LITERARY SHOWDOWN

**Setup:**

It’s a showdown between two literary devices! Divide the class in half and assign each group a literary device to root for.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chekhov’s Gun** | versus | **Red Herring** |
| An element in a story, sometimes a literal device, that appears early on and plays a vital part of the story later. | An element in a story, such as a clue or piece of information, that is intended to be misleading or distracting from the truth. |

**Prepare for Battle:**

Each team must collaborate on building EVIDENCE that will earn them POINTS in the battle.

EVIDENCE includes, but is not limited to:

* Emotional appeal – how does this device make the audience feel?
* Titles – what famous, popular, or cult classic works include this device?
* Examples – what devices, quotes, or story elements have acted as a “Chekhov’s gun” or “red herring”?

**The Battle:**

The battle takes place in four rounds.

* Round 1 – Emotional Appeals
* Round 2 – Titles
* Round 3 – Examples
* Round 4 – Bonus! Any evidence gathered or created beyond the initial ask.

Each team presents their EVIDENCE. The teacher serves as the Referee for each round, tallying the points for each team. The team with the most points by the end of Round 4 wins the battle!

Here’s how your evidence earns points in battle:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **QUALITY OF EVIDENCE** | **DESCRIPTON** | **POINTS** |
| Basic | The evidence supports the argument. It is articulated and presented in an understandable way. It does not elaborate.  Example: “the gadgets in James Bond” is given in Round 3 – Examples by the Chekhov’s gun team. | 1 |
| Advanced | The evidence supports the argument. It is articulated and presented in a clear and engaging way. It elaborates as needed or includes extra details that support the argument.  Example: “In Goldfinger, a James Bond movie, Oddjob’s hat has a metal ring in the rim, and he uses it as a throwing weapon” is given in Round 3 – Examples by the Chekhov’s gun team. | 2 |
| Elite | The evidence supports the argument. It is articulated in an engaging way. It elaborates and deepens the understanding with detail. It includes a visual aid.  Example: “In Goldfinger, a James Bond movie, the evil henchman Oddjob has a hat with a metal ring in the brim, he uses it as a throwing weapon. The movie Austin Powers makes fun of this with the character Random Task. He throws a shoe instead of a hat.” This evidence is presented, with pictures, in Round 3 – Examples by the Chekhov’s gun team. | 3 |