The Late Paper

Small group lesson

Smart Board:
Show pictures of the characters:
  • Give students a frame of reference and introduction to the story
  • Explain that they will be making decisions on who is the most responsible for
    the outcome of the story

Pass out story handout:
  • Read the story aloud while the students follow along

Pass out grids and cards:
  • Give each student a grid and a set of cards
  • They should put the cards in the numbered boxes from 1 – 6
  • 1 - most responsible : 6 – least responsible

Take a poll:
  • Using the pictures on the Smart Board, list the number of students who had each
    character in the first box

Group work:
  • Pass out the pink and yellow grid and cards (1 per group)
  • As a group they are going to try and fill in the grid together
  • Encourage discussion to support their own choices
  • Students will give reasons to the class about why they make their choices

Writing:
  • Have each student fill out the back of the handout with three sentences supporting
    their choice for the most responsible character
  • Students can read sentences aloud to the class or to a partner when finished
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Arnold
Kim’s Husband
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Mary
Prof. Freud’s Secretary
Write at least three sentences that support your reasons for holding your character the most responsible.

I think ______________________ was the most responsible for the late paper.

_______________________________________________________________

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THE LATE PAPER

PROFESSOR FREUD announced in her syllabus for Psychology 101 that final term papers had to be in her hands by noon on December 18. No student, she emphasized, would pass the course without a completed term paper turned in on time. As the semester drew to a close, KIM had an "A" average in Professor Freud's psychology class, and she began researching her term paper with excitement.

ARNOLD, Kim's husband, felt threatened that he had only a high school diploma while his wife was getting close to her college degree. Arnold worked at a bakery, and his co-worker PHILIP began teasing that Kim would soon dump Arnold for a college guy. That's when Arnold started accusing Kim of having an affair and demanding she drop out of college. She told Arnold he was being ridiculous. In fact, she said, a young man in her history class had asked her out, but she had refused. Instead of feeling better, Arnold became even angrier. With Philip continuing to provoke him, Arnold became sure Kim was having an affair, and he began telling her every day that she was stupid and would never get a degree.

Despite the tension at home, Kim finished her psychology term paper the day before it was due. Since Arnold had hidden the car keys, she decided to take the bus to the college and turn in her psychology paper a day early. While she was waiting for the bus, Cindy, one of Kim's psychology classmates, drove up and invited Kim to join her and some other students for an end-of-semester celebration. Kim told Cindy she was on her way to turn in her term paper, and Cindy promised she'd make sure Kim got it in on time. "I deserve some fun," Kim decided, and hopped into the car. The celebration went long into the night. Kim kept asking Cindy to take her home, but Cindy kept saying, "Don't be such a bore. Have another drink." When Cindy finally took Kim home it was 4:30 in the morning. She sighed with relief when she found that Arnold had already fallen asleep.

When Kim woke up, it was 11:30, just 30 minutes until her term paper was due. She could make it to the college in time by car, so she shook Arnold and begged him to drive her. He just snapped, "Oh sure, you stay out all night with your college friends. Then, I'm supposed to get up on my day off and drive you all over town. Forget it." "At least give me the keys," she said, but Arnold merely rolled over and went back to sleep. Panicked, Kim called Professor Freud's office and told MARY the secretary that she was having car trouble. "Don't worry," Mary assured Kim, "I'm sure Professor Freud won't care if your paper's a little late. Just be sure to have it here before she leaves at 1:00." Relieved, Kim decided not to wake Arnold again; instead, she took the bus.

At 12:15, Kim walked into Professor Freud's office with her term paper. Professor Freud said, "Sorry, Kim, you're 15 minutes late." She refused to accept Kim's term paper and gave Kim an "F" for the course.

Listed below are the characters in this story. Rank them in order of their responsibility for Kim's failing grade in Psychology 101. Give a different score to each character. Be prepared to explain your choices.

Most responsible < 1 2 3 4 5 6 > Least responsible

_____ Professor Freud, the teacher _____ Philip, Arnold's co-worker
_____ Kim, the psychology student _____ Cindy, Kim's classmate
_____ Arnold, Kim's husband _____ Mary, Prof. Freud's Secretary

Source: On Course Workshop 2009