



“The Scholarship Jacket”

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Language Arts
Grades 6-8



Introduction

Standing up for what is right sometimes costs us things that we desire the most. In “The Scholarship Jacket”, Martha learns a difficult lesson about not compromising to get the very thing that she has rightfully earned. This story addresses themes such as discrimination and perseverance.

Learning Objectives

- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2](#)) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1](#)) Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1.b](#)) Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

Materials Needed

- [Copies of “The Scholarship Jacket” by Marta Salinas](#)

Procedure

Activity Day 1:

1. Review locating theme in a reading passage.
2. Discuss how themes help to develop stories.
3. Introduce “The Scholarship Jacket” by Marta Salinas.
4. Require students to read the text and jot down themes that are introduced in the story as they read.
5. Group students in groups of 3 or 4 and have them discuss the themes that are found in the story.
6. Have each group report out their findings to the class.

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Activity Days 2-3:

1. Review the components of an argumentative essay (emphasize taking a position and providing supporting evidence).
2. Review “The Scholarship Jacket”, placing emphasis on the decision that Martha's grandfather made to not give her the money.
3. In Think-Pair-Share format, have the students discuss if they believe that Martha’s grandfather should have given her the money for the jacket.
4. Assign each student a number, 1 or 2.
5. Have the 1s jot down at least three supporting statements that defends Martha’s grandfather’s decision and have the 2s jot down at least three supporting statements that argue against Martha’s grandfather’s decision not to give her the money.
6. Have all of the 1s draft an argumentative essay defending Martha’s grandfather refusal to pay for the jacket and have the 2s draft an essay arguing against his decision.

Evaluation

Use [this Argument \(W.1\) rubric](#) to grade each student’s essay.