



AMUM

Lesson Plan Template

Teacher	
Grade/Subject	Middle School English Language Arts
Lesson Title	Friendship through Divisions: Culture and Conflict in post-Apartheid South Africa

Lesson Overview

Students will be able to identify key themes and characters in a given text, understand the setting (post-apartheid South Africa), and respond critically and creatively to the text.

Suggested Standards

- RL.KID.1, RL.KID.3, SL.CC.1

Objectives

- Identify and analyze key themes and characters in Zulu Dog.
- Discuss character comparison and conflict exploration.
- Understand the cultural and historical setting of post-apartheid South Africa.
- Respond critically and creatively to the novel's events and ideas.

Assessment

- Pre-Instruction guided recall questions
- Strategic questioning as a group during instruction
- Present and reflect on choices made during the activity (group talk, exit ticket, etc.)

Materials

Video or slideshow on apartheid and its end, map of South Africa, Zulu Dog by Anton Ferreria, T-Chart

Introduction

- Have students respond to the prompt (group discussion or written):



- “What makes someone your friend, even if they are different than you?”
- Discuss student responses as a class and transition to the novel’s theme of unexpected friendship across cultural and racial lines.
- Use a map to show students the setting of the book, South Africa.
- Show a short age-appropriate video or slideshow with basic facts about apartheid and its end in 1994.
 - Emphasize that the book takes place in post-apartheid South Africa, a time of ongoing tension and healing.

Instruction	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read <i>Zulu Dog</i> by Anton Ferreira• As you read, stop and ask students comprehension questions like:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “What does the dog represent to Vusi?”○ “What challenges might Vusi face based on where he lives?”○ “Why do Vusi and Shirley keep their friendship secret?”• Prompt students to look for misunderstandings and moments of growth.• Focus on themes of the story and how they affect the main characters.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prejudice and fear of the unknown○ Cross-cultural friendship○ Importance of empathy○ Trust and loyalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a T-Chart (in groups or solo) and compare Vusi and Shirley. List things like:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ o Family life○ o Environment○ o Fears○ o Assumptions○ o Values○ o What they learn from each other• Discuss the answers as a class.

Reflection

- Have students write or discuss their answers to a prompt like:
 - “How can literature help us understand people who are different from us?”
 - “How do Vusi and Shirley change because of each other? What does this story teach us?”
 - “How does *Zulu Dog* show that friendship can overcome fear and misunderstanding?”



Additional Resources

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