Applying Differentiated Instruction Theories in the English Classroom

Behaviorism, Cognitivism, and Constructivism

Case Scenario: Teaching "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

You are teaching English to a 10th-grade class in with 30 students. The class is reading the short story "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry, which explores themes of sacrifice, love, and irony. Your classroom includes:

- Four students with advanced English proficiency who quickly grasp vocabulary and comprehend the text
- Eight students who are intermediate English learners but struggle with idiomatic expressions
- Three students with reading difficulties who find reading in English challenging
- Several disengaged students who show little interest in text
- The rest are average achievers who generally follow the curriculum with some support

During recent activities, you've noticed significant variations in comprehension levels, and engagement with the text.

Instructions:

Analyze this scenario using each of the three learning theories (Behaviorism, Cognitivism, and Constructivism).

For each theory:

Describe one specific differentiated instruction strategies you would implement to address the diverse needs in this classroom, and explain why these strategies align with the theory's principles

Your response should demonstrate a clear understanding of each theory and how it can be practically applied to meet diverse student needs in an English language teaching context.

LIVEWORKSHEETS