

# Introduction

The Death Comes for the Archbishop ESL Lesson Plan introduces students to the classic novel by Willa Cather, providing an opportunity to explore rich vocabulary, historical context, and cultural themes. This lesson plan aims to engage students in language development through literature, encouraging critical thinking and language skills development. By delving into the story of two French priests in the American Southwest, students will not only enhance their English language abilities but also gain insights into American history and culture.

## Vocabulary Building

### Vocab

Vocab	Definition
<b>Missionary</b>	A person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country.
<b>Frontier</b>	A line or border separating two countries; the extreme limit of settled land beyond which lies wilderness.
<b>Cultural assimilation</b>	The process by which a person or a group's language and/or culture come to resemble those of another group.
<b>Pioneer</b>	A person who is among the first to explore or settle a new country or area.
<b>Spiritual journey</b>	A journey towards understanding, enlightenment, or connection with the divine.

### Contextual Usage

1. The **missionary** traveled to distant lands to spread the teachings of Christianity.
2. The novel is set in the American **frontier** during the late 19th century.
3. **Cultural assimilation** was a significant aspect of the historical context depicted in the story.
4. The **pioneers** faced numerous challenges as they ventured into uncharted territories.
5. The protagonist's experiences can be seen as a **spiritual journey** towards self-discovery and faith.

## ESL Warm-up Activity

To set the tone for the Death Comes for the Archbishop ESL Lesson Plan, start with a captivating warm-up activity. Begin by displaying images of historical landscapes and religious symbols related to the American Southwest. Encourage students to describe what they see, prompting them to use descriptive language and express their initial thoughts about the setting and themes of the novel. This activity will not only capture students' attention but also introduce key vocabulary and concepts that will be explored further in the lesson.

## Main ESL Lesson Activities

### Vocabulary Activity: Exploring Historical Terms

To deepen understanding of the historical context, provide students with a list of terms related to the American Southwest during the time period of the novel. In pairs, have students research and discuss the meanings of these terms, then present their findings to the class. This activity encourages vocabulary expansion and fosters collaborative learning.

### Listening Exercise: Historical Audio Clips

Select audio clips or recordings that depict life in the American Southwest during the time period of the novel. Have students listen to these clips and take notes on key details. Afterward, facilitate a group discussion where students share their observations and reflections on how these historical elements relate to the novel.

## **Roleplay: Cultural Exchange Scenario**

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a specific cultural aspect depicted in the novel (e.g., interactions between Native Americans and European settlers). Ask them to create a roleplay scenario that illustrates this cultural exchange. Encourage creativity and language use that reflects the historical context.

## **Reading and Writing: Character Correspondence**

Assign each student a character from the novel and have them write a letter from that character's perspective, expressing their experiences in the American Southwest. After completing their letters, students can exchange and read each other's work, followed by a class discussion on different characters' viewpoints and experiences.

## **ESL Homework Assignment**

For homework, students can choose one of the following tasks:

1. Research and write a short essay on the historical significance of the American Southwest during the time period of the novel, citing specific examples from the text.
2. Create a visual presentation (such as a poster or slideshow) that highlights key cultural elements depicted in the novel, along with explanations of their historical context.
3. Write a journal entry from the perspective of one of the characters, reflecting on

their experiences and interactions in the American Southwest.

These assignments will reinforce the lesson content by encouraging students to delve deeper into the historical and cultural aspects introduced in *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

## **Conclusion**

### **Summary**

The *Death Comes for the Archbishop* ESL Lesson Plan delves into the historical and cultural themes of the novel, providing students with an opportunity to explore vocabulary, historical context, and character perspectives.

### **Reflection**

As students reflect on this lesson, they can consider how their exploration of historical and cultural elements in literature enhances their language development. By engaging with complex themes and diverse perspectives, students can strengthen their language skills while gaining insights into different cultures and periods of history. This deeper understanding can enrich their language proficiency and broaden their worldview.

## **Why this topic is great for ESL learning**

The *Death Comes for the Archbishop* ESL Lesson Plan offers a rich opportunity for ESL learning by immersing students in historical and cultural contexts. Through exploring the novel's themes, students can expand their vocabulary, improve reading and writing skills, and gain insights into American history and diverse cultural perspectives. This topic encourages language development while fostering

a deeper understanding of different cultures and periods in history, making it an excellent choice for ESL learners.