

When You Reach Me Learning Activity
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MLA 8 Citation: Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2010.

Grade level: 8

Main texts:

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

["Is time travel possible?"](#) a TED-Ed video with Colin Stuart

Standards:

- NYSCCLS.RL.8.9: Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered anew.
- NYSCCLS.W.8.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Essential questions:

- Main EQ: Is time travel possible?
- What is time travel?
- What role does time travel play in the two novels?
- How is time travel depicted differently among the two fictional texts and the video? How is it depicted the same?

Learning goals:

Students will analyze how authors utilize the motif of time travel in *When You Reach Me* and *A Wrinkle in Time*, using "Is time travel possible?" and a mini-lesson as a reading lens.

Learning objectives:

By observing the motif of time travel in the three texts, students will be able to:

- (K) Compare and contrast how the authors utilize motif by engaging in textual annotation and discussion.
- (A) Confront feelings of uncertainty through discussion.
- (S) Define the literary device of "motif" and explain how the authors use it.

Learning outcomes:

After a mini-lesson on the literary device of "motif," students will read *When You Reach Me* and *A Wrinkle in Time*. They will also watch ["Is time travel possible?"](#) (a TED-Ed video with Colin Stuartengage). Then, students will engage in a discussion about whether time travel is possible,

referring to their notes from the three sources and the mini-lesson to support their claims. Students will then write an original fictional short story that uses the motif of time travel, using the texts, video, and mini-lesson as a foundation.