



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

The Marriage of Figaro

Sample Lesson Plan: Understanding Archetypes

GRADE LEVELS	Middle and High School, 6-12
TIMING	Two class sessions
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE	N/A
LESSON OBJECTIVES	To demonstrate understanding of universal archetypes
CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS	ELA Theater
MATERIALS/LINKS	Handouts on Universal Archetypes and List of Characters (can be found on the last page of this lesson)
NATIONAL STANDARDS/ STATE STANDARDS	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</p>
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES	<p>Part 1 – PRE-OPERA</p> <p>STEP ONE. Discuss what class knows about archetypes.</p> <p>STEP TWO. Hand out universal archetypes page. Let students know that many other lists exist.</p> <p>STEP THREE. Assign student groups and divide the 12 archetypes among the groups.</p> <p>STEP FOUR. Allow 5 minutes to discuss and present their information to the class using their own examples. If a group gets stuck on one, open it up to the class.</p> <p>Optional fun activities on presentation:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students create a tableau (frozen physical picture) that represents their archetype, • Have students exchange a dialogue as different archetypes, • Have students think about different viewpoints different archetypes might have on the story of <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>. <p>STEP FIVE. Ask which of the archetypes they expect to see in the opera.</p> <p>Part 2 – POST-OPERA</p> <p>STEP ONE. Hand out list of characters. Review who was whom in the opera.</p> <p>STEP TWO. Assign new student groups and distribute copies of the archetype lists.</p> <p>STEP THREE. Allow 10 - 15 minutes for the groups to determine which characters represent one or more of the archetypes.</p> <p>Sample prompts: Do the characters represent an archetype? Does any character represent more than one archetype? How do different archetypes interact with each other?</p> <p>STEP FOUR. Discuss and share out as a whole group.</p>
LEARNING SUPPORTS & ACCOMODATIONS	
ASSESSMENTS	Students will pick 2-3 characters and write paragraphs explaining why they represent a certain archetype.

Universal Archetypes

THE LOVER: The romantic lead who's guided by the heart.

- Strengths: humanism, passion, conviction
- Weaknesses: naivete, irrationality
- Famous lovers: Romeo, Juliet, Scarlett O'Hara

THE HERO: The protagonist who rises to meet a challenge and saves the day.

- Strengths: courage, perseverance, honor
- Weaknesses: overconfidence, hubris
- Famous heroes: Achilles, Luke Skywalker, Wonder Woman

THE MAGICIAN: A powerful figure who has harnessed the ways of the universe to achieve key goals.

- Strengths: omniscience, omnipotence, discipline
- Weaknesses: corruptibility, arrogance
- Famous magicians: Prospero, Gandalf, Morpheus

THE OUTLAW: The rebel who won't abide by society's demands.

- Strengths: independent thinking, virtue, owes no favors
- Weaknesses: self-involved, potentially criminal
- Famous outlaws: Han Solo, Dean Moriarty

THE EXPLORER: A character naturally driven to push boundaries and find what's next.

- Strengths: curious, driven, motivated by self-improvement
- Weaknesses: restless, unreliable, never satisfied
- Famous explorers: Odysseus, Sal Paradise, Huckleberry Finn

THE SAGE: A wise figure with knowledge for those who inquire.

- Strengths: wisdom, experience, insight
- Weaknesses: cautious, hesitant to actually join the action
- Famous sages: Athena, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Hannibal Lecter (an evil sage)

THE INNOCENT: A morally pure character, often a child, whose only intentions are good.

- Strengths: morality, kindness, sincerity
- Weaknesses: vulnerable, naive, rarely skilled
- Famous innocents: Tiny Tim, Lennie Small, Cio-Cio-san

THE CREATOR: A motivated visionary who creates art or structures during the narrative.

- Strengths: creativity, willpower, conviction
- Weaknesses: self-involvement, single-mindedness, lack of practical skills
- Famous creators: Zeus, Dr. Emmett Brown, Dr. Moreau

THE RULER: A character with legal or emotional power over others.

- Strengths: omnipotence, status, resources
- Weaknesses: aloofness, disliked by others, out of touch
- Famous rulers: Creon, King Lear, Huck Finn's Aunt Sally

THE CAREGIVER: A character who continually supports others and makes sacrifices on their behalf.

- Strengths: honorable, selfless, loyal
- Weaknesses: lacking personal ambition or leadership
- Famous caregivers: Dolly Oblonsky, Calpurnia, Samwell Tarry

THE EVERYMAN: A relatable character who feel recognizable from daily life.

- Strengths: grounded, salt-of-the-earth, relatable
- Weaknesses: lacking special powers, often unprepared for what's to come
- Famous everymen: Bilbo Baggins, Leopold Bloom

THE JESTER: An intentionally funny character who provides comic relief but may also speak important truths.

- Strengths: funny, disarming, insightful
- Weaknesses: can be obnoxious and superficial
- Famous jesters: Sir John Falstaff, King Lear's Fool, George's Parents (Seinfeld)

SOURCE: [Masterclass](#)