p> <p>See things from the other point of view (in history, for example). How do different points of view affect what we learn?</p>
 <p>unanswered questions</p>	<p>What information is missing? What is unclear or unresolved? Are there details that are missing? What has not yet been proven?</p>
 <p>ethics</p>	<p>Good vs. Bad; Fair vs. Unfair; Wrong vs. Right; Prejudices</p> <p>What moral principles are involved? What controversies exist? Is it ethical? fair? What dilemmas do people face? How do ethical issues affect the subject you are studying? Why are there different ethical issues in different time periods? What arguments could emerge from a study of this topic?</p>
 <p>rules</p>	<p>What are the rules? Are there implicit and explicit rules? Are the rules efficient? valid?</p> <p>What structure underlies this subject?</p> <p>Are they following the rules? What makes it work? What are the rules?</p>
 <p>across disciplines</p>	<p>Think about this from the perspective of other fields/disciplines (as a scientist, psychologist, ecologist, or another field)</p>

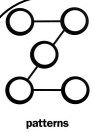
Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____



What is the main theme of this story?



Do you notice any patterns in this book?



Are you left with any unanswered questions?



What changes over time? What doesn't change? What impact might this story have on the future?



What special writing techniques does the author use? Give examples.



What moral or ethical issues are raised in this book? What controversies exist?



How would this book or story be different if it were written from a different point of view?

Name: _____



What special writing techniques do authors use? Give examples.

What are some universal themes used in literature?



Name: _____

What special writing techniques do authors use?



- ☐ Elements of style:
 - point of view
 - first person
 - second person
 - third person
 - dialogue
 - word choice
 - sentence structure
 - imagery
- ☐ Sound devices
 - rhyme
 - rhythm
 - repetition
 - alliteration
 - onomatopoeia
- ☐ figurative speech
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - personification
- ☐ identify and analyze symbols and symbolism
- ☐ topics vs. themes
- ☐ literary conflict (man vs. man, man vs. self, man vs. nature, man vs. society)
- ☐ universal themes (coming of age, individual struggle towards a personal goal, a person's struggle with humanity, falling in love, life cycles, karma, coping with tragedy, man's struggles to understand divinity, adolescence and discovering the world around us, the epic journey, the fall from grace, crime does not pay, overcoming adversity, sacrifice brings reward, human beings all have the same needs, and the revenge story)
- ☐ Main idea - supporting details
- ☐ tone
- ☐ mood
- ☐ making inferences
- ☐ sequences
- ☐ foreshadowing
- ☐ argument - claim, support, counterargument
- ☐ persuasive techniques
 - bandwagon appeal ("everyone else" likes or does something)
 - testimonial (endorsements)
 - snob appeal - desire to be a part of a group
 - loyalty - people's affiliation to a group
 - emotional appeal - pity, fear, vanity
 - word choice

Name: _____



Choose one of the universal themes below and write a story with one of those themes. At the end of the week, we will trade stories and try to figure out which theme you chose!

individual struggle towards a personal goal,

a person's struggle with humanity,

falling in love

love conquers all

life cycles,

karma,

coping with tragedy,

man's struggles to understand divinity,

adolescence and discovering the world around us,

coming of age,

the epic journey,

Yin and Yang: Just when you think life is finally going to be easy, something bad happens to balance it all out.

the fall from grace,

crime does not pay,

overcoming adversity,

sacrifice brings reward,

human beings all have the same needs,

the revenge story

finding hope after tragedy

the evil of unchecked ambition

Here are some of the Children's Literature we plan to use for this part of our Writing Workshop. Note: These are affiliate links:

[The Butter Battle Book](#): Engaged in a long-running battle, the Yooks and the Zooks develop more and more sophisticated weaponry as they attempt to outdo each other.

[The Wretched Stone](#): A strange glowing stone picked up on a sea voyage captivates a ship's crew and has a terrible transforming effect on them.

[Weslandia](#): Wesley's garden produces a crop of huge, strange plants which provide him with clothing, shelter, food, and drink, thus helping him create his own civilization and changing his life.

[The True Story of the Three Little Pigs](#): The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs.

[The Three Questions](#): Nikolai asks his animal friends to help him answer three important questions: "When is the best time to do things?" "Who is the most important?" and "What is the right thing to do?"

[Probuditi!](#): On his birthday, Calvin and his friend Rodney see a magician perform, then copy him by hypnotizing Calvin's little sister, but the joke is on them when they are unable to snap her out of it.

[The Garden of Abdul Gasazi](#): When the dog he is caring for runs away from Alan into the forbidden garden of a retired dog-hating magician, a spell seems to be cast over the contrary dog.

[Max's Words](#): When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

[No Dogs Allowed!](#): When Iris, her family, and the neighbors take a trip to Enchanted Lake, everyone brings what they think is needed, but the family dog turns out to present a problem.



Disclosure: Please note that some of the links above are affiliate links, and at no additional cost to you, I will earn a commission if you decide to make a purchase.

Other Selections We May Use:

Voices in the Park: Lives briefly intertwine when two youngsters meet in the park.

Silly Billy: Little brother Billy ruins all his sister's attempts to play and is excused by the grownups because he's "only little."

Jungle Drums: Tired of being teased, Ngiri, the smallest warthog in Africa, uses a set of magic drums to make wishes, but he is not careful enough and makes the rift between the Warthogs and the beautiful Other Beasts even worse.


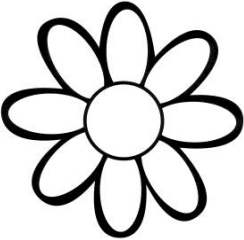


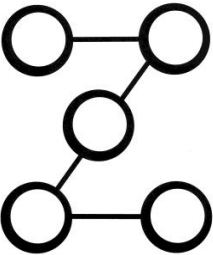
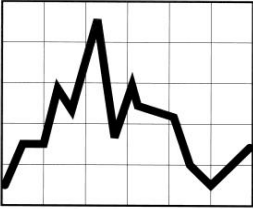

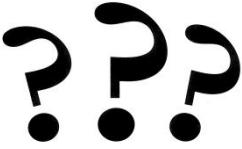
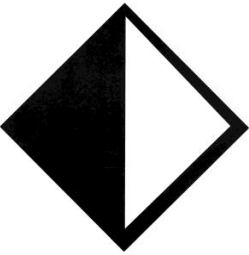
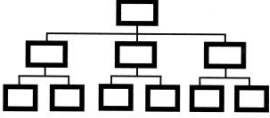

Letting Swift River Go: Relates Sally Jane's experience of changing times in rural America, as she lives through the drowning of the Swift River towns in western Massachusetts to form the Quabbin Reservoir.

The Empty Pot: When Ping admits that he is the only child in China unable to grow a flower from the seeds distributed by the Emperor, he is rewarded for his honesty.


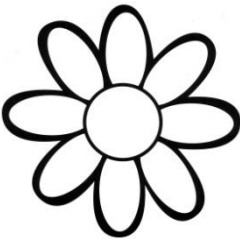


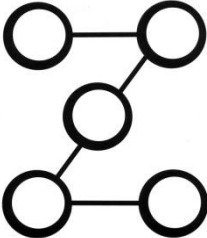
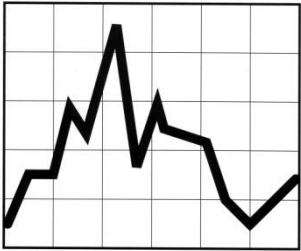

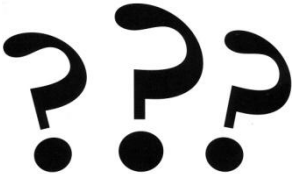
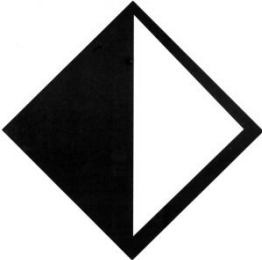
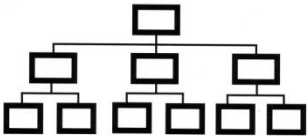

Encounter by Jane Yolen: A Taino Indian boy on the island of San Salvador recounts the landing of Columbus and his men in 1492.

The Curious Garden: Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city.





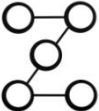
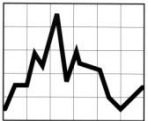



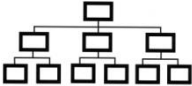

Depth and Complexity

 <p>big ideas</p>	 <p>details</p>	 <p>language of the discipline</p>	 <p>relate over time</p>
 <p>patterns</p>	 <p>trends</p>	 <p>multiple perspectives</p>	 <p>unanswered questions</p>
 <p>ethics</p>	 <p>rules</p>	 <p>across disciplines</p>	

Depth and Complexity

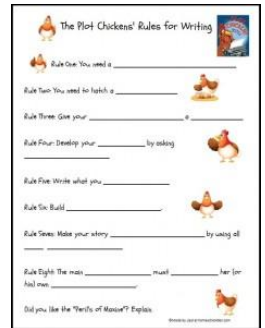
Depth and Complexity Chart

You might be interested in some of our Writing Workshop Posts. The links below will take you back to our blog. homeschoolden.com

Mini-Lessons to Use in a Writing Workshop (in any order):

- [Writing Workshop Mini-Lesson: Rules for Writing and the Story Writing Process](#) -- Have your kids read *the Plot Chicken*? We started our Writing Workshop this year off with this book. What a great buk, buk!! In fact, I liked it so much that I created a chicken writing rules printable to go along with the book!
- [What makes a good book or story?](#)
- [Make your story come alive with details and description.](#)
- [Creating Interesting Characters](#)
- [Story Openings: Set the mood or feeling of your story](#)
- [Gathering story ideas from your own life](#)
- [Alliteration and more](#)
- [Adding Details Exercise](#) (Don't miss this one, the kids LOVED this activity!!)
- [Writing Workshop: Conflict in Literature \(Man vs. Man, Man vs. Self, etc\)](#)
- [Writing Workshop Discussion Questions](#)
- [Writing Workshop Mini-Lesson: Rules for Writing and the Story Writing Process](#)



How and Why We Started Using a Homeschool Writing Workshop and Other Writing Workshop Resources on our Blog:

- [Creating a Homeschool Writing Workshop – Post #1 — How/Why we needed a change in our writing program](#)
- [Creating a Homeschool Writing Workshop – Post #2: Creating a Writing Workshop Area and Materials to Have on Hand](#)
- [Creating a Writing Workshop Post #3: This post is about Mini-Lessons](#) during writing time, mentor texts and includes reviews of 8 or 9 writing books that you might find helpful.
- [Writing Resource Pack: This is a post about the 30-page pack](#) I made for our writing workshop. Reference pages on the 6 +1 Writing Traits, Mini-Lessons, the types of writing, creating a powerful beginning, techniques for ending a story/paper, and so forth. (These writing resources are free to download.)



- [40 Journal Writing Prompts: Free Printable](#)