

Never Again: Recognizing Pre-Genocidal Stages in Literature and Our World Today

Content Area: Secondary English

Course: English 10 Honors

Grade: 10th grade

Lesson #1: Building Knowledge of Genocide

Time: The collection of information can be assigned for homework (no class time needed) or can be completed in class the day of the lesson (15 minutes).

Overview of the Lesson: Using the mural found in the UN Peacekeepers' Memorial in Kigali, Rwanda, students are asked to research the meaning of genocide and then further research examples of genocide that have taken place. They will connect these examples of genocide to the mural. Finally, students will discuss the effect of the mural: the juxtaposition of black and white with the bright colors, the lively kids at the bottom front compared with the stark images of adults killing in the upper background, and the use of the single red flower just to name a few.

State Standards:

RL.9-10.7 - Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums.

SL.9-10.1a - Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

Essential Questions:

- Why do we study our past?
- How can learning about the past prevent us from repeating past mistakes?

Anticipated Student Preconceptions/Misconceptions:

Many students have not studied the Rwandan Genocide or any other examples of genocide. Therefore, they may not know what it is to begin with; therefore, these lessons must take nothing for granted. Students must begin at the beginning by defining genocide before researching past examples of genocide.

Instructional Materials Needed:

Students need access to a computer for research purposes.

Instructional Tips:

Begin by explaining what the lesson will cover. Then, allow the students to complete their research before discussing the lesson. They need to build some background knowledge.

Anticipatory Set: Ask students what they already know about genocide.

Instructional Strategies: Discovery

Lesson Closing: Have students share and discuss their research and observations about genocide and the mural.

Extension Ideas: Students can create their own mural of several events that depict major events in their own lives.

Name: _____ Hour: _____

Pre-Research: Never Again: Recognizing Pre-Genocidal Stages in Literature and Our World Today

Directions: This mural hangs in the UN Peacekeepers' Memorial outside of Rwanda's capital, Kigali. It depicts several instances of genocide that have occurred throughout history, including the genocide in Rwanda.



1. Define Genocide:
2. Research some instances of genocide that have occurred. Identify and connect those examples to the mural above.
3. Looking at the mural, analyze some of the choices the artist made in the mural. What impact do they have? How effective is it?