

The Fighting Ground – Classroom Lesson Plan

By Avi

Includes Virtual Author Interview

Book Synopsis

The Fighting Ground is a historical novel set during the American Revolution. Thirteen-year-old Jonathan joins the local militia, eager to prove himself in battle. Over the course of twenty-four intense hours, he confronts fear, moral uncertainty, and the realities of war. As Jonathan encounters enemy soldiers and innocent civilians, his understanding of courage, loyalty, and humanity evolves. Themes include maturity, war, perspective, moral conflict, and the loss of innocence.

Essential Questions

- What defines true courage?
- How does war challenge personal identity and morality?
- How can perspective alter our understanding of conflict?

Lesson Objective

Students will analyze character development and point of view to evaluate how the novel portrays moral conflict and coming-of-age during wartime.

Lesson Structure (60 Minutes)

- Warm-Up (5 minutes): What does it mean to be brave?
- Direct Instruction (15–20 minutes): Examine historical context and third-person limited narration. Define key terms: perspective, loyalty, moral conflict, coming-of-age.
- Guided Practice (15 minutes): Analyze a pivotal decision Jonathan makes. Synthesis Question: How does Jonathan's view of the enemy change over time?
- Independent Practice (15 minutes): Choice-based analytical response.
- Exit Ticket (5 minutes): Identify one moment that marks Jonathan's growth.

Independent Practice Options

- Option A: Analyze how setting intensifies the conflict.
- Option B: Compare Jonathan's expectations of war to his lived experience.
- Option C: Write a reflective journal entry from Jonathan's perspective.

Creative Interpretation Option

- Timeline of the 24-hour narrative arc
- Character growth chart
- Symbolism illustration (firearm, forest, uniforms)

All creative responses must include an artist statement citing specific textual evidence.

Reader Impact + Student Voice

- How does this novel humanize historical conflict?
- What surprised you about Jonathan's journey?
- How does perspective influence empathy?
- Why is historical fiction important in understanding the past?

Author Interview

Author interview provided by UNBAN COOLIES.
Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/@unbanCOOLIES>

Lesson materials developed in partnership with UNBAN COOLIES.