

Korean War Short Story

Purpose:

To expose students to literature from other cultures and a different point of view from the forgotten war.

Essential Questions:

1. Whereas the Korean War is considered the forgotten war in the United states, is it really forgotten in Korea?
2. What lasting effects did the Korean War have on Korean families?
3. Can we, as students in the United states, relate to the ideas applied about war in Korean literature?

Rationale:

Exposure of Korean literature and traditions to students in the United States.

Materials:

Copies of the story, The Trap, for each student.

A single note card for each student.

Activities:

Read the short story, The Trap, by Bum-Shin Park. You can read the story together as a class or have the students read and complete on their own.

Have each students create 3 discussion questions based on the story.

Divide the students in groups of 3 or 4. Have each group discuss a question presented by the teacher.

- Start with a basic discussion of the text and it's meanings and symbols.
- Using the student generated questions, present a new question every 3-4 minutes.
- After 3 questions, have one person in the group stay and move students into other groups and continue the questions.

Assessment:

The discussion and questions can be the assessment itself if the students are on task and participating.

An essay could be assigned based on the idea of what is the trap and how does it relate to the war.

Grade Adaptation:

This lesson was created and prepared for an enriched 10th grade class of American and World History students.

It could also be used for a short story or literature class as well as for World History

The story is complicated and there are various interpretations for the symbols used in the story. It may not be suitable for younger students.