

Introduction

The Go Tell It on the Mountain ESL Lesson Plan is designed to introduce students to the classic novel by James Baldwin, while also improving their English language skills. This lesson plan aims to engage students in discussions about themes, characters, and plot points from the book, all while building their vocabulary and language proficiency. By exploring this powerful piece of literature, students will not only enhance their English language abilities but also gain valuable insights into American history and culture.

Vocabulary Building

Vocab

Vocab	Definition
Salvation	The act of being saved or protected from harm, risk, or loss.
Pentecostal	Relating to any Christian church that believes in the power of the Holy Spirit and emphasizes the experience of the gifts of the Spirit, especially speaking in tongues and healing.
Apostolic	Relating to the apostles or their teachings.
Redemption	The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
Sanctification	The action or process of being made holy.

Contextual Usage

1. After years of searching for meaning in his life, John found **salvation** in his faith.

2. The **Pentecostal** church down the street is known for its lively worship services.
3. The **Apostolic** tradition places a strong emphasis on community and service.
4. The novel explores themes of **redemption** and forgiveness.
5. The character's journey towards **sanctification** is a central theme in the story.

ESL Warm-up Activity

To kick off the lesson, start with a role-play activity where students take on the roles of different characters from the novel. Assign each student a character and have them introduce themselves as if they were that character, using language and expressions relevant to the time period and setting of the book. This will not only set the tone for the lesson but also immerse students in the world of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" right from the start.

Main ESL Lesson Activities

Vocabulary Activity: Word Scramble

Divide the class into small groups and provide each group with a set of jumbled words related to the themes and characters in "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Have the groups work together to unscramble the words and write down their definitions. Encourage them to discuss the meanings of the words within their groups, promoting collaboration and understanding.

Listening Exercise: Character Monologues

Assign each student a character from the novel and ask them to prepare a short monologue in the first person, expressing their character's thoughts and feelings. Afterward, have students take turns presenting their monologues to the class. This

activity not only enhances listening skills but also encourages students to embody the characters and understand their perspectives.

Roleplay: Family Dynamics

In pairs, have students role-play a scene depicting family dynamics similar to those in "Go Tell It on the Mountain." This hands-on exercise allows students to delve into the complexities of familial relationships portrayed in the novel, fostering empathy and understanding.

Reading and Writing: Reflective Journaling

Ask students to choose a significant event or theme from the book and write a reflective journal entry from the perspective of one of the characters. Encourage them to explore emotions, motivations, and personal connections to the text. Afterward, facilitate a group discussion where students can share their journal entries and insights with each other.

ESL Homework Assignment

For homework, students are tasked with writing a short reflective essay on a theme or character from "Go Tell It on the Mountain." They should incorporate vocabulary and expressions learned in class to demonstrate their understanding of the text. Additionally, students are encouraged to research and present on the historical and cultural context of the novel, further reinforcing their comprehension of the lesson content.

Conclusion

Summary

Throughout this ESL lesson plan on "Go Tell It on the Mountain," students have delved into the themes, characters, and historical context of the novel. They have engaged in vocabulary-building activities, role-plays, and reflective exercises to deepen their understanding of the text.

Reflection

As students reflect on what they have learned, they can apply their enhanced language skills to analyze literature more effectively. They can also use the insights gained from the novel to understand cultural nuances and historical perspectives, further enriching their language development.

Why this topic is great for ESL learning

Engaging and Relevant

The Go Tell It on the Mountain ESL Lesson Plan is an excellent topic for ESL learning due to its engaging and relevant content. The novel explores themes of identity, family dynamics, and religion, which are universal topics that resonate with students from diverse cultural backgrounds. By studying this novel, students can connect with the characters and their experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of human emotions and relationships.

Cultural and Historical Context

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" provides a rich cultural and historical context for ESL learners. Set in 1930s Harlem, the novel offers insights into African American history, literature, and the struggle for civil rights. By exploring this context,

students can broaden their knowledge of American culture while developing their language skills.

Vocabulary Expansion

The vocabulary-building activities in this lesson plan allow students to expand their English language proficiency. Through exposure to key terms related to religion, family dynamics, and personal growth, students can enhance their vocabulary repertoire while also improving their ability to express complex ideas.

Critical Thinking Skills

Analyzing the themes and characters in "Go Tell It on the Mountain" encourages critical thinking skills among ESL learners. Students are prompted to reflect on moral dilemmas, societal expectations, and personal growth as they engage with the text. This fosters higher-order thinking skills such as analysis, evaluation, and interpretation.

Overall, the Go Tell It on the Mountain ESL Lesson Plan provides a comprehensive learning experience that combines language development with cultural understanding and critical thinking skills.