

instructions

Mood Map

The goal of this activity is for students to analyze the shifts in mood throughout a selected reading.

Links

[Mood Map 6 Shifts](#)

[Mood Map 3 Shifts](#)

["Button, Button" Short Story](#) by Richard Matheson

Preparation

- **Accessing Materials:** Click the provided link to copy the necessary materials to your drive.
- **Choosing the Text:** Decide on the text you'd like students to analyze.
 - I'll be using our class novel for this purpose.
 - Alternatively, students can use the short story "Button, Button."
- **Selecting the Mood Map:** Based on the length and complexity of your chosen text, decide on the appropriate mood map.
 - For a longer text, like our class novel, I recommend using the mood map with six shifts.
 - For shorter texts, like "Button, Button," the three-shift mood map might be more fitting.
- **Grouping the Students:** Place students in groups of 2-3. Collaborative group work is encouraged for this activity.
- **Accommodations for Struggling Readers:** If some students find independent reading challenging:
 - Consider reading the story aloud as a class.
 - Following the reading, allow them to engage in the mood analysis activity within their assigned groups.

Moop Map Activity

- **Introduction:** Start by presenting and discussing the example provided on slide 2 with the entire class.
 - Emphasize how to select a color that corresponds to a mood and how that color carries a specific connotation or feeling.
- **Reading and Identifying Mood Shifts:** After students have read the text, instruct them to pinpoint moments where the mood changes.
 - These identified shifts will determine how students divide the text into distinct sections for analysis.
- **Group Collaboration:** Have students collaborate in pairs or small groups to work on the mood map slides.
- **Slide-by-Slide Breakdown:**
 - **Slides 5-7: In each section of the text:**
 - Determine the mood.
 - Identify and list pieces of evidence from the text that support the identified mood.
 - **Slide 4: For each identified section of the text:**
 - Choose a color that represents the mood of that section.
 - Define the connotation (i.e., the feeling or idea) that the chosen color conveys.
- **Analyzing Mood Shifts:** After completing the mood map, students should collaborate within their groups to discuss and determine the effects and significance of the mood shifts throughout the text. **They will write the answer on the final slide.**

Analysis of "Button, Button" Shifts in Mood

The mood of the story undergoes several shifts:

Curiosity and Skepticism: When the mysterious box first arrives, there's a sense of intrigue. The couple is skeptical and somewhat dismissive about the seriousness of the box's power. The atmosphere is light and tinged with disbelief.

Tension and Temptation: As the reality of their situation sets in and they realize the implications of the choice before them, the mood becomes tense. The allure of the money tests their morals, and there is palpable tension between the couple.

Horror and Regret: The climax and resolution of the story bring about feelings of horror and regret. Without giving away the ending, the final twist and the consequences of their decision leave a lasting impact, casting a shadow over the story's conclusion.

The Effect:

Throughout "Button, Button," Matheson masterfully manipulates the mood to take the reader on an emotional journey that delves deep into human nature and the consequences of our choices. The changing moods keep the reader engaged. By taking the reader from curiosity to tension, then to horror and regret, Matheson ensures that the story is neither monotonous nor predictable. It draws the reader in, making them eagerly anticipate what comes next.

The shifts in mood also reflect the internal struggles of the characters. As the mood transitions from skepticism to temptation, it underscores the weight of the decision they must make. This makes the reader ponder the same moral questions: What would you do for wealth? Is there a price for human life?

The mood's crescendo towards horror and regret intensifies the story's climax. By building tension gradually and then abruptly shifting the mood, the twist becomes even more shocking, enhancing its impact.