

Korea Lesson Plan

Purpose:

The Korean War was very costly and devastating to the Korean people. Essential Questions:

1. How were people in Korea affected by the Cold War?
2. Why do different views lead to violence and death?
3. What was the impact to villages and families caught in the middle during this event?

To expose students to the personal perspective of what it was like for the people of Korea during the Korean War.

Ma 1. Sallee, Hyunjae Yee. The Snowy Road and Other Stories: An Anthology of Korean Fiction. White Pine Press, 1993.

2. List of questions over the reading (Handout 1)
3. List of answers for questions (Handout 2)

1. Students will be informed that they will be reading a story that deals with the people in Korea during the Korean War. Review with students that the Korean War was a war of the Cold War era. The two sides are the Communists versus non-Communist governments.

2. Students will be given the story titled, "Trap" from the book, The Snowy Road and Other Stories. Students will be given time to read the story and make note of their thoughts.

3. Students will then be given 20 questions from the reading and 3 thought questions that will ask them to interpret events in the story and what they might represent about the Korean War.

4. As a class we will go over the different possible answers and discuss the main points of the story.

5. At the end the teacher will restate the answers to the main questions of the Korean War and the affect on the Korean people.

Assessment:

Class discussion about what was read and how it applied to the Korean War. Students will also be asked to write individual responses to the essential questions listed above. This could also be done in groups.

Grade Adaptation:

This lesson is for grades 9-12

This lesson could be made easier by having the story read out loud by the teacher or students. The students could also be put into groups and read the story and answer questions that way. Questions could also be answered in way of class discussion.

**The Snowy Road and Other
Stories "Trap" written by Bum-
Shin Park**

2. What condition was the house in? (Give at least two examples)(67-68)
3. What did the house smell of? What might this symbolize? (68)
4. Who was Rusty? (68)
5. What is going on in Korea during this time? (68)
6. Why was Rusty hard to tame? (69)
7. Who did the old woman say was her husband on page 70?
8. What types of rain fell as June past? (70)
9. What happened to the father? (71)
10. Why does the old lady want more rice? (72)
11. What does the old lady believe happened to her husband's soul? What does this show about spiritual beliefs in Korea? (72-73)
12. What does the storyteller's husband believe the dog is? (73)
13. What has started to infest the house? (73)
14. What things were missing from the store? (74)
15. Who did the wife find in the store and what did she get? (74)
16. Who was made fun of by the village kids? Why did they make fun of them? (75-76)
17. What things did they do to this person? (76)
18. What did Young-phal do to Rusty? Why? (77)
19. Why did the husband feel that the dog should be killed? (77)
20. What happened to the old lady during the night at the end of the story? (80)

21. When thinking of the Korean War: What might the house and the rats represent?
22. When thinking of the Korean War: What does the conflict between the mother and son-in law in the story represent?
23. The title of the story is "Trap". What does this title mean or represent in reference to the Korean War and the events of the story?

Korea Lesson Answers

Answers to Questions over "Trap"

1. 8 months
2. The house is falling apart. Two examples are: Door flaps have fallen off and weeds are growing between the roof tiles.
3. The house smells of Death. This could refer to the fact that people are dying in the war in Korea.
4. A dog that was caught in a trap that was found by her father. They tamed the dog to be a pet and named it Rusty.
5. The Korean War is going on at this time.
6. He had a taste for blood might attack people.
7. The huge dog that came to Fan Rock.
8. Monsoon rains came.
9. The father is dead.
10. The old lady wants the rice to feed the dog that keeps coming to Fan Rock. She believes that the dog is her husband.
11. She believes her husband's spirit has inhabited Rusty's body. (Rusty is the dog) They believe that spirits come back in different forms.
12. He believes that the dog is possessed by an evil spirit and should be feared and destroy.
13. Rats have started to invade the house.
14. People and goods are missing from the store.
15. Wang-gu was whom she found in the store. She bought rat poison.
16. Young-phal, he had a gimpy arm and his mother had buckteeth.
17. They would throw rocks and call him names.
18. He trained Rusty to like fresh meat and blood. He did this so he could have the dog track and kill people that were hiding in the hills.
19. The dog had the taste for people and would attack them.
20. She gets caught in the trap at night and bleeds to

death. **Short Answer Thought questions-these answers may vary**

21. The house could represent Korean and the damage that the Korean War was causing to it's people and families. The war caused families to be destroyed and to fall apart. The Rats and the idea of them continuing to die could represent the people who were dying each day from this war. The woman in the story has to continue to bury the dead each day as the dead pile up.

22. The conflict could represent the fighting among the Korean people. The mother and son-in law thought they knew the truth and this was driving the family apart. The people of Korea are divided up into two sides and they are being driven apart by this disagreement on what is right. This disagreement leads to death for the mother-in law or the people in Korea. The mother and son-in law's disagreement refers to the conflict between the communists and non-communists during the Cold War.

23. The title means that for the people of Korea, there is no escape from the war. The people are "trapped" by the violence and destruction. The "Trap" is the Korean War. The "trap" also refers to the common people

of Korea, trapped between the disagreement between the communists and non-communists.