

RESOURCES

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN
7-8 Grades

UNIT: The Short Story

CONTENT: Elements of the Short Story

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

Reading Literature

1. Name and identify the main elements of the short story (plot, character, theme setting, etc.)
2. Make inferences and predictions about major and minor characters
3. Characterize the major characters of a short story.
4. Explain the significance of setting to the plot of a story.
5. Trace the development of a character.
6. Explain and discuss first and third person points of view.
7. Trace the development of a character
8. Draw a plot diagram and plot the series of events of a given story
9. Define an implied theme through a story's character

Writing

1. Write a friendly letter from the point of view of a story's character
2. Recognize and use chronological sequence of events

Reading

1. Apply literal, interpretative, and critical reading skills to a selection

Speaking and listening

1. Discuss and explain the concepts of internal and external conflict

MOTIVATION: Assign an interesting one-page short story. Prod students to explain what appealed to them and tell why

MATERIALS: *Prentice Hall Literature – Bronze Silver*
Prentice Hall Literature Portfolio
Other Supportive Instructional Materials
Notebooks, dictionaries, thesauri, pens

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES:

1. Define and discuss the short story elements.
2. Define literary vocabulary and use in sentences.
3. Define vocabulary words from the story and use them in original sentences
4. Pre-read the short story, focussing on the author’s biographical sketch and the story summary.
5. Allow individual students to read a paragraph, make predictions, and summarize what was read.
6. Complete the “Literary Response” at the end of the reading.
7. Discuss answers to the “Literary Response”
8. Complete the following activities:

Analyzing Literature
Critical Thinking and Reading
Thinking and Writing
Learning Options
Usage and Mechanics Worksheet

- SUMMARY:** The students were motivated. They showed enthusiasm as they asked relevant questions and made pertinent contributions. Also, their writing reflected a grasp of the lesson presented.
- EXTENSION:** Students will write a short original story utilizing the short story elements of plot, setting, theme, and character, etc.
- REFERENCES:** The school library, the local newspaper, magazines, the computer, videos, audiocassettes, and other instructional materials.

Suggested Activities for Grades 7-8

I. Reading/Literature

- Design a costume for a character in a short story.
- Pantomime a special episode of a short story or a novel.
- Invite a character over for dinner and role-play the conversation that takes place around the dinner table.
- Draw pictures to illustrate the actions of favorite characters.
- Research an author's childhood and look for clues in his works.
- Sculpt a story character from clay, wood, or soap.
- Critique an author's techniques and use of language.
- Create a "family feud" based on short stories, novels, plays, etc.
- Recite a poem in "rap" style.
- Change round characters into flat characters, and vice versa.
- Change first-person points of view into third-person points of view.
- Put on a puppet show of a story episode.
- Design original costumes for the leading characters in a play.
- Create a story-related crossword puzzle or word search.
- Pantomime a special moment from a story or play.
- Cook and serve a story-related recipe.
- Create a scrapbook that would belong to a story character.
- Design a ribbon, medal, plaque, or a certificate to honor a story character for demonstrating remarkable integrity or achieving a goal.
- Draw a comic strip of a scene from a story or play.
- Tell how you would have reacted differently than a story character in a certain situation.
- List five story characters and tell what their favorite books would be.

II. Writing

- Rewrite a short story in verse form.
- Interview your favorite author or character.
- Rewrite a short story in Caribbean dialect.
- Use a Caribbean setting and dialect to create a skit based on a story.
- Write a journal entry telling what you have learned or how you have changed as a result of reading the story.
- Write questions for parts of a story that puzzle or confuse you, and present them to the class or write them in a letter to the author.
- Write a bibliography of books and articles that address a story's theme.
- Write a character cinquain poem.
- Write riddles about story characters or events.
- Write three wishes for a story character.
- Write a brief prequel or sequel to a story.
- Rewrite a story episode as a reader's theater script for your class.
- Write a letter from one story character to another.

III. Grammar

- Make a collage of your favorite persons, places, foods, and games.
- Write an acrostic poem with abstract nouns such as: friendship, loyalty, respect, freedom, admiration, etc.
- Dress up as a noun and give a speech about yourself.
- Introduce a few classmates as “nouns”, or other parts of speech.
- Invent and role-play action verbs, and adverbs.
- Role-play a conversation between two parts of speech.
- Write a positive, descriptive word with each letter of your name.
- Create a skit using nouns, verbs, adjectives, and other parts of speech as characters.
- Invent different parts of speech and use them in original sentences.
- Write starter sentences about characters from stories, and have classmates write follow-up sentences for each one.
- Make a collage of foreign words and phrases found in texts.
- Organize a grammar court to record and correct faulty grammar.

IV. Word Usage

- Pantomime vocabulary words and ask classmates to identify them.
- Create a “family feud” using synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and easily confused words.
- Create a language for persons living on one of the planets.
- Invent a language for talking animals.
- Create a mini thesaurus containing creative vocabulary.
- Create original crossword puzzles, using vocabulary from texts.
- In certain poems, replace synonyms with antonyms and note the effect.
- Use the parts of speech to create word games and puzzles.
- Organize a scrabble club.
- Complete word games and crossword puzzles from newspapers and magazines.

V. Research/Technology

- Advertise your favorite short story, novel, or poem on the Internet.
- Research the complete biography of your favorite author or authors.
- Research a story component that fascinates you and share it with others.
- Do an electronic book report, and place it on the Internet.
- Send e-mails to friends, describing favorite stories and poems.
- Collect short stories and poems from the Internet.

- Look in the classified section of the Sunday newspaper to find various categories of advertisements. Play games by asking each other where certain items can be purchased.
- Search the internet for the names of authors who are still living.

LITERARY TERMS GRADES 7 – 8

Abstract	Alliteration	Analogy
Analysis	Antagonist	Author
Autobiography	Author's purpose	Bibliography
Biography	Catastrophe	Cause & effect
Character	Characterization	Chronological order
Cliché	Climax	Coherence
Comedy	Comparison	Conclusion
Concrete	Conflict	Contrast
Connotation	Copyright	Denotation
Denouncement	Description	Dialogue
Drama	Editorial	Ellipsis
Essay	Fable	Fact
Fiction	First-person narrative	Flashback
Folktales	Foreshadow	Genre
Hero	Homonyms	Homophones
i.e.	Idiom	Imagery
Inference	Legend	Main idea
Metaphor	Moral	Motive
Mythology	Narrative	Narrative person
Narrator	Non-fiction	Novel
Onomatopoeia	Paraphrase	Personification
Plagiarism	Play	Plot
Poetry	Point-of-view	Prediction
Prose	Protagonist	Redundancy
Resolution	Rhyme	Rhythm
Satire	Sequel	Sequence
Setting	Simile	Short story
Solution	Style	Stage directions
Stanza	Symbol	Synonym
Theme	Tone	Verse
Villain	Assonance	Hyperbole
Drama	Fantasy	Generalization
Irony	Oxymoron	

