



## The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

by: Avi

Lesson Plans

14 Days

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Lesson Plan

Days 1-2

Watch the movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (B&W version) over the course of 2 days. Teach some things relative to the ship and sea (sailors skill & danger in the shrouds; storms; doldrums; captains absolute authority, etc.) to lead into the novel we will be reading. Discuss the following: impressment, reaction to Capt. Bligh, feeling of young officer, climbing the rigging, storms, yard, yardarm, doldrums and finding wind. Don't watch the ending, but rather ask the students about what they feel a trial verdict would be. Don't answer this until either later in the book or after the book has been read. Can also share info from encyclopedia at that time.

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Lesson Plan

Day 3

### Literary Analysis: The Significance of Names

(Do this as a pre-reading activity - make guesses about the characters from their names.)

Authors select names of characters with care. In these two chapters Charlotte meets men named

Mr. Grummage and Mr. Keetch, and she sees two men run from the mere mention of Captain Jaggery. What images do the names Grummage, Keetch, and Jaggery create in your mind? Another character with an unusual name is Zachariah. In the Book of Kings in the Bible, Zachariah is a prophet. What is the role of a prophet? Does his name give more or less weight to the old sailor's advice to Charlotte? Explain.

Handout glossary of nautical terms.

Do the prologue (warning) together (teacher reads)

Vocab - decrepit, gesticulated, loathsome, permeated, stench, trepidation

Assign chapters 1-2.

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Lesson Plan

Day 4

Discuss/Correct wkst

### Skill

**Foreshadowing** - Foreshadowing refers to the clues an author provides to suggest what may happen later in the novel. What might the following paragraph foreshadow?

*Indeed, the one unique aspect of this ship was a carved figurehead of a pale white seahawk beneath the bowsprit. Its wings were thrust back against the bow; its head extended forward, beak wide-open, red tongue protruding as if screaming. In the shadowy light that twisted and distorted its features I was struck by the notion that this figure looked more like an angry, avenging angel than a docile bird. (p.13)*

Vocab censure, unimpeachable, chastened, complicity, punctilious, sardonically

Assign - chapters 3-5

Discuss/Correct wkst

Skill - simile and metaphor

A simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is stated directly using the words "like" or "as." For example:

*The sea was in constant motion, its surface heaving rhythmically like the chest of some vast, discomfoted sleeper.*

What two things are being compared?

What is the effect of this comparison?

Look back through the chapters you have read and locate another simile that you feel is used effectively. Write it below.

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a comparison between two unlike objects is suggested or implied. For example:

*A ship is a nation of its own.*

What two things are being compared?

What does this metaphor reveal about conditions aboard the *Seahawk* and about the course of future action in the novel?

Vocab - disembarkation, fathom, laconically, naive, unstinting

Assign - chapters 6-8

Discuss/Correct wkst

Skills - Cliffhanger and Allusion

A cliffhanger is a statement of mystery or suspense that appears at the end of a chapter. Its purpose is to encourage the reader to continue reading by leaving a character in a perilous situation.

What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter Six?

In literature, an allusion is a reference to a famous historical, mythological, biblical, or literary person or event. In the Bible, the prophet Jonah was swallowed by a whale but because of his faith, he was coughed up whole many days later. In Chapter Six Charlotte felt that she—like Jonah—was in the belly of a whale and in Chapter Eight Charlotte said that the crew's favorite Bible reading was the story of Jonah. Why did this particular story have such a hold on the imaginations of Charlotte and the crew?

Vocab - dire, implacable, palpable, scrutiny, wrath

Assign - chapters 9-12

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Discuss/Correct wkst

Skills - Plot, Character Development

The plot of a novel is the series of events that occur during the course of the story. First the conflict, or problem, is explained and developed in the rising action. The conflict reaches the point of greatest suspense at the crisis or turning point. After the crisis, the conflict is settled in the falling action. Part One of *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* has all of these elements. Could the novel end here? Explain.

Character Development - Part One of this novel deals with change, the main changes being those in Charlotte and in Charlotte's perception of Captain Jaggery. Review what you have learned about both characters. Then

	Beginning of the Novel	End of Part One
Charlotte		
Jaggery		

Vocab - caucused, concoct, maelstrom, abated, equanimity

Assign - chapters 13-15

Discuss/Correct wkst

Skills - Personification, Comic Relief, Symbolism

Personification is the granting of lifelike qualities to non-human objects. For example:

*I stood watch as dawn blessed the sea and as the moon cut the midnight sky.*

What two things are being personified?

How does this help you visualize the scene better than if the author had written, "I stood watch at sunrise and at midnight"?

A humorous scene placed between serious or tragic scenes is called comic relief. This device allows an author to lighten the tone of a novel and to heighten the seriousness of the theme by contrast. Explain the comic relief in the last three paragraphs of Chapter 14.

A symbol is something that represents an idea or a set of ideas. What does the blood bird at the end of Chapter 14 symbolize?

Vocab - tumultuous, fastidiousness, pang, portentously, steadfast, amiss

Assign - chapters 16-18

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Lesson Plan  
Day 9

Discuss/Correct wkst

Assign - parts for acting out the trial (chapter 18)

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Lesson Plan  
Day 10

Act out chapter 18

Assign - Skills Wksts (simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, plot, allusion, allegory.)

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Lesson Plan  
Day 11

Discuss/Correct wkst - Skills Wksts

Vocab - apparition, copiously, enormity, shrewdly, surge

Assign - chapters 19-21

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Lesson Plan  
Day 12

Discuss/Correct wkst

Skills - Review Cliffhanger and Simile

What is the cliffhanger at the end of Chapter 20?

Read the following simile: *The suspicion became rather like an invisible rope that restrained me.*

What two things are being compared?

What is the effect of this comparison?

Vocab - balustrade, morose, undulating, jovial, skeptical

Assign - chapter 22

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Lesson Plan  
Day 11

Discuss/Correct wkst

Assign - novel summary wkst

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Lesson Plan  
Day 13

Discuss/Correct wkst

Review Book for Test

Assign - Read 2 poems and do questions

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Discuss/Correct wkst

Take the Test

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