LESSON PLAN

# The Massacre

| GRADES | TIME | READING LEVEL |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9+ | 50 min | 5 |

## Lesson flow




5 min

### Opening Hook

Begin with a thought-provoking question: "How do we judge others based on their culture?" Allow students to share brief responses.

15–20 min

### Story Exploration

Read "The Massacre" together as a class. Pause at key moments to discuss characters and their significance. Encourage students to annotate their thoughts.

15 min

### Analysis Exercises

Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a character to analyze. They will discuss how their character contributes to the theme of hypocrisy and cultural bias. Each group will present their findings.

10 min

### Application/Reflection

Have students write a brief reflection on how the story's themes relate to their own experiences with moral judgments and cultural differences.

5 min

### Assessment Strategy

Collect reflections and provide verbal feedback. Gauge understanding through a quick class poll on key themes.

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# STORY OVERVIEW

- **Title and Moral/Theme**: The Massacre; Hypocrisy of perceived moral superiority and cultural biases.
- **Plot Summary**: In the wake of a tragic event involving Holy Missionaries in China, the Christian Press decries the actions of the local population, branding them as 'Bigoted Heathens'. A character reflects on this portrayal, revealing an ironic twist as he recognizes the cultural biases at play and the hypocrisy of judging others.
- **Key Characters and Their Significance**:
  - **Holy Missionaries**: Represent the perceived moral authority and the conflict between cultures.
  - **Miserable Sinner**: A reflective character who provides insight into cultural biases and the irony of moral judgments.
  - **Bigoted Heathens**: Symbolize the misunderstood and demonized 'other', showcasing the dangers of labeling and bias.

# LESSON FUNDAMENTALS

- **Learning Objectives**:
  - Students will identify the main themes in "The Massacre".
  - Students will analyze the characters and their roles in conveying the moral.
  - Students will discuss the implications of cultural bias and hypocrisy in moral judgments.
  - Students will connect the story's message to personal growth and understanding of humanity.
  - Students will reflect on how moral stories can influence their perspectives.
- **Discussion Questions**:
  1. What does the story suggest about the nature of moral superiority?
  2. How does the character of the Miserable Sinner challenge our understanding of cultural narratives?
  3. In what ways can we apply the lessons learned from this story to our own lives?
- **Required Materials**:
  - Copies of "The Massacre"
  - Whiteboard and markers
  - Paper for note-taking
  - Projector for displaying discussion questions

✓ Original text available on the story page.