

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Miracle's Boys, Week 1



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things; a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

What is a narrator? What role do they play in literature?

What is a correctional institution?

What is the history of Central Park in New York? What kind of activities and amenities does the park offer?

What is a publishing house?

What is a primary caretaker?

What is the significance of a diploma?

What does it mean to cross yourself? What is the significance?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

rind (6)	karate (9)	stereotype (3)	totem pole (10)	shoehorn (14)
hypothermia (17)	Unclasped (18)	miracle (19)	demon (19)	curly (19)
sickly (23)	Shrugged (25)	deceiving (27)	jutted (28)	Chockfull (28)
dim (20)	beige (31)	insulin shock (32)	precise (33)	starch (34)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- mention the setting and main character
- point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 1-41

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP of either Newcharlie or Lafayette. Draw them in their likeness. What do you think they are thinking and feeling at this introductory point in the novel? Add 3-5 thoughts to your OMP.

Sketch

Based on today's reading, sketch the street that the boys live on.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What do you think he is thinking and feeling as they buried his mother and got to see Newcharlie for the first time? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Brainstorm Web

Write Newcharlie's name in the middle of the web. Draw lines out and write how Newcharlie has changed since his return.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What is he thinking and feeling as it relates to his father?

Rap

Create a rap addressing the following questions:

- In what ways has Ty'ree assumed responsibility for his brothers?
- What will happen if either Newcharlie or Lafayette gets into trouble with the law?
- What do you think it's like to be Ty'ree and in what way is he a positive role model for Lafayette?

Make sure your rap is school appropriate. If you are not comfortable writing a rap you can write a poem that addresses the same issue/issues.

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What do you think he is thinking and feeling as he remembers his mom and how things once were? Add 5-7 new thoughts to your OMP.

Rites and Rituals

Investigate rites and rituals as it relates to death and funerals. What customs do you have and what are other customs or rituals that people celebrate? Chose three and display them on a poster or T Chart

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 1-15)

1. Have you ever known someone who went away and then came back? Were they different when they returned? What factors contributed to this change?
2. Why didn't Charlie turn to his family for support? Why is he angry?
3. Why was Newcharlie drawn to Aaron? Do you think Aaron has expectations for Newcharlie?
4. Based on the information given about Newcharlie, do you think he is inherently bad or capable of changing? What do you think would have to motivate him?
5. Page 6, "Somebody had done that to Charlie. Scooped out his heart and sent the empty bitter rind of him home." What literary device did the author use in this passage? Why is it effective?

Key Questions (p. 16-20)

1. How do you think Lafayette feels losing his dad at such a young age? He considers his dad a hero for saving the woman, what do you think he is?
2. What drew Lafayette's father to the park in the winter? Describe what he saw and felt.
3. Lafayette knows Tyree has a soft spot and he appreciates it. What is a soft spot? Why is it important to balance "soft" and "hard" in your personality? What happens if one gets out of balance?
4. Lafayette wants to believe that dead does not mean gone. What is your perspective of death? What does it mean to die? What does death mean to the living left behind?
5. Lafayette thinks about the woman his father saved and he has many questions. What things would you want to ask the woman if you met her now?

Key Questions (p. 21-28)

1. In what ways have the boys had to adjust since their mother died?
2. What is the significance of the plants that Newcharlie has? Does this give you hope for his outcome? Explain.
3. Lafayette sees his mom and stops to watch his ghost mama? Why do you consider this helpful? He sees her peaceful smile, what does that do to help

- him? Have you ever known someone with a peaceful smile? What brings you peace?
4. Why do you think it's so important for Lafayette to have a brother like Ty'ree in his life? What roles has Ty'ree assumed?
 5. What are the consequences of Lafayette or Newcharlie getting in trouble? Do you think that pressure weighs on the boys?

Key Questions (p. 29-36)

1. What role has Ty'ree always had in the family? Why do you think he assumed responsibility early?
2. What was mama's TV rule? What did she want Lafayette to learn? Why did he watch the news?
3. *"Years ago the building used to be fancy, Ty'ree says. But not now. They're just buildings filled with people getting by. That's what me, and Ty'ree, and Newcharlie were—people getting by"* pg. 31. Based on the circumstances do you think the boys are just getting by? Explain. In what ways can they start to move forward?
4. How did the notion of time shift for Mama when her parents died? Is Lafayette's experience the same? Why or why not?
5. Why does Lafayette want to know the details of his mother's last day from Ty'ree? What do you think he is wanting to learn?

Key Questions (p. 37-41)

1. What does Lafayette remember about Aunt Cecil? Do you have a relative or someone you know that you can attach a smell to their memory?
2. *"Still Aunt Cecil might be right. Maybe I was beautiful underneath it all."* Pg. 38. What is beauty? How does beauty hide itself? Why can you not always see your own beauty?
3. Why do people bring "funeral food" to a funeral? Why does this gesture bring a source of comfort?
4. How is Charlie reacting at the funeral?
5. Why do you think he isn't showing any emotion?
6. Do you think he is feeling something on the inside but just not showing it?
7. How do you think that made Lafayette feel? What does Lafayette want from Newcharlie?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 5

"Right after he came home from Rahway, I got up in the middle of the night to look at him. He'd been away for more than two years, and the guy sleeping across from me was a stranger. Some days he'd just sit on that bed with his hands hanging down between his knees. Just staring out the window and looking evil. But when he was asleep, his face spread out—all the frowns and scowls just kind of faded and he looked like Charlie again, ready to care about something, to be happy, or to cry about stray animals" (p. 5).

Writing Prompt

Has anyone in your life (friend, family member) ever changed in a “negative or positive” way? What was that like for you? What do you think caused the change? How do you wish the person would have acted and why? Was there anyway to support this person in making positive choices? **Is change, positive or negative easy for others to cope with? Write a one paragraph argument in which you argue that change regardless of kind is hard for friends and family? State your claim. Give relevant details and information to support your claim. As you write acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Conclude by supporting your opening statement.**

Key Paragraph, p. 20

“Sometimes I wonder what happened to that lady and that dog my daddy saved. There’s always stories about people getting saved and then giving the people who saved them money or people coming along years later and naming their kids after the people, but none of that ever happened to us...” (p. 20).

Writing Prompt

Do you think it’s understandable that Lafayette has all these questions floating around in his head? What questions would you have? What answers would you want to hear if you were in his shoes? **Do you think the woman who was saved had an obligation to reach out to the family at some point? Based on your answer write a 1 paragraph argument in which you state your claim and acknowledge the opposing opinion. Give details to support your claim using language to transition clearly. Conclude using a statement that supports your viewpoint.**

Key Paragraph, p. 25-26

“Ty’ree looked at me, a slow smile coming to his face. He had the best smile in the world. Everybody said so. When he smiled, it made me think about when I used to go to church, how I’d sit there staring at this stained-glass window of Jesus with all the kids around him. Jesus was smiling and everything seemed peaceful and right. That’s what Ty’ree’s smile was like. Peaceful and right” (p. 25-26).

Writing Prompt

What does Lafayette mean when he says that Ty’ree’s smile was peaceful and right? What does ‘right’ mean in this case? Is there a person in your life who you admire, whose presence or smile is peaceful and right? Ty’ree and Newcharlie are completely opposite personalities in Lafayette’s life. If you had a choice, who would you rather be around and emulate? **Write a paragraph in which you explain who you would rather be around. Introduce your claim/choice with a logical argument and acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Use relevant evidence to support your claim using credible evidence from the book or another source. Provide a concluding sentence that supports your claim.**

Key Paragraph, p. 33-34

“Once Mama has said to me that time is like a movie—something you watch real close wanting to catch every line, every action, every moment. Then it passes and you feel like no time passed at all. She said that when her parents died, time didn’t stop they way people always say it does. She said it just became more precise—every minute,

hour, day mattered that much more. Charlie had been in Rahway for two months...There were four days between the time I found her and the day we buried her...And now years have gone by—like no time at all” (p. 33-34).

Writing Prompt

What does Mama mean when she said that time became more precise and that every day mattered that much more? Do you appreciate every day, as if it's your last? Why or how is time significant to you? Do you waste time or do you consider time precious? **Write a one paragraph argument in which you defend “precious time”. State how time is precious to you. Argue its worth why acknowledging the opposing viewpoint. Organize your writing logically. Give the reader evidence to support your claim. Use effective transitions and language to create flow in your writing. Conclude with a strong statement in support of your thesis.**

Key Paragraph, p. 39

“They had let Charlie come to the funeral and stay with us for a few hours afterward. When Aunt Cecile saw him with those two guards from Rahway, she crossed herself and pressed her handkerchief against her mouth. Charlie stood real stiff while she hugged him, his eyes sweeping over everybody, checking us all out. There wasn't any feeling in them” (p. 39).

Writing Prompt

Look back up at the timeline. What event or group of events has really moved you so far? Why? Is the author doing a good job writing a realistic story? **Discuss what you like about the book so far. Make an argument defending the realism of the story for you acknowledge the opposing viewpoints. Use clear transitions and details to support your claim. Do you have any suggestions that would make it stronger? Conclude with a statement that supports your viewpoint.**

10c12 Cubing Biography

Who is person? Date of birth? Death?					
Where did this person grow up?					
	What relationships did this person have?	What did this person do?	What was this person like?		
Why is this person important?					

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Miracle's Boys, Week 2



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things; a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

What is MIT?

What are art films?

What challenges come with not having enough money?

What does the idiom, *you have a monkey on your back* mean?

What is death?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

honeysuckle (43)	launch (44)	rockets (44)	fuss (45)	flinching (46)
allergies (57)	subtitles (59)	subtitles (59)	quivery (59)	attention (60)
tokens (61)	re-adding (61)	impatient (62)	Barely (64)	limousine (65)
electrified (74)	dodging (74)	shock (77)	psychologist (82)	Incarnate (82)
Harlem (84)	whispering (84)	whimper (92)	Screech (92)	Blinked (92)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

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- point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 42-96

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What do you think he is thinking and feeling when he realizes that his mother is really gone? What things is he trying to hang onto? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

Plot Profile Map

Create a plot profile map for today's reading. On the bottom list ten of the most important facts in the chapter; On the side rate their intensity on a scale of 1-10; Use this chart to write a summary of today's reading.

Character Profile Chart

Create a character profile chart of Ty'ree. Based on the reading you have done so far fill out a CPC for Ty'ree. Choose 4 character traits he has. Find an example of that trait from the reading. Cite the page number.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

KWL Chart

Ty'ree was college bound and had been accepted at MIT which focuses on the sciences. Fill out a KWL Chart as it relates to college or post high school options.

Venn Diagram or T Chart

Choose one of the boys, Lafayette, Newcharlie, or Ty'ree. Based on today's reading complete a Venn Diagram or T Chart for them. What were they like before their mother's death? What are they like now?

Write a compare and contrast essay about their characteristics and the changes they have made. Conclude by giving them one thing they should change to help them return to their "normal".

Budget

Ty'ree and mama (sometimes) Lafayette would do everything they could to make their money go a little further. Create a budget. Find a job similar level to Ty'ree. Go through the paper to find suitable housing. Include what you would spend on clothes, utilities, food, transportation etc. You may have to pair down your wants to be able to afford your needs.

Open Mind Portrait

Lafayette is learning about his family history. He agrees that Newcharlie lost more because he was not there for the death of either parent. But he also knows that the way he is coping is inappropriate. Write 3-5 pieces of advice he could give to Newcharlie about how to grieve for his loss.

Postcard

Pretend you are Lafayette and 10 years have gone by since you last saw Dr. Vernon. You want to send him a postcard telling him how you are doing. How does it feel to be you today? How have you *changed*? *What is going on*? Write a one paragraph postcard giving him details of your life and your thanks. On the opposite side illustrate a picture that depicts how you are doing.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 42-47)

1. Have you lost someone that meant a lot to you? Either a friend, animal, parent? Perhaps they moved away or died. What feelings are associated with that loss? What things did you do to try and cope?
2. Lafayette is facing a lot of grief, with both his parents being dead, and he's been holding in his sadness for a long time. Why is it important to grieve? Are there stages of grief? What does grief look like?
3. Aunt Cecil wants to take the boys to live with her so Ty'ree can go to school and follow his dreams? Who do you think is right? What would you do in the similar situation?
4. Ty'ree takes mama's things to the Goodwill, should he have involved Lafayette in this decision or process? What happens when Lafayette realizes all her things are gone?
5. Ty'ree leaves the curtains in the room. Why are they significant?

Key Questions (p. 48-60)

1. Lafayette woke to Ty'ree cooking and singing Bobby McGee, what significance does that song have for the boys?
2. What was Lafayette dreaming? Why did he try to remember what things were like before he went away? What wish did he make to his mama?
3. Ty'ree offers to take Lafayette to the movies. What reasons did he have for taking him to the quad?
4. Lafayette and Ty'ree realize that none of them are the same as they were before mama died. What is the distinct difference between Newcharlie and the boys?
5. What does Lafayette tell Ty'ree about the morning he found Mama dead?
6. Why does he blame himself for her death? Was it his fault? Why does he keep blaming himself? Based on what you have read and your experience, is there anything Lafayette could have done to assist his mother?

Key Questions (p. 67-71)

1. The family does not have a lot of money, what kind of resources do they use to get by and make it work?
2. What do you think it will take for the boys to start getting ahead?
3. How does this translate to where you are and what you want in life?
4. Why did mama want to go to Puerto Rico?
5. Do you really think it is the paradise that she remembers?
6. What could that “paradise” be symbolic of?
7. What opportunities does money present for the boys?
8. How could it help them get ahead?
9. Why is it important for them to know that their situation is temporary and they can change it?

Key Questions (p. 72-82)

1. What was the biggest wish Ty’ree had for his family and for the new baby?
2. Ty’ree wanted his dad to help the woman and her dog, do you think his father would have helped anyway? What would you have done in a similar situation?
3. Ty’ree and Lafayette both had basic requests of their parents as they were dying. Ty’ree wanted to know how the dog was and Lafayette wanted breakfast. Do you think these basic requests seem silly to them now? Does that add to their guilt?
4. The first responders gave their dad a blanket and sent him home. What do you think they should have done? Do you feel their dad’s death could have been prevented? How?
5. Sunday was reserved for Ty’ree and dad and him at the park. Why do you think that time is so important to a child? Do you or did you have a ritual you got to do with your parent or loved on? What is it? Why is that alone time so important?
6. Lafayette thinks that Newcharlie should go to Dr. Vernon, the “shrink” he went to after his mom’s death. He knows there is value and he was assisted. Part of being able to change is reaching out for help, what are other resources they could use to get the support and help they need?

Key Questions (p. 83-96)

1. Lafayette describes how a snake sheds its skin and grows a new one and moves on. He says his mama was his skin and when he lost her he didn’t grow a new one and he was a mess. Do you think that is an accurate assessment of what happened to him? How is a parent or mentor like your skin?
2. Ty’ree realized that Lafayette needed help. What does that say about his character to reach out to his aunt and to find a doctor? Why don’t more people ask for help?
3. How does Lafayette describe Dr. Vernon? What does it mean for Lafayette to have things be OK?
4. Page 89, Ty’ree chooses his arguments with Newcharlie or he “picks his battles”, what does the phrase pick your battles refer to? Why is it important

- that Ty'ree choose things to fight over? What would their life be like if he didn't?
5. Lafayette is able to see Ty'ree as a human who has faults and he is able to still love and respect him, why can't he do the same with Newcharlie?
 6. What does Lafayette remember about his mama? What does he tell her? Why is that significant?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 46-47

"Ty'ree had left up the flowered curtains Mama's bought downtown, and for some reason this was sadder than anything to me. It seemed wrong—a big, blue-plaid boy comforter on the bed and Mama's lady curtains at the window. I went over and rubbed the curtains against my face.

'This is all, huh, T?' I whispered. 'This all we got left of mama.'

Ty'ree shook his head. 'Nah, Lafayette,' he said. 'That ain't all'" (p. 46-47).

Writing Prompt

Lafayette is sad at the changes. He would rather his brother still sleep on the couch and his mother was at home. He wishes her clothes were still there, but happy he can still smell her. He is sad that his brother moved into her room but left the curtains.

Do you think Ty'ree was right to move into mama's room and to get rid of her things? Write a one paragraph argument in which you defend him or Lafayette. In your thesis state your viewpoint and give the opposing viewpoint. Give reasons and evidence to support your thesis. Use logical flow and transitions. Conclude by supporting your viewpoint.

Key Paragraph, p. 58

"'I know I told you this a lot of times,' Ty'ree said. 'And I know other people have said it too. But I'm gonna keep saying it, 'cause I know you need to keep hearing it. There wasn't anything you could have done, Lafayette'" (p. 58).

Writing Prompt

Ty'ree and many others have to work to convince Lafayette that there was nothing he could have done to help his mother but he does not believe them. Write a 1-2 paragraph argument, directed at Lafayette trying to convince him he did everything he could for his mother. Use examples from the reading and facts you know from the novel to support your claim. Acknowledge the counterclaim. Use strong transitions to give your paragraph flow and continuity. Conclude with a strong statement that supports your claim.

Key Paragraph p. 67

"He couldn't go back to school. Not right now anyway. Because of me. Because of Newcharlie. He couldn't quit his job, and he couldn't go at night 'cause the caseworker would be on us talking about how me and Newcharlie would be home alone too much. The only way he'd be able to go to college was if me and Newcharlie went to live down south" (p. 67).

Writing Prompt

Lafayette feels a lot of responsibility for the choices and Ty'ree has had to make and Ty'ree feels a responsibility to keep the family together. They both want to move forward but feel like they are being help back. Do you think Lafayette and Newcharlie should go to live down south? Or do you feel that Ty'ree is doing the right thing to sacrifice his future to keep the family together? **Choose a side. Write a one paragraph argument in which you defend one of the boy's position. Use your experiences and facts from the novel to give evidence to your writing. Use clear transitions and clauses to give your writing cohesion. End your paragraph with a statement that supports your argument.**

Key Paragraph, p. 81

"Charlie got the biggest monkey on his back, I can remember the last thing I said to daddy and you can remember the last thing you said to mama. Least we got to be there. But not Charlie. And I think he carries that around. It's more like a gorilla on his back than a monkey...and while he was gone, me and you had each other after mama died. And he had Rahway" (p. 81).

Writing Prompt

Ty'ree gives Lafayette a different perspective of Charlie and how he suffered the loss of his parents. Do you think Charlie has some reasons to be angry or should he deal like his brothers have? **Based on your answer write a one paragraph argument in which you show support for the opposite side of argument. Write a thesis in which you introduce your topic and thoughts, acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Give evidence to support your claim. Use solid transitions in your writing to show cohesion. Conclude with a strong statement that supports your opening.**

Key Paragraph, p. 91

"I sat there wishing Smitty and PJ were around even if Smitty was nosy. I hadn't changed like Ty'ree said. I just didn't want to answer a whole lot of questions. 'Mama,' I whispered, 'I'm still me. I'm still Lafayette'" (p. 91).

Writing Prompt

Do you agree or disagree with Lafayette? Is he still the same person? Write a 1-2 paragraph argument in which you formulate an argument in which you defend your position. Give examples from the text or from a credible source to support your argument. Conclude with a strong statement to support your opening statement.

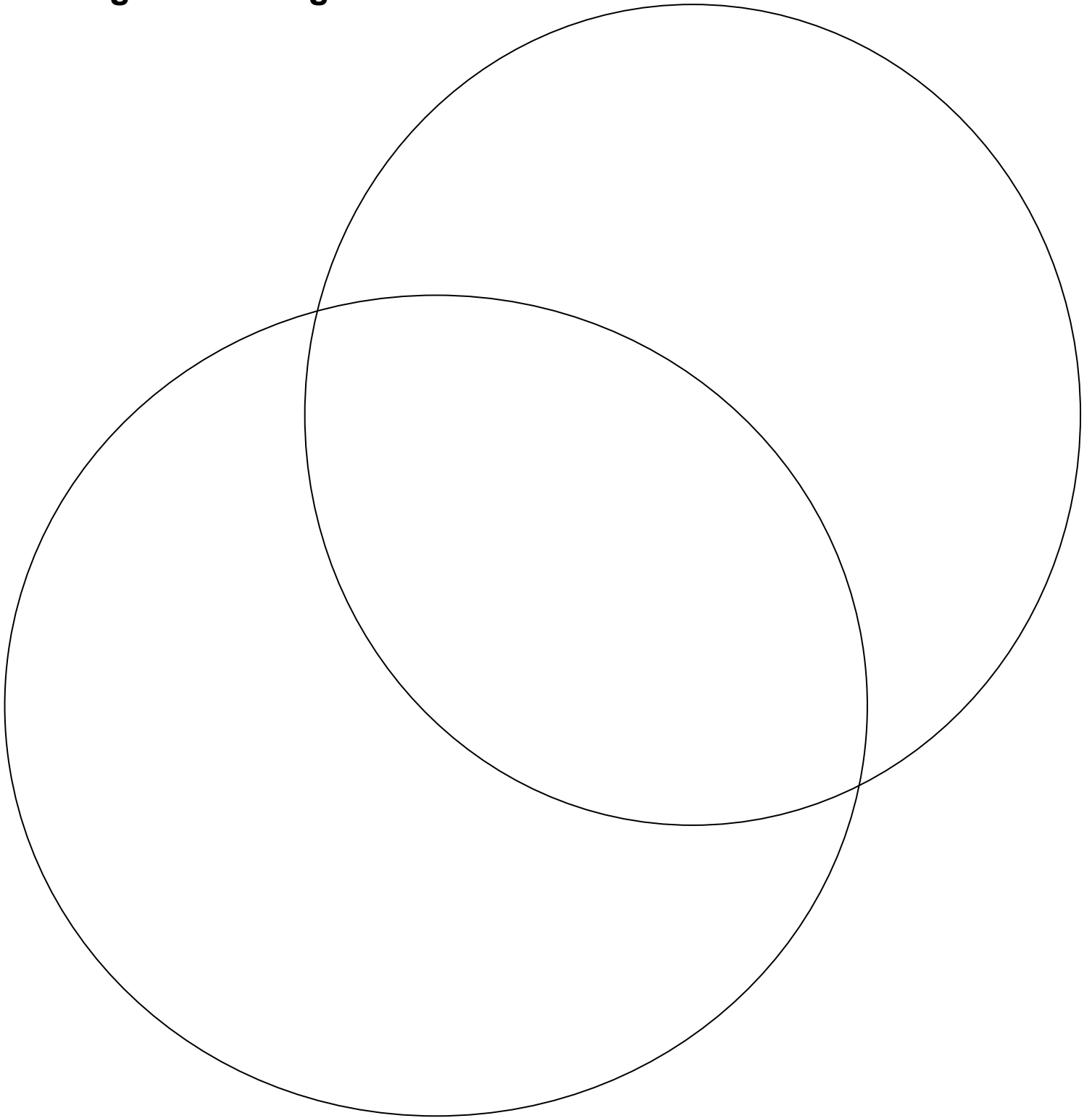
KWL Chart

K What do you know?	W What do you want to know?	L What have you learned?

3g6 Plot Profile Chart

10										
9										
8										
7										
6										
5										
4										
3										
2										
1										
Intensity Description										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6g6 Venn Diagram Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

Miracle's Boys, Week 3



PREPARE

Background Gather background knowledge about a place, time, event, person, or thing.



Change Requires Effort Change is possible. Change requires three things; a vision, a plan and effort. It requires changing bad habits to good habits. It requires effort even when I don't feel like working. It requires taking one step at a time.

What is the role of the police? What other services do they provide? (for discussion and investigation)

What is freedom?

What does it mean to be assertive?

What is the process of reconciliation?

Word Wall Here are vocabulary words to add to the Word Wall.

fluorescent (97)	swollen (98)	custody (101)	parole (102)	precinct (102)
function (109)	muffled (111)	squinted (111)	ignoring (111)	free (113)
stoop (114)	dimples (114)	embarrassed (116)	scratch (116)	frowning (117)
smudges (122)	glared (123)	chiseled (125)	wincing (125)	paradise (127)

READ

Review Review the timeline from the beginning every day.

Start at the beginning and review the story so far

- mention the setting and main character
- point to each timeline item as you quickly review it

Read Read the selection.

Read p. 97-131

RESPOND

Timeline List the 15-20 most important on the timeline.

Think about what you read today and begin your timeline

- First, *fix the facts*: who, what, when, where, why
- Then, decide on the most important events and begin your timeline with these.

Over the course of the next week, you will be required to read a number of pages. It would be best if you spread the reading out over the week and not try to do everything at the last minute before your next appointment.

Map Add to ongoing activities like a KWL chart or map: where did the characters go?

Open Mind Portrait

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What is he thinking and feeling as he goes to get his brother? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. He is thinking about his mama and some of the things she instilled in him. He wants to reach out to Newcharlie but doesn't know how to. What do you think he is thinking and feeling? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

Add to your OMP of Lafayette. What do you think he is thinking and feeling as he asserts himself to Aaron and defends Newcharlie? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

Complete your OMP of Lafayette. What do you think he is thinking and feeling as he begins to forgive Newcharlie? Add 3-5 new thoughts to your OMP.

EXPLORE

Activity Explore the reading more deeply with a visual or oral language activity.

Sketch

Based on today's reading, sketch the police precinct. Use your sketch to write a descriptive statement of what Lafayette experiences.

Acrostic Poem

Using the word FREEDOM complete an acrostic poem. Use each letter in the word FREEDOM to start each line. The words or phrases you use in your poem must relate to FREEDOM.

Comic Strip

Draw a comic strip that represents today's reading in 6-8 frames. Illustrate each frame and use thought bubbles to summarize the reading.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 97-107)

1. Lafayette initially wanted to scream at the police to find out what they did to Newcharlie, instead he stepped back. Why do you think he choose not to react?
2. He begs Charlie not to die. Do you think that is rational thinking?
3. Charlie had told Lafayette, "When someone hurts you just hold on. Hold on until the pain goes away? Do you think that is good advice? What kind of pain do you think he was referring to?

4. The police office could have arrested Newcharlie for violating his parole. Why do you think he chose not to? What would you have done if you were the officer? Do you think he showed insight into the situation?
5. Newcharlie sees himself as a nobody. How does he see Ty'ree and Lafayette? Why do you think he continues to make poor choices? What are the true consequences of his actions?

Key Questions (p. 108-113)

1. What is Mama trying to tell Lafayette about freedom? How does Lafayette relate to that passage now?
2. Lafayette is processing the night's events with mama, why does he choose to share with mama? What purpose do these discussions serve?
3. Smitty calls wanting to hang out with Lafayette. Why do you think he decides to go and play?
4. Based on the reading what did Lafayette do to show responsibility?
5. Do you think that Lafayette is beginning to Change? What clues from the reading give you evidence?

Key Questions (p. 114-118)

1. Smitty and PJ are brothers but have many differences. What is the main difference between the boys and their personalities? Why did Lafayette favor one over the other?
2. Smitty asks about Newcharlie. Lafayette tells him to go ask Charlie what happened. Why it is important for Lafayette to let Smitty know that Charlie is at home and that he is okay? Why do siblings stand up for one another?
3. Lafayette bumps into Aaron and he is not scratched up at all. Lafayette gets the courage to stand up to Aaron. Where did that courage come from? Why does he feel the need to defend his brother?
4. How did Lafayette end up feeling at the end of the reading?

Key Questions (p. 119-131)

1. What was the green leaf significant of? What does it represent for Lafayette?
2. Why didn't Lafayette want to promise to stop fighting with Charlie? What changed in him?
3. Lafayette tells Newcharlie that the entire family is on probation. What is he referring to? Why is it important to know that your actions affect others?
4. Why does Newcharlie regret his arrest? What was he trying to do when he robbed the store? Does that justify his actions?
5. Lafayette tells Newcharlie that he can not burn the memory of their mother; she is too deep inside them. What is he referring to? Who do you carry inside you? What traits do you have or do that come from someone else?
6. Ty'ree returns and they talk briefly about Aaron. Newcharlie says that he was friends with him a long time ago (it was yesterday). Why can a day seem like and eternity? What changes have the boys made to be able to move forward?

EXTEND

Write Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

Key Paragraph, p. 105-106

"Then he showed me his colors. You had to fight somebody. I didn't want to do it, but..."

He started choking...'It makes you somebody. Aaron got all these other homeboys around him now. He don't really need me...it makes you somebody. It gives you people'" (p. 105-106).

Writing Prompt

Newcharlie wants to be around Arron because he wants to be someone and have "people" why do you think he has that need? What role does he want the gang to fill? **Based on what you know about the characters write a one paragraph argument "letter" to Newcharlie. This letter will be written from his mama's perspective. Argue why he should not be considering being in a gang. Use examples from the reading to give your argument validity. Use coherent transitions. Conclude with a strong statement that supports your argument.**

Key Paragraph, p. 109

"The function of freedom,' Mama read, 'is to free someone else.' I shrugged and went back to my comic book. You ever thought about that, Laf? Mama asked me. That being free means you help somebody else get free?" (p. 109).

Writing Prompt

Write about what you think Mama is trying to get across to Lafayette. Are those people who have freedoms obliged to help out those that don't? Why or why not? **Write a 1 paragraph argument in which you state your viewpoint of the above argument. Acknowledge the other viewpoint. Give evidence to support your claim. Conclude by using a strong statement that supports your argument.**

Key Paragraph, p. 118

"Aaron glared at me. I looked back at him. Not frowning but not smiling either. Just looking. It seemed a long time ago I wanted him to like me, to be my friend. But it didn't matter anymore. I didn't need him. Charlie didn't need him either" (p. 118).

Writing Prompt

In what ways is Lafayette showing maturity through his actions with Aaron? If you were Mama, would you be proud of Lafayette? Do you think it was wise of him to stand up to him? Write a letter to Lafayette (from mama's perspective) do you think mama would support or condone his actions? **Write a 1-2 paragraph argument in which you defend your viewpoint in the form of a letter. Write a strong opening statement in which you introduce you claims. Organize your reasons logically. Acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Use words and transitions to create cohesion. Provide a concluding statement that supports your argument.**

Key Paragraph, p. 126

"Charlie bit his lip again and held it...I wish the last time had been something else. I wish it had been me sitting on the couch next to her making her laugh. I used to

make her laugh all the time. I wish that was the way she got to remember me. Not with no handcuffs on” (p. 126).

Writing Prompt

Why do you think Charlie felt badly when his mom’s last memory of him was in handcuffs? Write a few paragraphs describing your thoughts about what Charlie was feeling and thinking. Why did he want his mom to remember something else?

Do you think Charlie’s mom ever forgot her last image of him? Write a one paragraph argument in which you defend your position? Defend your argument with evidence from the reading or life experience? Conclude with a strong statement that supports your argument.