

Lesson Plan for Introduction to North Korea
(Korean Lesson Plan)

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SUBJECT AREA: Language Arts
GRADE LEVEL: 11th grade
TIME: A 50 minute class period

LESSON OBJECTIVE: To gain an understanding of the psychology of dictators through various literature.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

1. What are some tactics that a dictator must employ in order to maintain control of his population?
2. What are some reasons the North Korean regime has been able to maintain control over its people while other dictatorships have toppled?
3. How serious a threat are current threats coming out of the North Korean regime?

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Bowden, Mark. "Tales from the Tyrant" *Atlantic Monthly* (May 2002)
<http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/issues/2002/05/bowden.htm> (either printed or electronically distributed)
- Demick, Barbara. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* (Spiegel and Grau, 2010)

ACTIVITIES:

1. Ask students to share qualities that make a strong leader. Write these qualities on the board.
2. Divide the class into 2 groups. Distribute the Bowden article to one group and the Demick excerpt to the other group. Ask each group to read the selections out loud together.
3. Within the groups, students should discuss the tactics used by the dictators to obtain and

keep power against their people. Have them take special note about how the leaders handle the media and the military.

4. Reconvene as one group and ask the essential questions outlined in this lesson plan.

5. Assign homework: Students will write a three paragraph reflection about how (if at all) the people in such nations may become free of their oppressive dictators.