Start with the End in Mind

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For this assignment, we were asked to decide upon a lesson that we would teach in week seven of the course and choose a standard, unpack that standard, and create an essential question that unit would help students to answer. I am doing a lesson covering character development with a tenth grade language arts class. Students will read the short story “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson and discuss duality of human nature in characters. Though my lesson will ultimately touch a number of reading and writing standards, my focus standard deals with complex character development throughout a work.

**Step One: Choose a standard**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3** Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme (Common Core State Standards Initiative, 2012).

**Step Two: Unpack the Standard**

* Students need to be able to recognize complex characters as opposed to static or flat characters.
* Students need to be able to identify how authors develop characters over the course of a text through characterization (the words, actions, and interactions of the character).
* Students need to be able to explain how a character’s actions and interactions connect or contribute to the theme.
* Students need to be able to support their ideas by citing textual evidence.

**Step Three: Write an essential question**

What can we learn about people’s behavior and motivations from stories?

References

Common Core State Standards Initiative. (2012). *English Language Arts Standards*. Retrieved
 from http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy.