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Opening Digital World's Doors to # Next Digital Generations

LESSON PLAN 3 – CRITICAL READING

TARGET

Students will practice **reading between the lines** to identify hidden messages, assumptions, and implicit meanings in texts.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Short stories or opinion articles with implicit themes
 - Guided annotation worksheet
 - Class discussion prompts
 - Highlighters and sticky notes
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OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Recognize implicit vs. explicit messages.
 - ✓ Identify **assumptions** and **unstated premises** in a text.
 - ✓ Develop skills for **contextual interpretation**.
 - ✓ Strengthen inference-making abilities.
 - ✓ Apply critical reading to literature and nonfiction.
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FLOW OF LESSON

1. Introduction to Implicit Meaning (15 minutes)

- Define **explicit vs. implicit** meaning.
- Show two sentences:
 - "He left without saying goodbye." (Explicit)
 - "The door slammed, and he was gone." (Implicit)
- Ask students: What extra meaning is implied in the second sentence?

2. Reading Between the Lines (20 minutes)

- Hand out short excerpts from opinion articles or literature.
- Have students annotate any **unstated messages or assumptions**.
- Small group discussion: What does the author imply but not say outright?

3. Assumption Analysis (20 minutes)

- Define **assumptions** in writing.
- Show a political ad and ask:
 - What assumptions does it make about the audience?
 - How does the wording create an emotional response?
- Class discussion: Why do authors use subtle messaging?

4. Practice with a Literary Excerpt (25 minutes)

- Assign a short passage from a **novel, poem, or speech**.
- Have students analyze character motivations and **hidden themes**.
- Group presentations: Each group shares their interpretation.

5. Reflection and Homework (10 minutes)

- Discuss:
 - How does reading between the lines help in everyday life?
 - How can these skills be useful beyond literature?
- **Homework:** Find a social media post or advertisement and write a short analysis of its implied message.

TEACHER'S COMMENTS

These lessons will equip students with skills to **think critically, question assumptions, and analyze arguments effectively**. Encourage them to read beyond the surface and challenge their interpretations.