

Lesson Summary:

Character development in a short story: students will read a short story and predict what the narrator will do at the end. The story is about a woman whose husband is taken away during the Cultural Revolution; she marries, only to open the door one day to her first husband, who managed to survive the labor camp. The story ends with the narrator asking, “What will I do?”

Estimated Duration: 3 days

Commentary:

Pre-Assessment:

Students have been instructed in elements of a short story, including character and the four ways to “discover” character- thoughts, words, actions, and speech. This information is covered at the beginning of the short story unit.

Post-Assessment: Students will submit a paragraph outlining what they believe the main character will do based on characterization of not only the main character, but two minor characters as well. Students will provide citations from the short story to defend their argument.

Scoring Guidelines: Students will be scored in strength of argument, evidence, and spelling/grammar.

Instructional Procedures:

- 1) Read “What Will I Do?” by Chen Guo Kai
- 2) Students will complete a character profile of the three main characters 1) the wife 2) first husband and 3) second husband- The character profile should include one word adjectival descriptions with accompanying citations from the text. A minimum of three citations should be required for each character but more are always welcome.
- 3) Students will complete a webquest on the Cultural Revolution: (Teacher will ask

students: What was the Cultural Revolution? Who led the revolution? What were the problems of being associated with those the “wrong” side of the revolution?) Teacher and students will make a chart of characteristics of the Cultural Revolution.

- 4) Teacher and students will discuss the impact the Cultural Revolution had on individuals. (This should include the labels the government gave the revolutionaries and the prison/punishments that were associated with these labels.)
- 5) Students will decide what the main character will do: will she choose her first husband whom she discovered was alive or her second husband, the man who essentially saved her life?
- 6) Students will write a rough draft/conference with the teacher
- 7) Students will write a final draft

Differentiated Instructional Support

Large class discussion, writing rubrics/outlines; multiple learning styles

Interdisciplinary Connections

World Studies

Technology Connections

Webquest

Resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution

<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/cultrev.htm>

“What Will I Do?” by Chen Guo Kai

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/special_report/1999/09/99/china_50/great.htm

<http://www.cnd.org/cr/halls.html>

<http://www.morningsun.org/>