

My starting inquiry question for these lessons was “how might we use memes to support student voice and choice in the LLC”? These lessons are focused on language and media in an LLC setting, but could easily be applied in other areas. They are based on a combination of UDL principles, media literacy, and reading, as well as writing, in the pursuit of “Meaning and Meme-ing”. My first idea was related to categories and signage- having memes created to go with certain areas of the LLC, and to align with the Dewey decimal system, etc. I was initially reminded of staff rooms that I have been in over the years that used memes to support the function of the space (mainly sarcastic dishwashing/paper towel memes, but they still helped!)

That original idea and remembering staff room usage of memes led me to reflect on how we can work towards positive meme culture. So often, memes and their implementation can “punch down”- I’m thinking particularly of Condescending Wonka (my least favourite meme!) and how it places the speaker in a position of superiority. Those staffroom memes that I remember were funny, but often at the expense of the reader. How could we use memes for joy and utility in the LLC?

I started first trawling through the vast universe of “library memes” on the internet. Many of them were fun and positive, but there’s a huuuuge amount of shame-y “late fees” library memes out there. This was slightly discouraging- we want to foster safety and joy, not discourage students from engaging with the LLC. I dug deep through the Internet (the whole thing?! No, but it felt like it...!) and curated a collection of positive LLC memes. During that search, I was so pleased to come across the subgenre of Wholesome Memes in my research. Wholesome memes were the key to the progression of our lesson- from LLC memes, to Wholesome Memes, to Wholesome LLC Memes. Students can use Google Slides tools to create their own memes, by adding text boxes, to reflect their Wholesome LLC ideas.

Lesson Plan 1: Meme-ing and Meaning

Date & Length: September 2021, 40 minutes	Teacher:
Grade & Subject(s): Grade 5, Language	
Specific Expectations: Media Literacy- Purpose and Audience 1.1 identify the purpose and audience for a variety of media texts, Form 2.1 describe in detail the main elements of some media forms	
Learning Goal: <i>I can demonstrate an understanding of a variety of media texts.</i>	
Success Criteria: I can identify different memes and explain their meaning. I can provide reasons to support why a meme is relevant to a media text. I can identify elements of digital citizenship.	
Materials: -computer and data projector - selected memes related to the LLC/language/literacy/notable media texts -Available 1:1 technology for students (iPads/Chromebooks) and/or clipboards, writing tools	
Vocabulary: Meme	Evaluation: KWL chart
Lesson	
Mind's On! -TTW will post a variety of memes relating to the LLC/literacy/language around the LLC -Students will go on a gallery walk with clipboards/digital tools and their KWL chart. -Students will discuss their observations and wonderings with the group.	
Direct Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Students will gather with the TL to discuss their findings- favourite memes noticed, themes, groupings, applications, familiar forms.- TL will expand on ideas related to digital citizenship/fair use/ethics- do we know the source of meme images and did the people in them consent to be used?	
Activity -Students select their favourite meme from the gallery walk and share their choice in a hyperdoc.	
Plenary -KWL charts can be posted as a class hyperdoc, anchored with a favourite meme from each student. Possible extension- Meme March Madness style! Which meme is the champion?	
Follow up: Students can revisit the hyperdoc at any time to reflect on favourite meme forms and build their relationship with the contents of the LLC.	
Resources KWL chart- Jamboard Gallery Walk Memes Class hyperdoc	

Lesson Plan 2: Meme-ing and Meaning

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Grade & Subject(s): Grade 5, Language	
Specific Expectations: Media Literacy- Purpose and Audience 1.1 identify the purpose and audience for a variety of media texts, Form 2.1 describe in detail the main elements of some media forms	
Inquiry Question: <i>How can we use memes for joy and utility in the LLC? What is a Wholesome Meme?</i>	
Success Criteria: I can identify Wholesome Memes and explain their meaning. I can identify elements of digital citizenship.	
Materials: -computer and data projector - selected memes related to the LLC/language/literacy/notable media texts -Available 1:1 technology for students (iPads/Chromebooks) and/or clipboards, writing tools	
Vocabulary: Wholesome Meme	Evaluation: Hyperdoc- students curate wholesome memes.
Lesson	
Mind's On! Share results of favourite memes from lesson one by exploring hyperdoc together, look for trends, notable inclusions or omissions.	
Direct Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discuss WHOLESOME MEMES! Fav discovery ever, since meme culture can be so negative.- Move through slides together as a group- Relate Wholesome Memes to Digital Citizenship/TDSB Code of Conduct.	
Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elbow partners, students choose a favourite meme and/or ranking of wholesome memes	
Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update hyperdoc.	
Follow up:	
Resources Wholesome Memes slides Wholesome Meme Hyperdoc	

Lesson Plan 3: Meme-ing and Meaning

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Inquiry Question: <i>How can we use memes for joy and utility in the LLC?</i>	
Success Criteria: I can make a Wholesome Meme related to the LLC.	
Materials: -computer and data projector - selected memes related to the LLC/language/literacy/notable media texts -Available 1:1 technology for students (iPads/Chromebooks) and/or clipboards, writing tools	
Vocabulary: Meme Wholesome Meme LLC	Evaluation: Hyperdoc- student created wholesome memes
Lesson	
Mind's On! Revisit fav Wholesome Memes via the hyperdoc from last class, discuss common themes or formats, choose a format as a class. Direct Instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorm as a class ways to transform favourite Wholesome Memes into Wholesome LLC Memes - Create an anchor chart with ideas of suggested vocabulary to use Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will create Wholesome LLC Memes in elbow partners to reflect different aspects/zones of the LLC- physical, emotional, social, etc. Plenary Say it with me... a hyperdoc!	
Follow up: Potential to also have a different gallery walk at a later date with LLC specific memes, to come full circle from the lesson one gallery walk. Resources Wholesome memes Construction Slides Hyperdoc	

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