



LESSON PLAN

Subject: Recommended for ELA and Social Studies, Grades 3-8

Lesson: The Eye of the Beholder

Objectives:

- Students will understand documents as a primary source based on the author
- Students will analyze the concept of trustworthy and untrustworthy narrators in the context of historical primary sources.
- Students will respond by discussing objects from two different points of view

Materials Needed:

- A device for watching “The Eye of the Beholder” video
- Device for digital writing, or pen and paper
- Students will bring an object that is personally meaningful to them

Outline:

- Before the lesson, students should understand the concept of narrative point of view.
- Do not allow students to describe their objects to one another before the lesson.
- Show “The Eye of the Beholder” video.
- Discuss with students the idea of a primary source.
 - What are some examples of primary sources someone could use to learn about people in our class? (Grades, homework, passed notes, etc.)
- Lead students in a discussion about how point of view changes narratives in both writing and in history.
 - What makes a narrator reliable or unreliable in a story?
 - What makes a narrator reliable or unreliable in a primary source?
 - Can objects tell a reliable or unreliable story too? Think about the painting in the video.

Take It Further:

Break students into pairs. Without asking one another any questions, students must write two different paragraphs. One that describes the personal significance of their object and one that describes the significance of their partner’s item. After this, they will share their responses with their partner and compare perspectives.

Some students may choose to present their object to the class, describing how others may perceive it and comparing that to what it actually means to them.

