

# Lesson Planner

## LESSON PLAN: The Effects of Pride and Hubris on a Community Based on "Nguni's Trade" – Historical Fantasy

### I. OVERVIEW

Grade Level: High School

Duration: 45 minutes (15 minutes whole-class instruction/discussion + 30 minutes small-group/individual activities)

Theme: Examining how pride and hubris affect communities through character choices and societal consequences

### II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze how pride and hubris are portrayed in "Nguni's Trade."
- Students will identify specific examples in the text where pride/hubris leads to community conflict and personal downfall.
- Students will work collaboratively and individually to draw connections between the text and broader historical or modern examples.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills by discussing and writing about the consequences of pride on individual and community levels.

### III. MATERIALS NEEDED

- Copies of selected excerpts from "Nguni's Trade" (teacher-selected passages that highlight pride/hubris)
- Whiteboard and markers
- Printed worksheets including text-based questions, a timeline puzzle, and a creative brainstorming space
- Paper and pencils
- Optionally: a projector for displaying discussion questions and images

### IV. PROCEDURE

#### A. Introduction & Instruction (15 minutes)

##### 1. Warm-Up (3 minutes)

- Ask: "What does pride mean to you? Can too much pride be harmful?"
- Briefly solicit a few responses from the class.

## 2. Teacher Presentation (7 minutes)

- Provide a brief summary of the historical fantasy narrative in "Nguni's Trade" focusing on the protagonist Nguni and other key figures.
- Highlight key moments where pride or hubris is evident, for example:
  - Nguni's ambition and yearning to surpass his brother
  - Consequences of his personal ambitions on individuals and the community (conflict, lost alliances, and tragedy)
- Display a short timeline or diagram on the whiteboard mapping cause (pride/hubris) and effect (conflict, downfall of relationships, danger to community) as depicted in the narrative.
- Share a few discussion questions on the board:
- What are some instances in the story where pride leads to rash decisions?
- How do these decisions impact the community as a whole?
- Are there historical or modern examples where pride had similar negative consequences?

## 3. Teacher-Led Discussion (5 minutes)

- Initiate a class discussion using these questions, encouraging students to cite textual evidence from the excerpt.
- Ask: "How might the community have been different if characters had exercised humility instead of pride?"
- Summarize key points on the whiteboard.

## B. Group/Individual Activity (30 minutes)

### 1. Activity Overview (2 minutes)

- Explain that students will now work in small groups (or pairs/singles, based on class size) to delve deeper into the theme of pride & hubris using a structured worksheet and creative puzzle.

### 2. Activity Components (25 minutes)

#### a. Textual Analysis Worksheet (10 minutes)

- Distribute a worksheet with the following sections:
  - i. Short Answer Questions
    - "Identify two key moments from the text where pride or hubris is evident. Provide the quote and explain its significance."
    - "Describe how the community is affected by the main character's decisions. Use examples from the text."
  - ii. Reflection Question
    - "In your opinion, could a different choice have led to a better outcome? How and why?"
- Students work individually or in pairs, writing their responses on the worksheet.

b. Timeline Puzzle and Cause-Effect Mapping (10 minutes)

- Provide a cut-and-paste timeline puzzle: pieces of timeline events (e.g., Nguni's ambitious proposal, the rebel actions, the conflict with the human traders, the downfall/losses suffered by Bashat's family) are jumbled up on the worksheet.
- In groups, have students arrange the events in chronological order and draw arrows linking each event to its consequences.
- Encourage groups to discuss how pride/hubris initiated each cause and how it led to community challenges.

c. Creative Writing/Discussion Prompt (5 minutes)

- Ask each group to brainstorm a modern-day scenario (in a brief paragraph or bulleted list) in which unchecked pride could harm a community (this could be in politics, business, or social relationships).
- They should compare and contrast their scenario with the narrative in "Nguni's Trade".
- (Optional) Volunteer groups share a summary with the entire class.

3. Teacher Circulation and Support

- The teacher moves among groups, asking probing questions such as:
  - "What evidence from the text supports this cause-effect relationship?"
  - "Can you think of any responses that might have tempered the negative consequences of those decisions?"
- Provide clarifications or additional examples if groups seem stuck.

4. Wrap-Up (3 minutes)

- Reconvene as a class. Ask a representative from each group to share one insight from their timeline puzzle or creative writing activity.
- Briefly recap how pride and hubris, while sometimes associated with strength, can lead to unintended harm on both a personal and community level.

---

## V. ASSESSMENT

- Collect worksheets for formative assessment (check for clear identification of textual evidence and logical cause-effect mapping).
- Listen to group discussions and class sharing to gauge depth of understanding regarding the effects of pride/hubris.
- Optionally, assign a short exit ticket: "What is one lesson about pride or hubris from today's lesson that you can apply in your own life?"

---

## VI. EXTENSION/ADAPTATIONS

- For advanced classes: Ask students to write an essay comparing the portrayal of hubris in "Nguni's Trade" with another literary work (e.g., a Greek tragedy) or historical event.

- For students needing additional support: Provide guided reading questions or a simplified timeline template.
- 

## **VII. REFLECTION**

- Teachers should reflect on the students' engagement with the group activities and the clarity of the discussion questions.
  - Consider ways to further incorporate historical and literary comparisons in future lessons to deepen understanding of universal themes like pride and hubris.
-