

LESSON PLANS

(To be included in the Teacher's Packet)

Mission: To create an educational program that complies with the Virginia Standards of Learning. To use Poe's short stories to teach students about the different point of views, narration styles, and gothic literary devices.

The Tell-Tale Heart

LESSON PLAN 1 – How to Narrate a *Tell-Tale Heart*

Subject: English | Grade: 7th | Duration: 1-1:30hr



Objectives

Students will...

- identify and use point of view in literary works.
- experiment with narrative styles and how to use them effectively.
- practice and use new vocabulary.

Materials

Printed copy of the story, notebooks, pens/pencils

Prep Work

- Have the students read the story out loud as a class, each person taking turns (emphasis on punctuation and pronunciation) (10min)
- Teacher will lead a discussion on POV, plot, characters, vocabulary (10min)

Activities

Part I

Have each student pick a character from the list below, and have students retell the story from that character's perspective. They should only write what their character may have seen or heard. (15min) (1 pg)

1. Old Man
2. Death
3. Neighbor
4. Police Officer

Part II

Split the class into four groups based on the narrative they chose and ask each group to create a script for their chosen character, retelling the story as they witnessed it. Emphasize the use of diction (word choice) and descriptive language to make their narrative more persuasive. (15-20min)

Part III

Groups present their narrative. Following each presentation, class will offer critiques and/or questions. (25min)

Target SOL

Communication: 7.1a; 7.2a; 7.3c Reading: 7.4a,f; 7.5a, f, g-l; Writing: 7.7a, c, g; 7.8e,h

LESSON PLAN 2 – Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Foreshadowing and other literary devices in the *Tell Tale Heart*

Subject: English | Grades: 8th | Duration: 1:30-2hrs

Objectives

Students will...

- identify and use foreshadowing
- learn to use verbal and non-verbal communication skills to narrate a fictional story
- determine how a writer uses diction, detail, imagery, and figurative language to create tone and mood.

Materials

Projector, computer with Internet access, printed copies of the story, poster boards, magazines/newspapers, scissors, adhesive materials, markers, writing utensils

Activities

Part I

3. Students read the first paragraph of the story (see below) and write down three predictions about what the story will be about based on the title as well as the diction and tone used by the narrator in this first paragraph. (7min)

TRUE! — nervous — very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why *will* you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses — not destroyed — not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily — how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

3. Discuss the literary clues in the text that led to the students' predictions. Discuss why this passage is a good example of foreshadowing. Students will explain how the passage sets the tone and mood of the story. (10-15min)
3. Show one of the animated videos of the Tell-Tale to learn about tone and mood. (8min)

Part II

1. Divide students into five groups and to finish reading the story as a group. (10min)
2. Groups will create a poster highlighting the literary devices used to set the mood and tone of the story. (25min)

Poster Requirements:

- a title that reflects the contents of their poster
 - Direct quotations from the text (students should be prepared to defend why they chose them)
 - One illustration as a minimum (may be a sketch, magazine cutout, or artwork)
3. Groups present their posters to the class. Class critiques and questions. (25min)

Target SOL

Communication: 8.2a-h, 8.4a, f; Reading: 8.5a-c, 8.6i; Writing: 8.8a, f, g

Vocabulary

Acuteness (n.) – a harsh or sharp quality; the state or quality of being able to sense slight impressions or differences

Audacity (n.) – the willingness to take bold risks

Conceived (v.) – thought of; to come to mind

Courageously (adj.) – to act with great courage; to show no fear

Cunningly (adj.) – getting what you want in a clever way; crafty; sly; artfully subtle

Derision (n.) – contemptuous ridicule or mockery

Dissimulation (v.) – to hide under a false appearance

Distinctness (n.) – different in a way that you can see, hear, smell, or feel

Dreadful (adj.) – very bad or unpleasant

Enveloped (v.) – to wrap up, cover, or surround completely

Fancy (v.) – to imagine; to think

Fury (n.) – violent anger; wild and dangerous force

Gaily (adj.) – in a happy or lively way; in a bright and colorful way

Gesticulation (n.) – a dramatic gesture used to emphasize one's words

Hearken (*harken*) (v.) – to listen carefully

Hideous (adj.) – very ugly or disgusting

Mournful (adj.) – feeling, expressing sadness, regret or grief

Muffled (adj.) – a suppressed sound, muted

Precisely (adv.) – exactly; without vagueness.

Profound (adj.) – to have great insight and knowledge; difficult to understand; very strongly felt

Pulsation (n.) – rhythmical throbbing or vibrating

Raved (v.) – to talk wildly or incoherently

Sagacity (n.) – having or showing the ability to understand difficult ideas and situations and to make good decisions

Scantling (n.) – a piece of lumber of small cross section

Stealthily (adv.) – to act quietly and secretively to avoid being noticed

Stifled (v.) – to make someone unable to breathe properly; to stop someone from doing or expressing something.

Suavity (n.) – a suave or smoothly agreeable quality; a courteous action

Supposition (n.) – an idea or theory that you believe is true even though you do not have proof

Unperceived (adj.) - unobserved

Vexed (v.) vex – to cause a problem; to annoy or worry someone

Welled (v.) – to rise to the surface and flow out

Resources

Tell-Tale Heart with annotations

<http://www.eapoe.org/works/mabbott/tom3t002.htm>

Printable PDF version

http://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Poe/Tell-Tale_Heart.pdf

Animated videos

The Tell-Tale Heart by Annette Jung

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDLLHTdVSgU>

Narrated by James Mason

<http://www.poemuseum.org/students-video.php>