

# Chinese and American Culture: Kong Yiji

By: Leslie Hosgood, NCTA Ohio 2017

**Course:** Sociology

**Number of Days:** 1 45-minute class period

**Objective:** Students will analyze culture in the United States and China by comparing and contrasting cultural norms using the short story Kong Yiji.

**Content Standards** (Olentangy Local Schools Content Statements):

- Sociology: I can...Evaluate my own conduct by comparing myself with others.
- I can...Examine the world to develop my own views and to communicate those views with others.

**Materials Needed:** Lu Xun's "Kong Yiji"

**Lesson Procedure:**

1. As students enter the room, arrange the desks into tables and have copies of the short story "Kong Yiji" for each student. Place a large sheet of white butcher paper on each desk
2. Review aspects of culture and values (from the previous lessons on Japan and Korea)
3. Ask students to read Kong Yiji silently
4. As students read, have them list reactions to the story on the butcher paper. Students can use these guiding questions if they choose. (Encourage students to focus on questions e and f)
  - a. What do you think of the narrator? What inferences can you make about the narrator's life and values?
  - b. What do you think of Kong Yiji? What inferences can you make about Kong Yiji's position in society?
  - c. What strikes you most about this story? Why?
  - d. Can you make any connections to American stories, characters, movies, television shows or other forms of media?
  - e. If an American author wrote this, what do you think would be different? What might be similar?
  - f. Lu Xun wrote this story in 1919. What was going on in China at this time? Do you think the values shown in this story are still part of Chinese culture today? Why or why not?

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5. After all students finish reading (about 20 minutes), have students rotate to the next table and read the comments written by their classmates. This should be silent.
6. Students can read the responses of their classmates and add their own reactions
7. After 3-5 minutes, have students rotate to the next table
8. After this rotation, call on students to give their reactions about culture as presented in the short story. Encourage students to compare their observations to cultural norms and values in the United States
  - a. Focus on guiding questions e and f to provide historical and cultural context