Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms and the Short Story

Lesson Overview

Overview: This lesson will explore a seminal document, President Roosevelt’s Message to Congress, and the theme of freedom from fear—one of the four points of President Roosevelt’s speech. After listening to the speech, the class will read and discuss an excerpt from Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family by Yoshiko Uchida and explore the theme of freedom from fear.

Grade Range: 9-12

Objective: As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain the impact of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Message to Congress and explain the different themes that are represented.

Time Required: Two class periods of 45 minutes.

Discipline/Subject: English

Topic/Subject: Government

Era: Great Depression/World War II, 1929-1945

Standards

Illinois Learning Standards:

Language Arts:
1. Read with understanding and fluency.
1.B. Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency.
1.C. Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.
2. Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras, and ideas.
2.A. Understand how literary elements and techniques are used to convey meaning.
2.B. Read and interpret a variety of literary works.
3. Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.
3.B. Compose well-organized and coherent writing for specific purposes and audiences.

Materials

Analysis Tools: Photo Analysis Worksheet and Graphic Organizer

Library of Congress Items:

Title of Source: Freedom of expression, of religion, from want, from fear everywhere in the world
Date of Creation: 1936-1941
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98517353

Title of Source: Four Freedoms
Creator of Source: Rockwell, Norman
Date of Creation: 1943
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm142.html

Title of Source: Civilian exclusion order #5, posted at First and Front streets, directing removal by April 7 of persons of Japanese ancestry, from the first San Francisco section to be affected by evacuation.
Date of Creation: 1942 April
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a35053

Title of Source: Santa Anita reception center, Los Angeles, California. The evacuation of Japanese and Japanese-Americans from West Coast areas under U.S. Army war emergency order. Registering Japanese-Americans as they arrive.
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Creator of Source: Lee, Russell
Date of Creation: 1942 April
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8a31204

Title of Source: Japanese-american camp, war emergency evacuation, (Tule Lake Relocation Center, Newell, Calif.)
Date of Creation: 1942 or 1943
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/fsa1992001464/PP/resource/fsac.1a35013

Title of Source: Sumiko Shigematsu, foreman of power sewing machine girls, Manzanar Relocation Center, California.
 Creator of Source: Adams, Ansel
Date of Creation: 1943
URL of Source: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002695109

Online Resources:
Title: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
URL: http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/fourfreedoms
Description: FDR’s Message to Congress and audio of speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Step #</th>
<th>Resource or Material Used</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Show LOC Item Freedom of expression, or religion, from want, from fear-ask what the two images are—who/what is represented. Then explain and discuss pictures.</td>
<td>LOC Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Show LOC Item Four Freedoms. Play an excerpt from FDR’s speech.</td>
<td>LOC Items, Online Resources</td>
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<td>3. Show LOC Item Civilian exclusion order #5 and ask: What are the four freedoms?</td>
<td>LOC Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Show LOC Item Santa Anita reception center and discuss image</td>
<td>LOC Items</td>
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<td>5. Hand out graphic organizer and have students list what they know about Japanese internment camps and then discuss.</td>
<td>Graphic Organizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Show LOC Item Japanese-American Camp, War emergency evacuation and hand out Photo Analysis worksheet complete with class. Show LOC Item Sumiko Shigematsu, give time for students to complete photo analysis. Discuss students’ answers.</td>
<td>LOC Items, Photo Analysis</td>
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Evaluation
Evaluation will be derived from the students’ graphic organizer and the follow-up discussion the following day.

Extension
This lesson is the first of four lessons focusing on the different themes highlighted in FDR’s Four Freedoms Speech. After discussing the short story that relates to Freedom from Fear, the lesson will progress through the other three themes and related short stories/poems/excerpts: Freedom from Want (The Weary Blues), Freedom of Speech (The Censors), and Freedom of Worship (excerpt from Elie Wiesel’s Night). Each short story, poem and excerpt will include a graphic organizer or follow-up questions. At the end of the unit, the students will be given a writing assignment to choose one of the themes and compose a fictional narrative.

Author Credits:
K.Taylor
Charleston High School
Topic:

What I Know

What I Learned
Photo Analysis Worksheet

What I See (observe)
Describe exactly what you see in the photo.

Some things to consider are:
What people and objects are shown? How are they arranged?

What is the physical setting?

What other details can you see?

What I Infer (deduction)
Summarize what you already know about the situation and time period shown and the people and objects that appear.

Interpretation
Say what you conclude from what you see.

What is going on in the picture? Who are the people and what are they doing?

What might be the function of the objects? What can we conclude about the time period?

What I Need to Investigate
What are three questions you have about the photo?

1.

2.

3.

Where can you go to further research to answer your questions?