

First Week: *Nothing but the Truth* by AVI

Theme: Media Literacy/Citizenship

1: Ice Breaker

Pass out strips of paper, some with factual statements, some with opinions. Ask for some kids to read examples of fact, then opinions, then ones that are questionable. Discuss briefly what words indicate facts, opinions, truth, subjectivity, etc. Ask: What makes this a fact? How could you change the statement into an opinion?

Frame the discussion: We will be talking about media literacy and citizenship in our discussion of *Nothing but the Truth*.

2: Passage from the book

Have students take the part of characters and read from three passages, each presenting a version of the central conflict in the book.

- A. 7:12 PM Conversation between Phillip Malloy and his parents during dinner
- B. 10:00 AM Conversation among Dr. Gertrude Doane, Margaret Narwin, and Dr. Joseph Palleni
- C. 11:50 AM Conversation between Dr. Gertrude Doane and Cynthia Gambia, student

3. Discussion

Which of these versions is what really happened?

Is that really the truth?

What does the author think? Is his voice, or opinion, present?

Is there any evidence missing?

Give an example of a time when you were in this kind of situation, where there were competing versions of the truth.

4. Quote from the author

"Listen and watch the world around you. Try to understand why things happen. Don't be satisfied with answers others give you. Don't assume that because everyone believes a thing it is right or wrong. Reason things out for yourself. Work to get answers on your own. Understand why you believe things."

5. Final discussion/for further reflection

Think of something you heard or read in the news, maybe on the radio, in a magazine, or on tv. Did you get the whole story? What influences your perspective?

The next time you're listening, think about which pieces of evidence are missing.

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