Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day

OVERVIEW
Alexander is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. He starts his day off with gum in his hair, and his day only gets worse. We follow Alexander through the terrible events of his horrible day: at school his former best friend declares Alexander is now this third best friend, he finds out he has a cavity at the dentist and he makes a mess of his dad’s office. At the end of his day, wearing pajamas he hates, his mother gives him some comforting words of wisdom.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS
- Major Events Summary
- Vocabulary Graphic Organizer
- Venn diagram
- Outline of events

AUTHOR INFORMATION
- Born and raised in New Jersey
- Based Alexander and his brothers on her own sons
- Also writes poetry and science books
- The sequels are:
  - Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday
  - Alexander, Who is No (Do You Hear ME? I Mean It!)
  - Alexander, Who’s Trying His Best to Be the Best Boy Ever

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED
Relationships with siblings, friends
Life as a school aged child in the US:
  - What is a carpool, school setting, dentist office visit
Location of Australia, location of the US

WRITING PROMPTS
- I felt really sad when _________.
  However, I felt better after I _________.
- Think of a time when someone you knew was sad or having a bad day. Did you do something to help them feel better? Tell us what happened to that person and why they now are ok or feeling better.
- If you saw Alexander in the middle of his bad day, what would you do to make him feel better? What advice would you give Alexander?
- Why does Alexander say he wants to move to Australia? Do you think that’s a good idea?

LITERARY DEVICES
- Point of view
- Conflict
- Foreshadowing
- Mood

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)
- Animated movie (1990)
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezbssw11724
- Disney movie trailer (2014):
  www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_dideF5qvk

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS
- Author study
- Character study
- Compare/contrast two characters from the story
- Integration of knowledge and ideas gained from the text
WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

• Prepare through reading excerpts and video clips to supply background knowledge
• Watch the movie trailer
• Teacher verbally reads the book while students follow along
• Students with print disabilities can read via the audio version
• Allow students to use a scribe or assistive technology for writing prompt response

RESOURCES

Movie trailer:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_dideF5qvk
http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Judith-Viorst/707395
Short animated movie:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ezbssw11724

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