



“The Lady, or the Tiger”

Unit: Fiction

Lesson Concept: Conflict and Drawing
Conclusions about Characters

Essential Question #1

What influence does conflict have on the characters in short stories?

The conflict, or struggle, drives the action forward in the story and requires the characters to take action and seek a resolution.

Essential Question #2

How do we draw conclusions about characters and their conflicts?

- ◆ Analyze and evaluate literary facts and details
- ◆ Make logical guesses
- ◆ Draw on previous experience and knowledge

What do you know?

The setting of this story takes place during the Roman Empire.

What do you know about Ancient Rome?

Use a **K-W-L chart** to help you organize your thoughts.



Understanding the Effects of Setting

Setting is a very important component of a story. When you have a setting based on a real place or a real time in history, you must use what you know about a place's history to aid in your understanding of the story.



Historic Background of the Coliseum in Rome

- ◆ Took 10-11 years to construct.
- ◆ Over 150 feet high, 600 feet long, 50 feet wide.
- ◆ Served as a model for amphitheaters built throughout the Roman Empire.
- ◆ Chambers below the arena housed the animals.
- ◆ Wall protected the spectators.
- ◆ Tiered seats were made of marble and wood.
- ◆ Held up to 70,000 spectators.
- ◆ Movable awning protected spectators from the sun.
- ◆ Damaged over the years by several earthquakes, lightning, fire, vandalism, and neglect.
- ◆ Much of structure still stands today.

History of the Coliseum

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOylD1KC6kc>



A “Semibarbaric” Land

What does the word “barbaric” mean?

In this story, the author introduces ideas from Ancient Rome. The Romans’ justice system was based on very cruel practices known as “games” inside the amphitheater.



Think about the movie Gladiator. A prisoner’s death sentence could be a fight to the death with a ferocious animal or another person.

Words to Know

This story has some very difficult vocabulary words. These are a few to look out for during your reading:

- Assert
- Decree
- Destiny
- Doleful
- Exuberant
- Imperious
- Procure
- Retribution
- Subordinate
- Valor

What do they really mean?

Assert: (v) to put forward in a forceful way

Decree: (n) an official order

Destiny: (n) an unavoidable lot in life; fate

Doleful: (adj) sad or mournful

Exuberant: (adj) vigorous and unrestrained

Imperious: (adj) proud or overbearing

Procure: (v) to obtain or acquire

Retribution: (n) punishment for bad behavior

Subordinate: (adj) less important or lower in rank; secondary

Valor: (n) courage or bravery

Drawing Conclusions

Below are some steps that will help you as you read:

- ◆ Preview the title and illustrations and make a prediction.
- ◆ What is the setting?
- ◆ When did the story take place?
- ◆ What happens in the story?

Making Choices

In this story, a princess must make a difficult choice—a choice between life and death.

- ◆ Think of a time when you made an important decision.
- ◆ What were your choices?
- ◆ How did you finally make your decision?

What about Capital Punishment?

Do you agree or disagree?

1. Capital punishment is barbaric.
2. Anyone should be able to watch an execution.
3. People who are to be executed should not suffer.

Post-Reading Activity

Which door did the princess choose for the youth? Cite specific examples from the text to support both doors and include details that illustrate the princess's motivation for each option.

Use the chart on the next slide to help.

Post Reading Activity

Lady

Tiger