

Grade Level Expectations (MO) for *Balance*
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Curriculum Arts Grade Level Expectations:

- Make predictions

About whether Adele will have a menses party.

About whether her father will relent and buy her a cell phone.

About whether she will be best friends with her *au pair*.

About whether she will understand how to act around older boys.

About whether she will decide to like her mother again.

About whether she will meet the shadowy person she meets online.

- Question to clarify

What does menses mean?

What made her aunt so angry at the *au pair*?

Can you figure out the meaning of the French phrases from context?

- Reflect

Is Adele justified in treating her family with disdain?

Is the good opinion of her cousins as important as Adele thinks it is?

- Draw conclusions

If you change, does that mean everyone else will stay the same?

- Compare, contrast and analyze connections from text to text

Adele's father quotes a William Butler Yeats poem to Adele.

- Compare, contrast and analyze connections from text to self

Have you ever given your family the silent treatment?

Have you ever admired someone who disappointed you?

Have you ever had a crush on an older boy who thought you were a little girl?

- Compare, contrast and analyze connections from text to world

What is the impact on the self-involved me-generation of believing in the gospel of self-esteem?

How do cell phones and texting impact the social lives of middle grade students?

Is Adele's father justified in believing that TV impinges negatively on a child's creativity?

How are teens impacted by being raised by their Gen-Me parents and Boomer grandparents?

- Influence of setting on characters and plot

Adele lives in an educated, functional family. If her family were dysfunctional, would she dare explore relationships in the drastic way she does?

- Explain cause and effect

When Adele loans all her money to her *au pair*, she has none left to make Christmas presents.

She relies on her friends and her own ingenuity to bend the rules enough to solve her cash flow problem. Does she succeed?

- Identify point of view

Adele is the person information is focalized through. How much of the whole picture can she see?

- Identify author's viewpoint/perspective

When a story is told from the omniscient third person point of view, it means that the reader will always know more than Adele does. This creates a lot of reading excitement. Will Adele figure out the truth in time?

- Identify the problem-solving processes of characters

Adele ignores her family to free herself from daily friction, but learns what life in a vacuum really means.

- Explain the effectiveness of solutions

How to make up with her mother: going 'shrooming, becoming indispensable in her mother's office, choosing an appropriate menses celebration, learning delayed gratification.

How to make up with her father: co-operation and generosity toward her family has its rewards.

- Make inferences

Will Adele choose a relationship like she sees her parents enjoy? Will she be cautious about future internet contacts? Will she figure out why her *au pair* chose David over Bill? Will she be popular in eighth grade?