***Session 23***

**Focus**: Good readers determine the lesson or moral of a story by thinking about how the main character changes

**Materials**: student’s books, pencils, journal/stickies

**Genre**: Fiction

**Before Reading**: Last week, you did a great job looking at how other characters influence the main character. Today we are going to be finding the lesson of a story.

Have you ever gotten in trouble before for making a bad choice? Have you ever made a mistake and learned a lesson after it? In life, we learn important lessons. What is another word for lesson? (Moral)

Let’s take a moment to think of some lessons we learn in our lives.

Let’s jot down some examples. I’ll start. One lesson I learned in school was that you should always treat people the way they want to be treated.

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| Lessons and morals brainstorming:   * Be kind to others - Be loyal to your friends and family - Hard work pays off * Just be yourself - Ask for help when you need it - Never give up * Tell the truth - You should forgive, even if you won’t forget - Accept others’ differences |

You can find the lesson of a story by noticing how the character changes. Think about mistakes that they learned from, OR how their feelings changed from the beginning to the end of the story.

**During Reading**:

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| Prompting Questions | Writing Activities |
| -Did the character have a problem in the story? Did they learn anything about themselves when they solved the problem?  -Let’s look back to the beginning of the book. How did the character act at the beginning? Has their behavior changed at the end of the book?  -Has the main character’s feelings about another character changed?  -Do you think the character learned? Try to say it like a lesson.  -Try to say the lesson of the story like a lesson that’s about life, not just about this book. Can you try that? | Have the student make a box in their journal titled “Lessons” and jot down their ideas of life lessons.  Do any of the life lessons we thought of match the lesson that the main character learns in the book?  (journal chart example)  Title: The Meanest Thing to Say   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Character’s mistake | Possible Lessons | | Little Bill thinks he needs to be mean to a new boy in order to win a game. | You don’t have to be mean to fit in  Treat others with respect | |

**After Reading**: Remember, you can find the lesson in a story by stopping to re-read a spot where the character’s feelings change OR finding a spot in your book where the character learned from their mistake.

A lesson can be taken from a book and applied to your own life. How can you take the lesson from the book we read today and use it at school?

**Closing**: Thank you for working with me today. I enjoyed our time together and I am so proud of the work you are sharing with me. I will return next (day of the week) to work with you. Please remember the following:

1. Fill out the teacher/mentor communication log
2. Check the school calendar for upcoming events
3. Check your personal calendar to determine scheduling conflicts. Remember, students are eager await your arrival and their mentoring time with you.
4. If you have any questions or concern, please share them with a school employee (teacher, counselor, assistant principal or principal, etc.) before leaving the building.