



TEACHING GUIDE

A COMPREHENSIVE, FIVE-DAY LESSON PLAN WITH PRINTABLE ACTIVITY HANDOUTS. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE CHARACTER, SETTING, THEME, FORESHADOWING, AND SYMBOLISM.



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TEACHING GUIDE FOR TOO MANY TEETH

INTRODUCTION

THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN EXPLORING THE THEMES, CHARACTERS, AND LITERARY ELEMENTS OF *TOO MANY TEETH*.

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LESSON PLAN #1- CHARACTER AND SETTING

Grade Level: 5-6 Time: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to

- Analyze and discuss how the protagonist, Charlie, is portrayed in Chapter One of *Too Many Teeth*.
- Analyze how the setting is introduced in Chapter One of *Too Many Teeth*

Materials

Copies of *Too Many Teeth*

Writing materials (notebooks, pens, pencils)

Whiteboard and markers

Character Analysis graphic organizers (included at the end of this lesson)

Warm-Up

Engage students in a discussion about insecurities. Have the class brainstorm thoughts about how we portray appearance in media (movies, television, art, and social media).

Activities

Discussion (15 minutes)

Engage the students in the following discussion questions, either as a class or in small groups:

1. How does Charlie feel about his smile, and why is it significant to the story?

2. How does the setting, particularly the family photoshoot in the park, influence Charlie's actions and emotions?

Character Analysis (10 minutes)

Have students create a character profile for Charlie using the graphic organizer included at the end of the lesson

Reading Strategies

- Discuss the concept of **character** and **setting** in a story. Explain that characters are the individuals that drive a story. Help students to understand a setting is the environment in which the story takes place.
- Have students read the chapter excerpt individually, paying close attention to the expressions and actions of the character, Charlie, and the descriptions of the setting, the park.
- Encourage students to highlight or underline sections that provide insights into Charlie's character and the features of the park.
- Discuss the reading as a class, asking students to share their observations regarding Charlie's character traits, expressions, and the setting's features.

Reflection (15 minutes)

Ask students to choose a character or setting then write a short reflection on how the expressions, actions, and context help them understand the character or setting better.

Sharing (10 minutes)

Have students share their reflections, and encourage them to include specific examples from the text to support their reflections.

Assessment

Assess student ability to analyze character and setting during whole-class and small-group discussion.

Collect the graphic organizers and assess the depth of understanding reflected in these individual reflections.

LESSON PLAN #2: REFLECTING ON SELF-PERCEPTION

Grade Level: 5-6 Time: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explore the concepts of self-image and self-perception in the first three chapters of *Too Many Teeth*.
- Relate characters' self-image and perception to their actions and interactions within the story.
- Explore the theme of self-image and how society's standards impact our self-perception.

Materials

Copies of *Too Many Teeth*

Writing materials (notebooks, pens, pencils)

Whiteboard and markers

Self-Portrait graphic organizers (included at the end of this lesson)

Warm-Up

Lead a class discussion about society's unhealthy expectations for appearance and how it affects our self-esteem.

Activities

Discussion (15 minutes)

Engage the students in the following chapter discussion questions, either as a class or in small groups:

1. Reflect on a time when you felt insecure about something. How did it affect your self-esteem and behavior?
2. Compare Charlie's feelings about his teeth to how he perceives others' appearances, like the kids on the Instagram flyer. What does this reveal about him?

Create a Self-Portrait (15 minutes)

Have students complete the self-portrait graphic organizer included in this lesson, and use that activity to lead into the self-reflection journal activity.

Self-Image Analysis (20 minutes)

Have students write a journal entry reflecting on their own self-image and how it might influence their actions and interactions, comparing themselves to Charlie, how he feels about his self-image, and how that impacts his behavior.

Assessment

Assess student understanding of these concepts by reviewing how well they express themselves in their personal reflections.

Conclusion

By analyzing how personal insecurities can shape our self-esteem and behavior, student can resonate with and gain a better understanding of Charlie's experiences, attitudes, and behaviors.

Through this lesson, students are able to gain insights into the complexity of self-perception and how it influences our interactions with the world.

LESSON PLAN #3: UNRAVELING MEANING: EXPLORING THEME

Grade Level: 5-6 Time: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify and define theme
- Discuss and reflect on the theme of self-image and self-acceptance as portrayed in Chapters 1-5 of *Too Many Teeth*

Materials

Copies of *Too Many Teeth*

Writing materials (notebooks, pens, pencils)

Whiteboard and markers

Graphic organizer on analyzing them (included at the end of this lesson)

Warm-Up

Discuss theme, explaining that it's the central idea, message, or lesson that the author wants readers to take away from the story.

Activities

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Engage students with the following discussion questions, either as a class or in small groups:

1. How does Charlie's interaction with his family and friends reflect his struggle with self-acceptance?
2. What are the different ways characters in the story deal with insecurities, and what can we learn from them?

Character Perspective and Theme Analysis (20 minutes)

Divide the class into small groups and ask the groups to discuss their perspectives on the Instagrın advertisement and the idea of fixing teeth without braces. Emphasize the importance of understanding the characters' viewpoints.

Encourage each group to discuss and analyze how the characters' perspectives on the advertisement relate to the theme of insecurity and self-perception.

Ask groups to write down their analyses on how the characters' viewpoints reflect the theme of privilege.

Whole Class Discussion and Analysis (10 minutes)

Invite each group to share their analyses with the class, focusing on the characters' perspectives and how they contribute to the understanding of privilege.

Summarize the different perspectives provided by the characters in the text and how they shape the theme of privilege.

Encourage discussion and further analysis, prompting students to compare and contrast the characters' perspectives and discuss how their viewpoints influence the theme.

Reflection on Theme (10 minutes)

Summarize the main points of your discussion, then fill out the graphic organizer on theme.

Ask students to individually reflect and write a short paragraph about how understanding different character perspectives can deepen their comprehension of a theme in literature.

Encourage volunteers to share their reflections with the class, fostering further discussion and connections to real-life experiences.

Assessment

Assess student participation during the discussion, their understanding of theme, and their completion of the graphic organizers.

Conclusion

Through compelling discussion and exploration of theme, this lesson has paved the way for a deeper understanding of literary themes and how they reflect human emotions, ideas, and experiences.

LESSON PLAN #4: EXAMINING FORESHADOWING AND SUSPENSE

Grade Level: 5-6 Time: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify foreshadowing elements in Chapters 1-7 of *Too Many Teeth* and discuss their role in building suspense.
- Understand the concepts of foreshadowing and suspense in literature.
- Analyze how foreshadowing creates suspense and enhances the plot.

Materials

Copies of *Too Many Teeth*

Writing materials (notebooks, pens, pencils)

Whiteboard and markers

Graphic Organizer, "The Power of Foreshadowing"

Warm-Up

Define foreshadowing as a literary technique where an author hints or gives clues about what will happen later in the story.

Explain the purpose of foreshadowing in building suspense, engaging readers, and providing insights into the plot.

Activities

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

1. How does the author use foreshadowing to prepare the readers for the twist in this story?
2. What emotions do these foreshadowing elements evoke in the reader?

Group Discussion, Analysis, and Annotation (30 minutes)

Divide the class into pairs or small groups and ask students to read the chapter carefully and identify instances of foreshadowing. Encourage them to annotate or highlight the specific lines or phrases that hint at future events. If students are unable to underline or annotate, they can use the table included at the end of this chapter to write out excerpts and identify how they show foreshadowing.

Ask each group to share at least one example of foreshadowing they found and discuss their interpretations.

Whole Class Discussion (10 minutes)

Write the identified instances of foreshadowing on the whiteboard or chart paper.

Discuss each instance as a class, focusing on how it hints at future events and the possible implications on the plot.

Encourage students to analyze the impact of foreshadowing on their understanding of the story and how it piques their interest.

Assessment

Assess students based on their participation in group discussions and their ability to identify foreshadowing instances on the foreshadowing graphic organizer.

Conclusion

This lesson highlights foreshadowing, a tool authors use to hint at future events, enhancing suspense and the story's depth. It equips students to recognize and discuss these elements, deepening their understanding of their impact on the story and the reader's emotions.

LESSON PLAN #5: SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF SYMBOLISM

Grade Level: 5-6 Time: 60 minutes

Learning Objectives

At this end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze the use of symbols and symbolism throughout the novel *Too Many Teeth*.
- Define symbolism and its significance in literature.
- Identify and analyze symbols within a text and interpret their meanings.

Materials

Copies of *Too Many Teeth*

Writing materials (notebooks, pens, pencils)

Whiteboard and markers

Symbolism graphic organizer

Warm-Up

Begin by discussing the concept of symbolism and how it is used in literature. To help students connect to symbolism in their everyday experience, ask students:

"What everyday objects, colors, or symbols do you associate with certain emotions or concepts? For example, what does the color red remind you of, or what might a dove symbolize in your opinion?"

This question encourages students to start thinking about how symbols are used in their daily lives and how they can represent deeper meanings or ideas. It also prompts them to begin making connections between familiar symbols and the abstract concepts they may represent in literature.

Activities

Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

1. What does Charlie's smile symbolize to him and his family?
2. How do the family photos symbolize Charlie's internal struggle and the family dynamics?
3. Discuss the symbolism of Charlie's mechanical grin. What does it represent? How does it impact his identity and interactions?

Symbolism Analysis (20 minutes):

Have students work individually or in small groups to find examples of language that creates imagery or symbolism, and have them analyze the language and discuss how it contributes to the reader's understanding of the story.

Have students draw pictures depicting symbolism from the story or from their own experiences.

Assessment

Assess students based on their participation in group discussions and their ability to identify symbolism in class and on the symbolism graphic organizer.

Conclusion

By analyzing symbolism, students will develop a deeper understanding of how different literary elements contribute to a story's meaning.

WRITING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

These lessons and activities will help students engage deeply with the book's themes and characters while also honing their analytical and creative skills.

Alternative Ending: Ask students to write an alternative ending to the story where Charlie makes a different decision. How might his character evolve with this choice?

Personal Essay: Prompt students to write a personal essay about a time when they faced a difficult decision involving appearance and self-esteem. How did they handle it and what did they learn?

Character Interviews: Have students create a list of interview questions for a character from a story or one they've created. They respond in the character's voice, helping to develop the character's personality and motivations.

Setting Descriptions and Mood Creation: Assign students to describe a setting from a well-known story or one they create, emphasizing how the details contribute to the mood of the narrative.

Plot Twists and Foreshadowing: Ask students to rewrite a section of a story or create their own short piece, incorporating foreshadowing and an unexpected plot twist.

Dialogue Analysis: Provide a dialogue excerpt from a literary work, and have students analyze the tone, subtext, and character traits conveyed through the characters' interactions. They can then write a dialogue scene of their own with similar emphasis.

Symbolism and Metaphor Exploration: Assign students to identify symbols or metaphors in a piece of literature, explaining their meanings and significance. Then, they can create their own piece incorporating symbols or metaphors to convey a deeper message.

Point of View Swap: Have students rewrite a scene or short story from a different character's point of view, considering how this changes the narrative and understanding of events.

Theme Reflection and Essay Writing: After reading a short story or novel, ask students to identify and discuss the themes present. They can then write an essay exploring these themes in-depth and providing evidence from the text.

Letter Writing: Ask students to write a letter from one character to another, exploring the character's emotions, motivations, and experiences. This exercise helps delve into character analysis and empathy.

Literary Elements Scavenger Hunt:

Assign students to find examples of literary elements (e.g., simile, irony, imagery) in a given text and analyze their impact on the story. They can then create a collage or presentation showcasing these elements.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND LESSON EXTENSIONS

Discussion on Ethical Dilemmas:

Engage students in a discussion about the ethical dilemmas presented in the text. Ask them to consider the actions of Charlie's parents and the Instagram doctors. Encourage students to debate the ethical implications of controlling someone's appearance and behavior.

Character Analysis:

Have students analyze the characters in the story, focusing on their motivations, actions, and development. Discuss how each character changes throughout the narrative and what drives their decisions.

Creative Writing:

Ask students to write an alternative ending to the story. What would happen if Charlie's parents realized the error of their ways? How might Charlie's life change if he regained control over his smile and his destiny?

Media Literacy:

Explore the role of social media and technology in shaping beauty standards and self-esteem. Discuss how platforms like Instagram can impact individuals' self-perception and how they present themselves online.

Empathy Exercise:

Encourage students to put themselves in Charlie's shoes by writing a journal entry or a letter from his perspective. How does it feel to have no control over his smile and to be manipulated by his family? This exercise can help students develop empathy and understanding of the character's emotions.

Debate:

Organize a classroom debate on the topic of parental control and autonomy. Divide students into teams and have them argue for or against parents having the right to make decisions about their child's appearance and behavior.