

Subject Area: English Literature
Unit Title: Uncovering the Symbolism of William Blake's The Tiger and its Connection to Prometheus
Grade Level: 10th Grade
Lesson Number: 1 of 10

Duration: 60 minutes
Date: March 10, 2024
Teacher: Ms. Jane Doe
Room: 101

Curriculum Standards Alignment

Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text.

Skills Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3: Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings.

Cross-Curricular Links:

- History: Understanding the historical context of the Romantic movement and its influence on literature.
- Art: Analyzing the symbolism and themes in William Blake's illustrations.

Essential Questions & Big Ideas

Essential Questions:

- What is the significance of the tiger in William Blake's poem?
- How does the poem relate to the myth of Prometheus?

Enduring Understandings:

- Students will understand the symbolism and themes in William Blake's poem.
- Students will be able to analyze the connections between the poem and the myth of Prometheus.

Student Context Analysis

Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

Pre-Lesson Preparation

Room Setup:

- Arrange desks in a circle for class discussion.
- Prepare whiteboard and markers for note-taking.

Technology Needs:

- Computer with internet access for research.
- Projector for displaying images and videos.

Materials Preparation:

- Copies of William Blake's poem "The Tiger".
- Handouts with guided questions.

Safety Considerations:

- Ensure students are aware of the classroom rules and expectations.
- Encourage respectful dialogue and discussion.

Detailed Lesson Flow

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Introduce the poem and its author, William Blake.
- Provide a brief overview of the poem's historical and literary context.

Close Reading (20 minutes)

- Guide students through a line-by-line analysis of the poem.
- Ask students to identify and highlight key words and phrases that stand out to them.

Symbolism and Prometheus (20 minutes)

- Explore the symbolism of the tiger and its connections to the myth of Prometheus.
- Ask students to consider the ways in which the tiger might represent creation, rebellion, or the power of nature.

Engagement Strategies:

- Use visual aids to help students understand the symbolism and themes of the poem.
- Encourage class discussions and ask open-ended questions to promote critical thinking.

Creative Writing (20 minutes)

- Ask students to imagine themselves as the creator of the tiger.
- Provide prompts and guidance, encouraging students to think creatively about the ways in which they would design and create a symbol of power and beauty.

Conclusion (10 minutes)

- Summarize the key points of the lesson.

- Ask students to reflect on what they have learned.

Differentiation & Support Strategies

For Struggling Learners:

- Provide additional support and scaffolding during the close reading and creative writing activities.
- Offer one-on-one instruction and feedback to help students understand the poem's symbolism and themes.

For Advanced Learners:

- Provide additional challenges and extensions, such as analyzing the historical and literary context of the poem.
- Encourage students to create their own poetry or creative writing pieces inspired by the themes and symbolism of the poem.

ELL Support Strategies:

- Provide visual aids and graphic organizers to help students understand the poem's structure and symbolism.
- Offer bilingual resources and support to help students access the poem's language and themes.

Social-Emotional Learning Integration:

- Encourage students to reflect on their own emotions and experiences in relation to the poem's themes and symbolism.
- Provide opportunities for students to share their thoughts and feelings in a safe and respectful environment.

Assessment & Feedback Plan

Formative Assessment Strategies:

- Observe student participation and engagement during class discussions and activities.
- Collect and review student work, such as their creative writing pieces and reflections.

Success Criteria:

- Students will be able to analyze the symbolism and themes of the poem.
- Students will be able to make connections between the poem and the myth of Prometheus.

Feedback Methods:

- Provide written feedback on student work, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.
- Offer verbal feedback and encouragement during class discussions and activities.

Homework & Extension Activities

Homework Assignment:

Ask students to read and analyze a related text, such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and write a reflection on its themes and symbolism.

Extension Activities:

- Ask students to create a visual project, such as a infographic or comic strip, that illustrates the poem's symbolism and themes.
- Encourage students to research and present on a related topic, such as the historical context of the Romantic movement.

Parent/Guardian Connection:

Send a letter or email to parents/guardians explaining the lesson and its objectives, and asking for their support and feedback.

Teacher Reflection Space

Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

Biography of William Blake

William Blake was a British poet, artist, and printmaker who was born in 1757 and died in 1827. He is considered one of the greatest poets of the Romantic era, and his work is known for its spiritual and mystical themes.

Blake was a visionary and a nonconformist, and his poetry and art reflect his unique perspective on the world. He believed in the power of the human imagination and the importance of individual freedom and creativity.

The Tiger: An Introduction

The Tiger is one of Blake's most famous poems, and it is known for its beautiful and evocative language. The poem explores the themes of creation, rebellion, and the power of nature, and it is considered a masterpiece of Romantic literature.

The poem is written in a series of questions, which Blake uses to explore the nature of the tiger and its creator. The poem is a meditation on the relationship between the creator and the created, and it raises important questions about the nature of God and the universe.

Line-by-Line Analysis

The poem begins with the line "Tyger Tyger, burning bright, / In the forests of the night;" (Blake 1-2). These lines introduce the image of the tiger, which is a symbol of power and beauty.

The next lines "What immortal hand or eye, / Could frame thy fearful symmetry?" (Blake 3-4) ask the question of who could have created such a magnificent creature. The use of the word "fearful" to describe the tiger's symmetry suggests that the speaker is in awe of the tiger's power and beauty.

Symbolism and Themes

The tiger is a symbol of creation, rebellion, and the power of nature. The poem explores the themes of the relationship between the creator and the created, and the nature of God and the universe.

The poem also explores the idea of the sublime, which is a key concept in Romantic literature. The sublime refers to the experience of being overwhelmed by the power and beauty of nature, and it is a central theme in *The Tiger*.

The Myth of Prometheus

Prometheus is a titan in Greek mythology who stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans. He is often seen as a symbol of rebellion and defiance, and his story has been retold and reinterpreted in many different forms of literature and art.

The myth of Prometheus is relevant to *The Tiger* because it explores the theme of creation and rebellion. The tiger can be seen as a symbol of the power of nature, which is beyond human control.

Comparison of The Tiger and Prometheus

Both *The Tiger* and the myth of Prometheus explore the theme of creation and rebellion. The tiger is a symbol of the power of nature, while Prometheus is a symbol of human defiance and rebellion.

Both the poem and the myth also explore the idea of the sublime, which is the experience of being overwhelmed by the power and beauty of nature. The tiger and Prometheus are both symbols of the sublime, and they inspire a sense of awe and wonder in those who encounter them.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *The Tiger* is a powerful and thought-provoking poem that explores the themes of creation, rebellion, and the power of nature. The poem is a masterpiece of Romantic literature, and it continues to inspire and awe readers to this day.

The connection to Prometheus adds an additional layer of depth and meaning to the poem, and it highlights the themes of creation and rebellion that are central to both the poem and the myth.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their understanding of the poem and its themes, as well as their ability to make connections between the poem and the myth of Prometheus.

Students will also be assessed on their participation in class discussions and activities, as well as their completion of homework and extension assignments.

Glossary of Key Terms

Symbolism: The use of objects, colors, or other elements to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

Metaphor: A comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as."

Simile: A comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as."

Personification: The attribution of human qualities or characteristics to non-human entities, such as objects or animals.

Prometheus: A titan in Greek mythology who stole fire from the gods and gave it to humans, often seen as a symbol of rebellion and creation.

Resources

Digital Tool: Online Annotation Software

Physical Material: Copies of the Poem

Digital Resource: Interactive Whiteboard

Physical Material: Art Supplies

Digital Tool: Online Discussion Forum

Physical Material: Handouts with Guided Questions

Prior Knowledge

Literary Devices: Students should have a basic understanding of literary devices, including symbolism, metaphor, and imagery.

Myth of Prometheus: Students should be familiar with the myth of Prometheus, including the story of his defiance against Zeus and his subsequent punishment.

Romantic Movement: Students should have a basic understanding of the Romantic movement in literature, including its key characteristics and themes.

Critical Thinking and Analysis: Students should be familiar with the concept of critical thinking and analysis, including the ability to identify and evaluate evidence, make inferences, and draw conclusions.

Introduction

Welcome to this lesson on Uncovering the Symbolism of William Blake's The Tiger and its Connection to Prometheus. This lesson is designed to introduce students to the rich and complex world of literary analysis and symbolism.

Through a combination of interactive discussions, analytical readings, and creative writing exercises, students will develop a deeper understanding of the poem's symbolism and its connections to the myth of Prometheus.

Teaching Strategies

Use Visual Aids: Use images of William Blake's illustrations for the poem, as well as other visual aids such as diagrams and charts, to help students understand the symbolism and themes of the poem.

Encourage Class Discussions: Encourage students to participate in class discussions and share their thoughts and ideas about the poem and its symbolism.

Provide Guided Practice: Provide guided practice exercises, such as close readings and analytical writing prompts, to help students develop their critical thinking skills and understand the poem's symbolism.

Use Real-World Examples: Use real-world examples and connections to help students understand the relevance and significance of the poem's symbolism.

Encourage Creative Writing: Encourage students to engage in creative writing exercises, such as imagining themselves as the creator of the tiger, to help them develop their critical thinking skills and understand the poem's symbolism.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this lesson on Uncovering the Symbolism of William Blake's The Tiger and its Connection to Prometheus is a comprehensive and engaging introduction to the world of literary analysis and symbolism.

Through a combination of interactive discussions, analytical readings, and creative writing exercises, students will develop a deeper understanding of the poem's symbolism and its connections to the myth of Prometheus.

Final Thoughts

This lesson is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs and abilities of your students. Feel free to modify and adjust the lesson as needed to ensure that your students are engaged and challenged.

Remember to provide feedback and encouragement to your students throughout the lesson, and to offer support and guidance as needed.