

LESSON PLAN: "THE GREATEST EXAGGERATION"

OBJECTIVE: To make students “appreciate the underappreciated” through the use of hyperbole.

<p><u>KEY TERMS:</u></p>	<p>Hyperbole – A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect. Tall Tale – A story with unbelievable elements, related as if it were true and factual. Metaphor – A figure of speech that makes a comparison equating two or more unlike things without using connective words such as like, as, than, or resembles. Simile – A rhetorical figure expressing comparison or likeness that directly compares two objects through some connective word such as like, as, so, than, or a verb such as resembles. Personification – A figure of speech in which inanimate objects or abstractions are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form.</p>	
<p><u>STANDARDS:</u></p>	<p>Virginia 9.1 C, 10.1 D, 9.4 A, 9.4 H, 10.4 H, 11.4 E, 9.7-12.7 E</p>	<p>Common Core <i>Writing</i> Grades 6-8: 3.b-d, 4, 5 Grades 9-12: 3.a-d, 4, 5 <i>Language Standards</i> Grades 6-8: 3, 5 Grades 9-12: 3, 5</p>

<p><u>INTRODUCTION:</u></p>	<p>A hyperbole is an obvious and intentional exaggeration. In everyday speech, we usually use them to achieve a particular effect. For example, “I’m so hungry I could eat a horse.” The statement is simply another way of saying, “I am very hungry,” but delivers the message with a sense of urgency that would insinuate that eating will be happening soon!</p> <p>As a rhetorical device, writers often use hyperbole to convey common feelings, thoughts, actions, personalities, etc., as something remarkable by providing a contrast between the ordinary and the extraordinary. Paul Bunyan’s stories are a good example of hyperbole in literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “It got so frigid that all spoken words froze solid afore they could be heard.” <p>Hyperboles are also a good example of how literary techniques come</p>
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	<p>together. They can embody similes, metaphors, and personification.</p> <p>Say: Create your own hyperboles using the following prompts. This can be either a group or individual activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I love it more than _____ • He is so cheap that _____ • The oceans are as deep as _____
<p><u>STEP ONE:</u></p>	<p>Make a list of three to five people you know or have seen who are generally not appreciated, but you feel are important. It could be somebody from your personal life or the world in general.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother • Garbage Man • Lunch Lady • Pastor <p><i>Set this list to the side; you will need it later.</i></p>
<p><u>STEP TWO:</u></p>	<p>Watch Drew Law's "Giant." The poet represents his father through the use of hyperbole. In his opening line, for example, he calls his father the "the biggest man in the world." Why do you think the poet chose to portray his father through hyperbole? Point out a couple more examples from the poem and discuss them. How do they help you better relate to his feelings? Here are some more examples of hyperbole in the poem if you haven't already discussed them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "He slept on oceans only to get his socks wet." • "He used to cut their hair, two at a time, with one hand." • "The man would chain-smoke nebulas and wear hard-hats during meteor showers."
<p><u>STEP THREE:</u></p>	<p>Pick one of the three people on your list and write a poem using hyperbole to illustrate their importance. Try starting with one of the following prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reminded me of.... • She was so.... that... • Nobody knew that.... <p>Write for 15-20 minutes and share!</p>