

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

If You Come Softly, Week 1



PREPARE

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



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

Who is Jaqueline Woodson?

What is the song, “Jeremiah was a Bullfrog”?

Three Dog Night, Joy to the World

What is Hanukkah?

What is Vassar College, New York?

What are The Academy Awards?

What are the Oscars?

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

banister	nappy	palmed	cancer	dribbled
barely	lisp	glanced	mist	doorman
yarmulke	gentile	fret	guarantee	reeling
turban	colander	unexpected	annoyed	drumming
strut	untouchable	reinvent	easiness	tuxedo

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. 1-48

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

New character information can be added to an Open Mind Portrait.

Add bubbles as you learn new things about the Ellie.

1. Create and place additional bubbles.
2. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed.

KWL Chart

An answer can be added to a question from the KWL Chart.

Map

A new location or change can be added to the map.

EXPLORE

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

KWL Chart: What You Know, Want to Know, and Learn

Materials:

- KWL Chart

Step One: Read the first segment pages 1-11

Step Two: Fill out the K [know] column: what do you know?

1. What key things do you know from the story or explanation you have read so far?
This might be who, what, where, when, why, or how information.
2. Write this information concisely in the K [What do you know?] column.

Step Three: Fill out the W [want] column: what do you want to know?

1. Given what you know, what would you like to know about this story or topic, about what has happened or will happen in the future?
2. Write this information concisely in the W [What do you want to know?] column.

Step Four: Fill out the L [learned] column: what have you learned?

1. As you read more of the story, or learn more about the topic, ask yourself what you have learned. Do you have answers to any of the questions in your W column: what you wanted to know?
2. Write this information concisely in the L [What have you learned?] column. You may want to do this at various times as you learn. You may want to check off the questions in the W column when you answer them in the L column.

Bookmark

If the theme integrity requires wholeness had icons, emoticons, or other visuals, what would it look like? Create a bookmark that exemplifies the theme.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an Open Mind Portrait of Ellie (Elisha).

Materials:

- Large piece of stiff paper for each character, like 11x17 oak tag
- Paper for bubbles with scissors and glue sticks
- Markers, crayons, pens, pencils, or paint
- Construction or tissue paper, scissors and glue sticks if desired

Step One: Create a large head shot of the character

1. Imagine what you think the character looks like from the descriptions in the text as well as your imagination. You can make a list of these details to help you draw the character, if you wish.
2. Decide how much of the character you wish to show: just the head and face? from the shoulders up? from the waist up? the whole person? You might want to include at least the shoulders to include some clothing details. You might want to show the size differences between characters.
3. Draw the characters head shot including the face on the large piece of paper. You could also cut the paper to form the head.
4. Illustrate your portrait with colors, construction paper or whatever will make the character colorful.

Step Two: Place cartoon bubbles of character thoughts around the portrait

1. Cut cartoon bubbles out.
2. Write things the character thinks, or says to herself, on each bubble.
3. Put the bubbles up around the portrait.

Step Three: Add bubbles as you learn new things about the character

1. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed. Follow step 2 to create and place additional bubbles.

Poster

Draw the inside and outside of Ellie's house. What is the setting? Look back through the chapter to details. What's the weather like outside?

Open Mind Portrait

Do a flashback OMP to when Ellie's mother left the family. Then in another color ink, do an OMP of what Ellie feels about it today.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an Open Mind Portrait of Miah (Jeremiah).

Now that we know about Miah's life, what kinds of things is he struggling with? Happy or excited about? Worried about?

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 1-11)

1. Who is Miah?
2. Do you get the sense the Jeremiah is privileged? Why?
3. Why does he talk about wishing he learned another sport?
4. What feels stereotypical to him about basketball?
5. What is the setting of the novel?
6. Who is the author?
7. Describe Ellie's relationship with her mother.
8. Why does Ellie call her mother by her first name?
9. Both Elisha and Miah talk about meeting someone can you predict who they are talking about?

Key Questions (p. 12-21)

1. How does Ellie meet Miah?
2. What happens that indicates they may like each other?
3. Describe Ellie's family life.
4. Where are her siblings?
5. Why do you think there is a large age gap between her and her siblings?
6. What does it mean to be privileged?
7. What is an interracial relationship?
8. What do you think of interracial relationships? Why?
9. What is a good age to start dating? Why?

Key Questions (p. 22-32)

1. Why does Marion seem like a stranger to Ellie sometimes?
2. What important fact did we learn about Ellie's family when we found out that they celebrated Hannukkah?
3. When does Marion want Ellie to start dating?
4. Why did Ellie's mother leave?
5. How do you think her mother leaving affects Ellie?
6. What does Ellie's mother do for a living?
7. Why do you think Ellie denies that she is interested in a boy?
8. Do you think she is hiding something?
9. What do you think will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 33-40)

1. Why would the kids at Percy possibly assume that Miah is on a scholarship?
2. Why are scholarships distributed?
3. Who is eligible for scholarships?

4. What does Miah's father do for a living?
5. Describe how did Miah's parents meet?
6. What is their current status of Miah's parents?
7. Where does Miah's father live?
8. How is Miah affected by his parents?
9. How did Miah like Percy?
10. What do you think will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 41-48)

1. What kind of relationship does Miah have with his mother?
2. What kind of relationship does Miah have with his father?
3. Why do some people treat Miah differently?
4. Why is it important for Miah to create his own identity, separate than his famous parents?
5. Why did Miah's father leave his marriage?
6. How do you think Miah feels about this? Why?
7. Why did Miah attend Percy?
8. What are some of the differences between Percy and the Miah's former school?

EXTEND

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

Key Paragraph, p. 8

"Later on, when Jeremiah saw a cartoon about a monkey playing basketball, he felt ashamed, like that monkey was supposed to be him somehow. And he knew then, the war was all around him. It was people and commercials trying to make him feel like he didn't even matter, trying to make him feel like there was something wrong with being black" (p. 8).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Jeremiah felt ashamed of the monkey playing basketball cartoon. When answering this question, consider the following:

- How does the media stereotype people?
- How do certain people in society stereotype others according to how they look or dress?
- Do you think this is the right thing to do?
- Have you ever been stereotyped?
- Do you know someone who has been stereotyped?

Key Paragraph, p. 16

"I sighed and lay back on my bed. Some people had friends surrounding them all the time. Sometimes when groups of girls passed by me, giggling and holding hands, my stomach tightened. I wanted that. But I didn't want that. Marion says it's because I was born so long after everybody else. The twins, Anne and Ruben, were already ten

by the time I was born—and my older brother, Marc, and my sister, Susan, were in graduate school...And this house—with all its empty rooms and quiet. Some days I walked through it slowly, touching the walls of my sisters' and brothers' old rooms, wondering what it would be like to grow up in a house full of people" (p. 16).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph explaining how growing up in a house with brothers and sisters is different than growing up without brothers and sisters living in the same house. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How is it different to be raised with your siblings in the same house at the same time?
- How is it the same?
- What is your situation?
- Would you have changed anything? Why?
- What are the advantages to being the only one home?

Key Paragraph, p. 29

"You know what it made me realize, Marion? That you wouldn't always be there. That I can't take anything or anyone for granted 'cause there's no guarantee" (p. 29).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph that explains why Ellie has difficulty trusting people. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How do you think Ellie feels about having a mother that has left so many times?
- What did that do to Ellie's trust level?
- Do you think it's hard to trust someone again after they have hurt you?
- How can forgiveness help Ellie trust again?
- Is there a time in your life you were glad you forgave someone?

Key Paragraph, p. 40

"They think you're on a scholarship?"
Jeremiah shrugged and stared down at his plate. 'Nobody said anything stupid'" (p. 40).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Percy students might assume that Jeremiah is on scholarship? When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How is this a stereotype?
- How would you recommend Miah to respond?
- Would you be offended if you were Jeremiah?

Key Paragraph, p. 42

"At Tech, some people treated him strange and some people treated him okay. His homeboys, the guys he'd grown up with, they were cool, had always been cool. But

new kids, well, sometimes they just acted weird, like he was some untouchable god or something. He hated that" (p. 42).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why our culture often treats famous people differently. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How are famous people different?
- How are they similar to everyone else?

In what way is Miah just a normal boy who happens to have famous parents?

Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

If You Come Softly, Week 2



PREPARE

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



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

What is the history of the Rubik's cube?

What is the Three Musketeers?

What is the Star of David?

What does interracial mean?

Where is Zimbabwe?

What is the Staten Island Ferry?

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

exasperation	relieved	cradled	synapses	appropriation
sidelines	insignia	scanned	moss	concentrate
darting	melanin	portfolio	naïve	amendments
interracial	marathon	stoop	imprint	raggedy
vendor	devouring	stethoscope	solemnly	ritual

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. 49-96

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 bubbles as you learn new things about the Ellie.

1. Create and place additional bubbles.
2. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed.

Character Interaction Chart

Use the Character Interaction Chart to map the character interaction between Ellie, Ellie, and Jeremiah.

Open Mind Portrait

Add bubbles as you learn new things about the Miah.

1. Create and place additional bubbles.
2. Read the story further and identify new things you have learned about the character, or ways the character has changed.

4g6 Character Profile Chart

Begin a Character Profile Chart for Ellie.

Complete 2 traits for each character based on today's reading. You will complete the chart in the next few days.

EXPLORE

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

Rap

Write and present a short rap about the need for us all to get along with our "brothers and our sisters."

2g6 Beginning-Middle-End Chart

List the main events of the readings.

Poster

You have already drawn a poster of Ellie's house. Draw your impression of Miah's home and the street he lives on. It's October—what else do we know about the setting?

Newspaper

Look at either a local newspaper or go online and look at the *New York Times*. If you were sitting and chatting with Ellie and her dad, what articles would you want to share that might be "outrageous?"

Venn Diagram

Revisit the Venn diagram about Miah and Ellie. You know have more information about their lives and families. Add more data. How are they different? How are they alike?

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 49-58)

1. Why is Anne calling?
2. What news is she sharing?
3. How do you think Ellie feels about Anne's commitment ceremony?
4. How do you feel about Anne being gay? Why?
5. Why do you think Ellie feels comfortable telling Anne about Jeremiah?
6. What is Anne's reaction to Ellie's news?
7. How does that make Ellie feel?
8. What are the similarities between Ellie's relationship and Anne's relationship?
9. What do you predict will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 59-66)

1. What does Miah think of his new teammates?
2. How are they different and similar to his other teammates?
3. What does Miah need to do in order to have a good team?
4. How are they acting toward him and the other black players?
5. What conflict does Miah have with Peter?
6. Why does Miah deny his father?
7. How would Miah's teammates view him differently if they new his father was a filmmaker?
8. Would you hide this fact if your father was famous?
9. What do you predict will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 67-77)

1. Why do you think Ellie wants Anne to call so badly?
2. Why do you think Anne hasn't called?
3. Why does the rain make Ellie sad?
4. Why do you think the school did not test Miah to see what class he should belong to?
5. Why do you think Miah got placed in remedial classes?
6. How does Ellie feel when Miah sits near him?

7. How do you feel as the reader now that Ellie and Miah have found each other again?
8. How would you feel if you were Ellie or Miah?
9. Predict what will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 78-89)

1. Who is Carlton?
2. Describe Miah's relationship with Carlton.
3. Even though they go to different schools now, how do you know they are still good friends?
4. What is Miah struggling to deal with ?
5. Why is Miah interested in what it's like to have a white mother?
6. What questions would you ask Carlton?
7. What questions would you ask Miah?
8. Why does Jeremiah like October?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 90-96)

1. What positive memory does Ellie have with Anne?
2. How can you tell Ellie looks up to her older sister?
3. What characteristics does Ellie love about Anne?
4. What ritual do Ellie and her father share on Sunday afternoons?
5. How would you describe Ellie's characteristics?
6. Why do you think Ellie's dad is always busy?
7. What is the New York Times?
8. How would you describe Ellie's dad?
9. Predict what you think will happen next.

EXTEND

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

Key Paragraph, p. 58

"A long time ago, Anne used to talk about energy—how that was all love was—ions connecting across synapses of time and air. Don't rationalize, she'd say. None of it will ever make sense. I leaned back against the wall and closed my eyes, not wanting to cry. Anne was right. None of it made any sense" (p. 58).

Writing Prompt

People can be prejudiced against different things. Some people can be bias against gay people. Some can be bias against black people. Ellie accepts Anne for being gay. **Write an explanatory paragraph about why you think it hurts Ellie's feelings when her sister has a hard time with her being interested in a black boy?**

When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Do you think the person with the most integrity would love all people, regardless of their race, class, sexual orientation, ethnicity or religion?

Key Paragraph, p. 60

“Braun looked embarrassed. They had been sitting on the bleachers waiting for the coach to show up. Jeremiah grabbed the ball from Kennedy and started dribbling. ‘Not related to anybody,’ he said, moving the ball back and forth between his legs. ‘Shoot! You think I’d be at this tired school if my daddy was a filmmaker?’” (p. 60).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why you think Miah doesn’t want people to know his dad is a famous filmmaker? When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Have you ever wanted someone to *not* know who you are? Why?
- Do you think Miah should have told his teammates who he really was?

Key Paragraph, p. 77

“I stared at his hand resting on the textbook. His fingers were long and brown. Slowly, his hand moved across the textbook page and underneath my name. He ran his finger across it, then tapped it lightly and winked at me” (p. 77).

Writing Prompt

Part of the craft of being a good writer is creating realistic characters. How realistic do you think Miah and Ellie are as characters?

Write an informative paragraph about why are Miah and Ellie realistic characters? Provide one quote that supports Miah as a realistic character. Provide one quote that supports Ellie as a realistic character.

Key Paragraph, p. 84

“It was beautiful today, all warm and gold. The leaves had begun to change, and the trees up and down the block cast pretty shadows over everything. He loved October. Had always loved it. There was something sad and beautiful about it—the ending and beginning of things” (p. 84).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Jeremiah loves October.

- Consider the following:
- What quotes from the reading support that fact that Jeremiah loves October?
- Do you agree with how the author has described the month of October? How would you describe your experience of this month? Be specific and concrete.
- Do seasons elicit different emotions?

Key Paragraph, p. 92

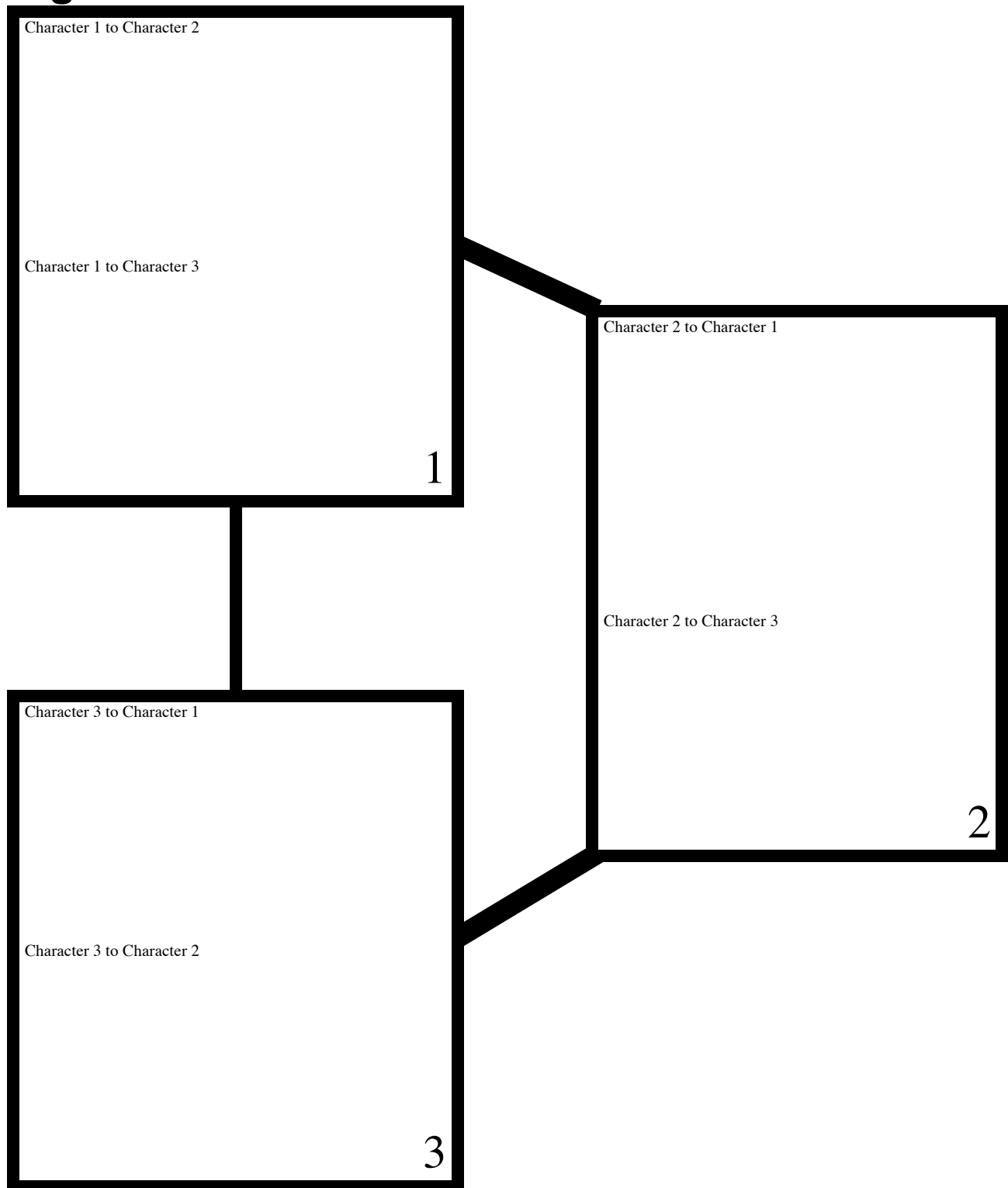
“We used to spend Sunday afternoons together, sitting and reading the *New York Times*. In the middle of an article, my father would frown and press his thumb against a paragraph. ‘Listen to this crazy thing that’s happening, Ellie,’ he’d say, then slowly read, overemphasizing paragraphs he thought outrageous” (p. 92).

Writing Prompt

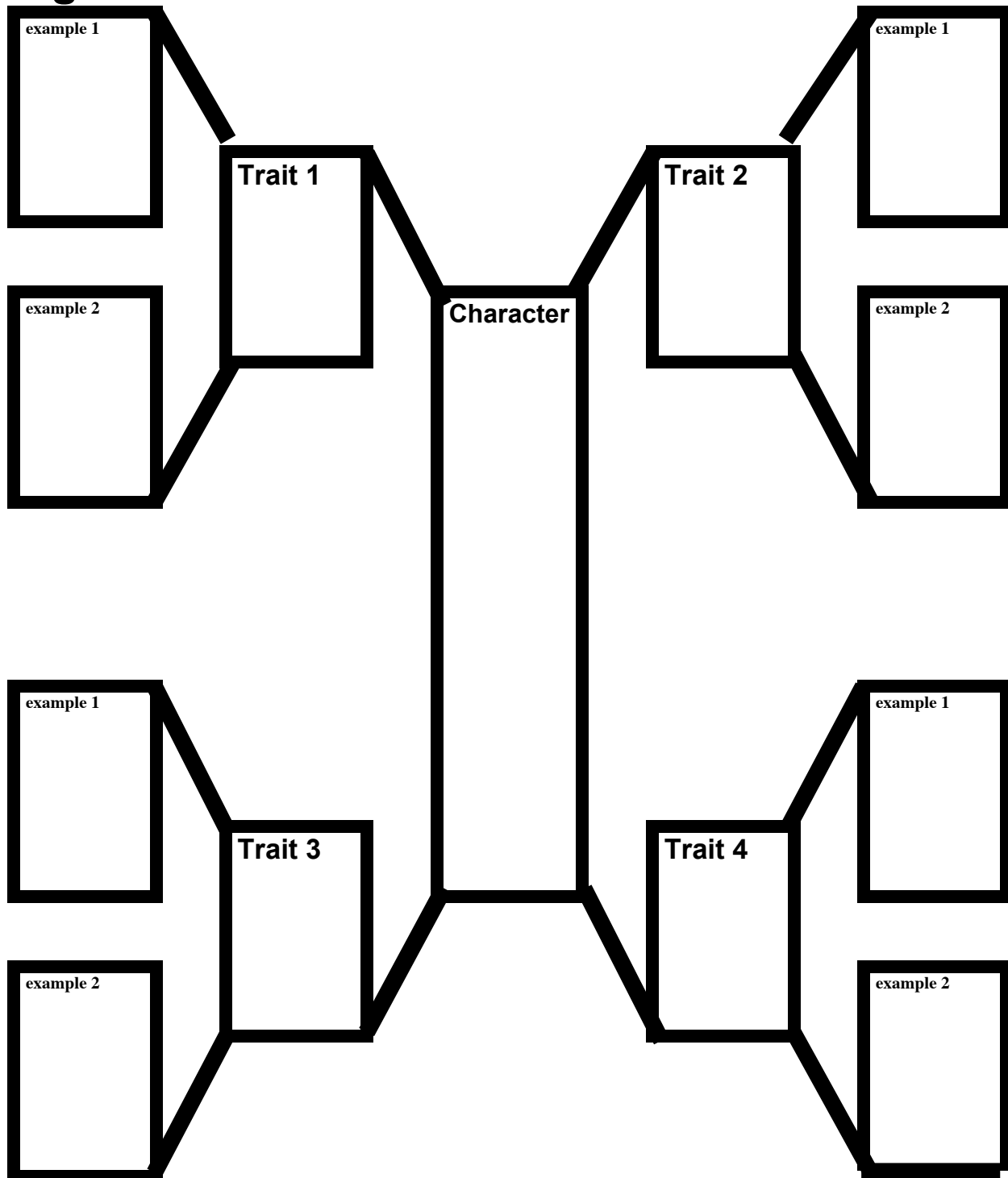
Ellie enjoys the ritual of reading the newspaper with her dad. **Write an informative paragraph that explains why rituals make our life fuller and more whole?** When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How do rituals create a happy route?
- Describe how rituals can bring family and friends together.
- Why are rituals special?

5g6 Character Interaction Chart



4g6 Character Profile Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

If You Come Softly, Week 3



PREPARE

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



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

How are children affected by divorce?

What is Yom Kippur?

What is self-confidence?

Where is East Hampton, New York?

How do you have a healthy marriage?

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

bouquet	cautiously	lingered	dim	muffled
unmanageable	precise	ottoman	recede	vague
investment	high-ceilinged	draped	suspiciously	shivered
affect	overcast	clenched	informed	dangling
fiercely	specks	sociology	outgrowing	majoring

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. 97-148

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?

4g6 Character Profile Chart

Begin a Character Profile Chart for Miah. Complete 2 traits for each character based on today's reading. You will complete the chart in the next few days.

4g6 Character Profile Chart

Complete the last 2 traits for Ellie based on today's reading.

Character Interaction Chart

Use the Character Interaction Chart to map the character interaction between Ellie, Jeremiah, and Percy ss.

Open Mind Portrait

Create an OMP of Miah's dad. Why do you think he feels this way about white people?

4g6 Character Profile Chart

Complete the last 2 traits for Miah based on today's reading.

EXPLORE

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

Poem

Love is a splendid thing, whether it is love for our parents, a sibling, a boyfriend or girlfriend, a pet or even a hobby. Write a poem that shares your appreciation of something you love.

Open Mind Portrait

Make an OMP of Marion. Why do you think Marion looks sad, defeated, lonely?

Speech

Pretend you are the Mayor of New York City. Write a short speech that you would present on TV, encouraging citizens to be respectful of interracial couples.

Map

Look at a map of New York City. Locate some of the locations people live and visit from the novel. Draw your own version of NYC.

Memo

If Miah could get beyond his fear and speak honestly with his dad, what would he say? Write a quick memo sharing Miah's joys and concerns.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 97-113)

1. Who is Lois Ann?
2. What is Miah struggling with when he is home alone?
3. What do you think Miah should do so he doesn't feel alone?
4. Why do Ellie and Miah cut class?
5. Why is it important not to cut class?
6. Why do you think Ellie would not have liked Miah as much if he cut class regularly?
7. Describe what happens in Central Park?
8. What secrets do they share with one another?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 114-122)

1. What happens when Miah returns home?
2. Why doesn't Miah want to socialize?
3. What would he rather be doing?
4. What does the reader learn through Miah's reflection?
5. Why is Ellie upset?
6. Describe the conversation between Ellie and Anne?
7. Describe Ellie's relationship with her mother.
8. Why does Marion offer to be close to Ellie?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 123-133)

1. How is Miah and Ellie's relationship changing?
2. What is important about the conversation Ellie had with Anne?
3. What does love mean to you?
4. How does Ellie make Miah feel?
5. Describe what Ellie and Miah discuss in the library.
6. Do you agree it is worth it for Ellie and Miah to still be together? Why or why not.
7. Why do you think the Parcey students look at Ellie and Miah differently?
8. How should Ellie and Miah react?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 134-140)

1. Where are the East Hamptons?
2. What is Miah's dad's opinion about the church bombings?
3. What is Miah's dad's opinion about white people?

4. Describe Miah's reaction to the church bombings.
5. Why was the church targeted?
6. Describe the conflict between Ellie and her mom.
7. Why does Ellie not want to talk about cutting class?
8. Who shows integrity in this chapter? How?
9. Predict what will happen next?

Key Questions (p. 141-148)

1. Describe Miah's conversation with his dad.
2. Why did Miah's dad need to go to L.A.?
3. Why did his dad tell him not to run in white neighborhoods?
4. How do you think Miah feels about this advice?
5. Why did Miah's mother and father divorce?
6. What does it mean to outgrow a relationship?
7. Why is it important for husbands and wives to grow with each other?
8. Why does Miah lie to his dad?
9. What do you predict will happen next?

EXTEND

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

Key Paragraph, p. 112

"If you come as softly/as the wind within the trees/. You may hear what I hear./ See what sorrow sees./ If you come as lightly/as threading dew,/ I will take you gladly,/ nor ask more of you" (p. 112).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph describe why this poem is important to the novel. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- What do you think this poem means?
- Why do you think this book is called *If You Come Softly*?
- Miah thinks the poem is about things and people coming and going. Do you agree?
- How does it help us in life if we know not everything is permanent?
- How does the poem help us appreciate those we love that much more if we know they won't be around forever?

Key Paragraph, p. 122

"Marion nodded, turned to the sink, and began washing breakfast dishes. She tucked one foot behind the other in a way that made my eyes fill up. She looked broken. Defeated. Lonely" (p. 122).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph explain how our actions have an impact on one another, whether we realize it or not. Provide an example from your own life,

of how someone's actions have impacted you. Then describe how Marion's actions have impacted Ellie's life. How do you think that makes Marion feel?

Key Paragraph, p. 124

“‘Can I take your picture?’ a kid asked on morning. They had been sitting on the stairs, waiting for the bell to ring. There were other Percy kids around them, talking and looking over notes...Miah looked at Ellie. When she nodded, he nodded too, and the camera flashed on them...The morning moved on as if this moment, the moment of him and Ellie, had always been there. And always would be” (p. 124).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why it is significance when someone asked if he could take a photo of Ellie and Miah? When answering the question above, consider the following:

- Do you think that was foreshadowing anything?
- Why is it important to capture moments at a specific time.
- Or do you think the author just included it as another detail? Support your answer.

Key Paragraph, p. 136

“‘You don’t think there’s one white person in this world, Daddy,’ Miah said now, ‘somewhere—who’s different? Who gets up in the morning, looks in the mirror, and says, ‘I’m white so what am I gonna do with this—how am I going to use it to change the world?’” (p. 136).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph explaining responsibilities we *all* have in creating a more peaceful world? When answering the question above, consider the following:

- What can you do to help make the world a better place?
- Provide examples of people who are helping to make the world a better place.

Key Paragraph, p. 147

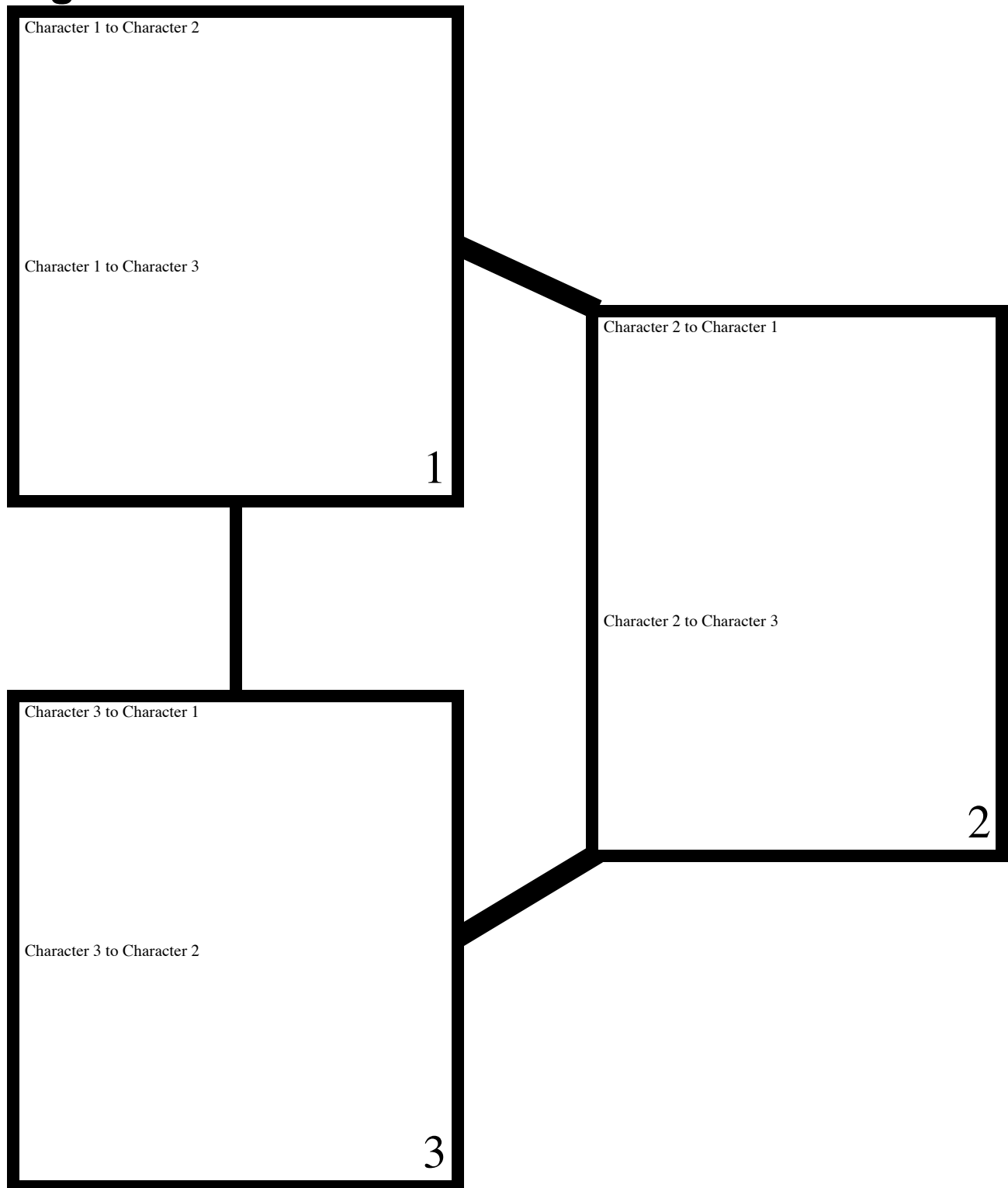
“‘What do you think happens to people when they die? You think they just go back to the dust or you think it’s something bigger?’” (p. 147).

Writing Prompt

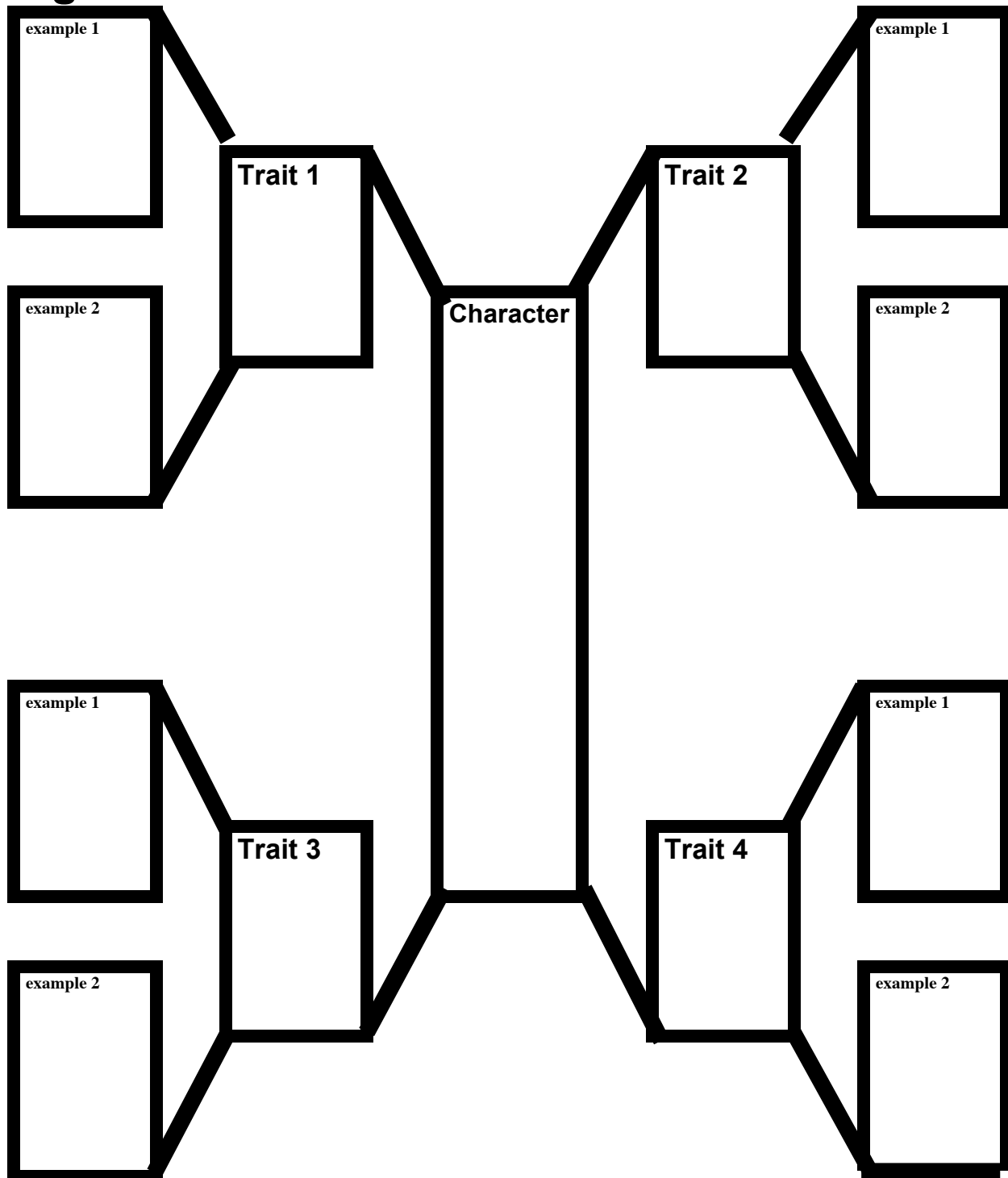
Write an explanatory paragraph about why those we love (both living and dead) helps us to add depth to our lives. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How does love help us love whole lives?
- How does love help us live with integrity?
- What do you think happens to people when they die?

5g6 Character Interaction Chart



4g6 Character Profile Chart



Character Based Literacy Program

Independent Study Lesson Plan

If You Come Softly, Week 3



PREPARE

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



Integrity Requires Wholeness. Integrity requires that the way I live my life is whole, entire, undivided, sound, coherent and principled. Integrity moves me to do difficult and new things, not just easy and accustomed things.

What does it mean to give someone the benefit of the doubt?

What is the difference between an assumption and an inference?

How can you be a positive influence?

What is grief? How do you cope with grief?

Where is Swarthmore College?

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

cramped	borough	platform	shrugged	omission
eventually	probably	introduced	resisting	loafers
trillions	proposing	elegant	fragile	pathetic
veil	traces	unflawed	drape	stained-glass
harsh	yearbook	rejections	plaque	prom

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. 149-181

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?

Map

Use the New York City Subway map to see how Ellie and Miah traveled from Manhattan to Brooklyn. Learn how to read the subway map and locate which subway line and direction they would need to take to travel from Manhattan to Brooklyn.

4c12 Cube

Who, What, When, Where, Why cube—you should fill in the cube with information based on today's reading.

Cartoon

Create a cartoon of today's events.

Plot Profile Chart

Look at the key from the novel. Using the Plot Profile Chart, plot the events to decide which you feel is the most intense and which one is least intense.



Source: <http://208.131.135.113/~bdny/nocturneblues/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/nyc-subway-map1.jpg>

EXPLORE

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

3g6- Plot Profile Graph

Graph 3 main events from the reading.

Postcard

Write a postcard to the author expressing your thoughts about the book. Send them to her.

Discussion

Key Questions (p. 149-157)

1. Where are Miah and Ellie going?
2. How do you travel from Manhattan to Brooklyn on the New York Subway?
3. Why is Miah nervous at first?
4. Why did Miah keep his parents a secret?
5. How does it go when Miah tells Ellie who his parents are?
6. Describe Ellie's reaction.
7. Do you think Miah was lying? Why or why not?
8. Is it okay not to share all your family information? Why?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 158-161)

1. How does Carlton respond to meeting Ellie?
2. Why does Ellie like Carlton?
3. What are Ellie's assumptions about what it will be like to meet Miah's mom?
4. Describe Nelia.
5. Describe Miah's house.
6. How did Ellie's assumptions compared to the reality of Miah's home?
7. How has Ellie changed from the beginning of the novel?
8. Why was Miah so happy with his mom?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 162-167)

1. How can you be a positive influence?
2. How does being positive help you live with integrity?
3. Describe Miah and Ellie's relationship.
4. Why is Ellie apprehensive about having Miah meet her family?
5. How does she feel about sharing her house after being in his?
6. Why do you think Miah and Ellie are interested in each others homes/houses?

7. How has Miah influenced Ellie?
8. How do you think Ellie has influenced Miah?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 168-176)

1. Describe what happened in Central Park.
2. Did you predict this would happen?
3. Why did Ellie give Miah her Star of David necklace?
4. Explain why this becomes significant.
5. Why do you think the police officer take severe actions?
6. What could have the police officer done instead?
7. How do you think Miah's family will react to Miah's death?
8. How do you feel about the direction the author took the book?
9. Predict what will happen next.

Key Questions (p. 177-181)

1. How does she cope with the grief of losing Miah?
2. How does she keep contact with?
3. Why do you think she keeps this friendship?
4. What are the students at Percy getting ready for?
5. Did Ellie finally tell her parents?
6. How does the poem relate to the novel?
7. Would you recommend this novel to a friend? Why or why not?
8. How would you change the ending?
9. What do you think happens to Ellie in 10 years?

EXTEND

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

Key Paragraph, p. 156

“You could have told me sooner, you know. I feel like you’ve been lying—‘
 ‘but I haven’t been, Ellie. I just didn’t want to talk about them.’
 ‘Lies by omission.’ I turned away from him then...I hated being lied to. Hated it”
 (p. 156).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Jeremiah did not tell Ellie the truth about his parents sooner. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- What reasons did he have not to tell anyone about his parents?
- What are the pros and cons of Miah telling Ellie the truth about his parents?
- What does Ellie mean when she says: “lies by omission?”
- What would you have done?

Key Paragraph, p. 160

“Nelia took Ellie’s hand and placed her other one over it. She held it a moment. Jeremiah smiled. He loved his mama—so, so much” (p. 160).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Jeremiah appreciates his mother’s loving gestures. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- In what way does her action have integrity?
- How should we treat people when we meet them for the first time?

Key Paragraph, p. 165

“I wanted to take tap, but it was full. But I never imagined it—that if I wanted to, I could be some kind of artist. Not until—not until I met you really” (p. 165).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Ellie has considered being an artist. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- How can people change the way we view the world?
- How can others change the way we view ourselves?
- Who in your life has made a difference in impacting your views of yourself or the world?

Key Paragraph, p. 175

“This is my life at fifteen, I am thinking, staring down at my hands. Please world, stop this. I am only fifteen” (p. 175).

Writing Prompt

Write an explanatory paragraph about why Ellie is upset at the world. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- What does she want stopped?
- Why does she say that she is only fifteen?
- Do you think if people accepted one another there would be less hatred and fighting and killing?

Key Paragraph, p. 177

“And if you come I will be silent
Nor speak harsh words to you.
I will not ask you why, now.
Or how, or what you do.

We shall sit here, softly
Beneath two different years
And the rich earth between us
Shall drink our tears” (p. 177).

Writing Prompt

Write an informative paragraph about why part of the poem is the title of this book. When answering the question above, consider the following:

- What do you think the poem means?
- What image comes to mind?
- Do you think Ellie visits Miah's grave?
- What do you think Ellie's experience is like at Miah's grave?
- Was her life more complete with him in it?
- In what ways is he still in Ellie's life?

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
Event										