

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  
Eleanor Coerr

**Chapter Six Activity**  
**Characters and Plot Development**

(Before, During, and After reading activity is an analysis of character responses)

**Materials Needed:**

- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr
- Before, during, and after reading activity sheet for chapter 6
- Venn diagram worksheet

**TEKS:**

**7.6B** - Analyze the development of the plot through the internal and external responses of the characters, including their motivations and conflicts.

**Objectives:**

Students will describe the relationships characters have with one another and will consider how that affects overall plot.

Students will compare and contrast characters and explain how character differences impact the story.

**Vocabulary to know:**

**Venn diagram** – graphic to shows similarities and differences between two things

**Hook:**

- Activate prior knowledge by passing out the book Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and the before, during, and after reading activity sheet
- Allow students to write about Sadako's friendships so far in the novel
- After a few minutes, allow students to share their thoughts on Sadako's friends.

**Introduction:**

- Allow students to read chapter six of the novel (guided reading, shared reading, or independent reading as is applicable to students).
- As students are reading, and upon completion of their reading, have them complete their before, during, and after reading sheet.
- When students are completed with their chapter six reading, do a basic comprehension check to ensure they understand the events of the sixth chapter, and allow them to explain how the relationship Sadako had with Kenji changed the plot of the story.

**Activity:**

- Lead a class discussion on Kenji and Sadako's friendship
  - How was Kenji's experience in the hospital similar/different to Sadako's experience?

- Since Kenji didn't have frequent visitors, how was his life affected?
- Do you think Kenji considered Sadako a friend, or had he given up hope?
- Pass-out the Venn diagrams, and allow students to compare and contrast both Kenji and Sadako

In closing:

- After completing the Venn diagrams, as a class discuss how the responses of Kenji to Sadako, as well as Sadako to Kenji, influenced the plot and changed the story.

**Extension Activities:**

- Have students write about the hospital experience from Kenji's perspective and share it with their peers
- Give students a plotline, and allow them to label the plotline with various character changes for Sadako. When completed, have them write a paragraph about how Sadako has changed throughout the novel thus far.