

Reading the Guy de Maupassant Short Story:
[“A Vendetta”](#)

1. Silently read and annotate the story: 12 min
2. Divide into 5 Breakout Rooms:
3. Each group will be assigned a skill
4. Each group will complete a poster or a slide or slides that respond to the guided analysis question: 20 min
5. Present in a whole group: 10 min



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You have a copy of the complete Lesson Plan in your materials

Thank you, Susan Frediani,
Quincy, CA

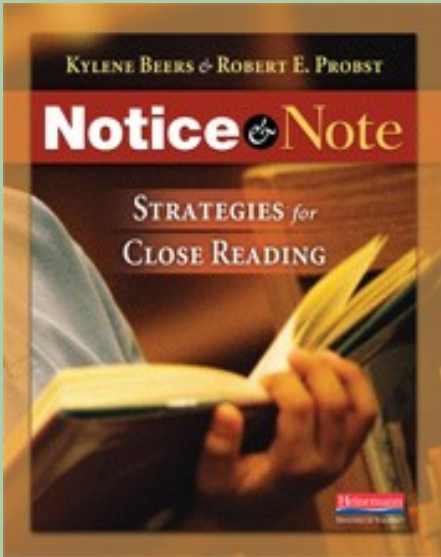
READING THE STORY

Two protocols for possible use in close reading:

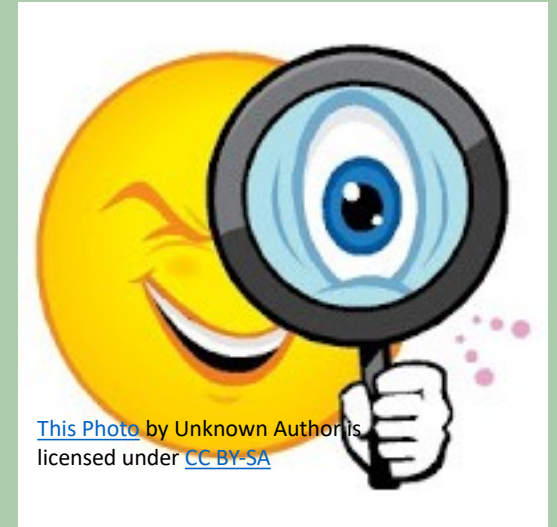
[Notice and Note Signposts Protocol](#)

[I Notice/I Wonder Protocol](#)

[I Notice/I Wonder \(Forget the Question\)](#)



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Group Activity: 3-4 participants

This activity may work best in Unit 7: Short Fiction – but it may be used in any of the fiction units.

This activity will focus on 5 skills: CHR, SET, STR, NAR, and FIG

By Unit 7, all of the specific skills will be covered.

**AP ENGLISH LITERATURE
AND COMPOSITION**

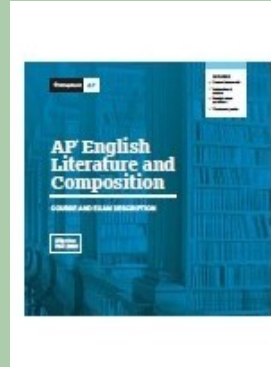
UNIT 7

**Short
Fiction III**

Each group will receive a skill and a guided analysis question. Groups will respond to the assigned task on a poster or on a slide show that presents the required information.

From Unit 4: Short Fiction II and Unit 7: Short Fiction II

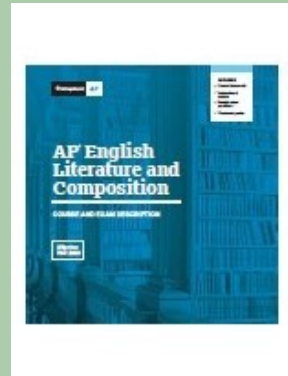
CHR Skill 1.D: Describe how textual details reveal nuances and complexities in characters' relationships with one another. (CED 94)



Task: Create a poster that depicts how diction, imagery, syntax, and tone are used in Maupassant's "A Vendetta." Illustrate and use an adjective to describe each element, using textual evidence. Include a box labeled "conclusion" where you write a sentence or two that clearly conveys both the narrator's and other characters' perceptions of the mother.

From Unit 1: Short Fiction I and Unit3: Longer Fiction Drama I

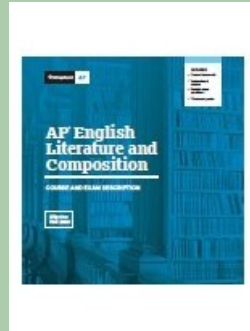
SET Skill 2.A: Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal a setting. (CED 38)



Task: Consider the plot events in “A Vendetta.” Create a poster that conveys specific detail (physical descriptions, daily events, etc.) from the text that indicates the setting of each event. Write a brief explanation of the details of setting underneath each event, including textual evidence. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly states the meaning of the setting.

From Unit 3: Longer Fiction, Drama I and Unit 9: Longer Fiction, Drama, 3

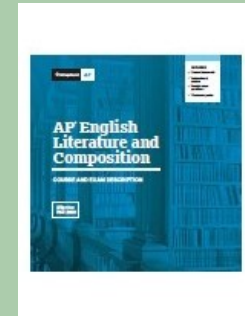
STR Skill 3.E: Explain the function of a significant event or related set of significant events in a plot. (CED 122)



Task: Brainstorm a list of events and choose one event that you believe to be the most significant in Maupassant’s “A Vendetta.” Find textual evidence that supports this. Create a poster that depicts this central event and shows secondary events that are connected to the main one. Be sure you explain the connections. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly states how this central event helps uncover Maupassant’s meaning of the text as a whole.

From Unit 6: Longer Fiction, Drama II and Unit 7: Short Fiction III

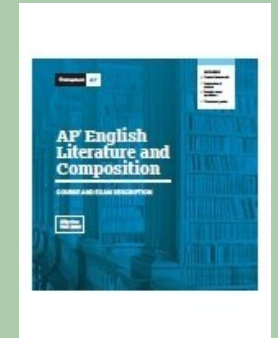
NAR Skill 4.D: Explain how a narrator’s reliability affects a narrative. (CED 94)



Task: After reading Maupassant’s “A Vendetta,” develop a graphic organizer that coordinates the following: key details about the mother that the narrator provides, plausible explanations for how the narrator could know these key details, and key details about the mother that the narrator does *not* provide. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that explains whether the narrator is reliable, drawing on textual evidence for support.

From Unit 5: Poetry 2, Unit 6: Longer Fiction, Drama 2
Unit 7: short Fiction 3, Unit 8: Poetry 3

FIG Skill 5.C and 5.D: Identify and explain the function of an image or imagery. (CED 73)



Task: Using Maupassant’s “A Vendetta,” pick four of the most important images and two of the most important symbols. Then, identify an abstract noun (thematic idea) that each image conveys. Create a poster that depicts these images and symbols, illustrating each and using multiple textual examples. Include a box labeled “conclusion” where you write a sentence or two that clearly explains how the individual images and symbols work together to convey meaning in the story.

Gallery Walk



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Student groups rotate to the presentations: read aloud the guided analysis questions and discuss agree/disagree with responses. They may add questions to the presentations.

Groups return to home poster/slide and present and address the added questions.

Beginning on page 138 in the CED are suggestions for rewriting prompts from previous years.

This is a rewrite of a 2011 prompt that could be used as an **extension** of this lesson.

In Guy de Maupassant’s “A Vendetta,” a character responds in a significant way to justice or injustice. In a well-written essay, analyze the degree to which the character’s search for justice is successful/unsuccessful and how this search contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole.

Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.

Select and use evidence to support the line of reasoning.

Explain how the evidence supports the line of reasoning.

Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating the argument.