

Scheme of Learning: "Kill Swap" by James Lovegrove

Level: 1 to 5 of the English National Curriculum

Duration: 4 weeks (4 lessons per week)

Target Audience: Secondary students, ages 11-16

Overview:

This scheme of learning is based on the novel *Kill Swap* by James Lovegrove. It integrates aspects of reading comprehension, analysis, creative writing, and critical thinking, aligned with the English National Curriculum. The scheme assumes that students are already familiar with basic reading comprehension skills and are ready to explore themes, character development, and narrative structure in more depth.

Week 1: Introduction to the Text & Key Themes

Lesson 1: Introduction to "Kill Swap" and Its Context

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the context of the novel *Kill Swap*.
- To explore the themes introduced in the opening chapters.

Success Criteria:

- Students can explain the main themes introduced in the opening chapters.
- Students can discuss the context of the novel, including the setting and main characters.

Activities:

1. **Pre-reading discussion:** Introduce the author, James Lovegrove, and discuss the concept of speculative fiction and thriller genres.
2. **Read chapters 1-3:** Focus on plot introduction and setting.
3. **Class discussion:** Identify key themes such as technology, morality, and dystopia.
4. **Character analysis:** Write a character profile for the protagonist based on initial chapters.

Lesson 2: Exploring Character Development

Learning Objectives:

- To analyze how characters are introduced and developed.
- To assess how their actions drive the plot forward.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify key characteristics of the protagonist and other main characters.
- Students can explain how character actions influence the narrative.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 4-6:** Focus on the protagonist's development and motivations.
2. **Character mapping:** Students create a diagram of the relationships between characters.
3. **Group work:** Discuss in pairs how characters react to challenges and what this reveals about them.

Lesson 3: Analyzing Setting and Atmosphere

Learning Objectives:

- To explore how the setting influences the mood and tone of the novel.
- To identify how Lovegrove uses setting to enhance themes.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify how specific settings in the novel contribute to the atmosphere.
- Students can explain how the setting reflects the broader themes of the book.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 7-9:** Focus on descriptions of the setting and atmosphere.
2. **Group discussion:** How does the setting contribute to the tension in the story?
3. **Creative writing:** Students write a description of a setting in the book, using language techniques to create atmosphere.

Lesson 4: Introduction to Narrative Structure

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the structure of the narrative and how suspense is built.
- To analyze how Lovegrove paces the plot.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify key plot points and describe how the pacing of the story builds suspense.
- Students can explain the use of flashbacks or non-linear narrative structures.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 10-12:** Focus on plot structure and key events.
2. **Plot diagram:** Students create a plot diagram, mapping out the key events of the story.

3. **Group discussion:** How does the author use narrative techniques to build tension?
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Week 2: Deep Dive into Themes and Literary Devices

Lesson 5: Morality and Ethical Dilemmas

Learning Objectives:

- To explore the moral dilemmas faced by characters in the novel.
- To discuss how ethical choices shape the narrative.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify key moral decisions faced by the protagonist and other characters.
- Students can discuss how these dilemmas contribute to the themes of the novel.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 13-15:** Focus on moments of ethical decision-making.
2. **Class debate:** Discuss whether the protagonist made the "right" or "wrong" choices.
3. **Written response:** Students write a paragraph on a moral dilemma they faced and compare it with the characters in the novel.

Lesson 6: Technology and Its Impact

Learning Objectives:

- To analyze the role of technology in the novel and its social implications.
- To assess how Lovegrove portrays the relationship between humans and technology.

Success Criteria:

- Students can explain how technology is represented in the book.
- Students can discuss its potential consequences, both positive and negative.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 16-18:** Focus on how technology affects character decisions and societal structure.
2. **Group work:** Discuss whether the portrayal of technology is realistic or exaggerated.
3. **Writing task:** Students write a short story set in a future where technology is used in a similar way.

Lesson 7: Conflict and Tension in the Plot

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the different types of conflict in the novel (internal and external).
- To analyze how conflict drives character development.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify different types of conflict (man vs. man, man vs. self, man vs. society).
- Students can explain how conflict impacts the character's decisions.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 19-21:** Identify moments of conflict in the text.
2. **Conflict chart:** Create a chart of the conflicts in the novel, categorizing them.

3. **Class discussion:** How do these conflicts contribute to the central themes?

Lesson 8: Symbolism and Metaphor

Learning Objectives:

- To identify and analyze symbols and metaphors in the novel.
- To understand how Lovegrove uses literary devices to deepen meaning.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify key symbols and metaphors in the novel.
- Students can explain how these devices contribute to the overall themes.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 22-24:** Identify symbols (e.g., objects, settings, events).
 2. **Class discussion:** What do these symbols represent?
 3. **Creative task:** Students design their own symbol representing a theme from the novel and explain its meaning.
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Week 3: Developing Critical Analysis and Creative Responses

Lesson 9: Character Relationships and Conflict Resolution

Learning Objectives:

- To analyze character interactions and the resolution of conflicts.
- To understand how Lovegrove uses dialogue and action to resolve conflicts.

Success Criteria:

- Students can discuss how characters resolve conflicts and grow from them.
- Students can analyze the impact of dialogue on character relationships.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 25-27:** Focus on dialogue and character relationships.
2. **Role-play:** In pairs, students perform a key scene, focusing on how dialogue shows conflict resolution.
3. **Written analysis:** Write a paragraph on how a key conflict is resolved in the novel.

Lesson 10: Plot Twists and Unpredictability

Learning Objectives:

- To identify plot twists and how they affect the reader's perception of the story.
- To discuss how Lovegrove maintains unpredictability in the plot.

Success Criteria:

- Students can identify key plot twists and discuss their impact.
- Students can explain how plot twists affect character development.

Activities:

1. **Read chapters 28-30:** Focus on the unexpected turns in the plot.
2. **Class discussion:** How does Lovegrove maintain suspense and unpredictability?

3. **Creative writing:** Write a short scene with a plot twist that changes the course of the story.

Lesson 11: Writing a Book Review

Learning Objectives:

- To plan and write a book review, incorporating critical analysis.
- To express personal opinions about the novel.

Success Criteria:

- Students can write a structured, well-supported book review.
- Students can incorporate evidence from the text to support their opinions.

Activities:

1. **Review structure:** Teach students how to structure a book review.
2. **Writing task:** Students write a book review, analyzing themes, characters, and narrative techniques.
3. **Peer feedback:** Students exchange reviews for constructive feedback.

Lesson 12: Revising and Editing the Review

Learning Objectives:

- To revise and improve a book review based on peer feedback.
- To focus on clarity, coherence, and critical insight.

Success Criteria:

- Students can revise their work to improve clarity and depth.
- Students can provide constructive feedback to peers.

Activities:

1. **Peer review session:** Exchange reviews and provide feedback.
 2. **Revise the review:** Students rewrite their reviews, focusing on improving analysis and clarity.
 3. **Final submission:** Submit the final version of the book review.
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Week 4: Reflecting on Themes, Structure, and Analysis

Lesson 13: Reflecting on Major Themes in the Novel

Learning Objectives:

- To review the major themes in *Kill Swap*.
- To assess the novel's messages about society, technology, and morality.

Success Criteria:

- Students can clearly articulate the major themes of the novel.
- Students can discuss how the themes are explored through characters and events.

Activities:

1. **Class discussion:** Recap the major themes and their relevance to contemporary issues.
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