

“A Vendetta” by Guy de Maupassant  
Close Reading Activity  
Frediani

In-Class Activity (time: 2 class periods - about 90 minutes beyond reading time)

1. Students read story.
2. Create groups of 4-5.
3. Assign each group a skill (CHR, SET, STR, NAR, FIG).
4. Hand each group a guided analysis question.
5. Groups will create posters that present the required information.
6. When students are finished, each group places poster with guided analysis question on tables or walls.
7. Students will then rotate in their group to other posters; they read that group’s guided analysis questions, then discuss whether they agree/disagree with answers on poster. They may write questions on post-its to add to poster.
8. When groups return to their home poster, one member of the group will read aloud the group’s guided analysis question and explain the pictures/quotes/conclusions presented on the poster. They may read any posted questions aloud and allow group members to respond.

**Guided Analysis Questions:**

**CHR Skill 1.D:** Describe how textual details reveal nuances and complexities in characters’ relationships with one another. (CED94)

- 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.

**SET Skill 2.A:** Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal a setting. (CED38)

- 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.

**STR Skill 3.E:** Explain the function of a significant event or related set of significant events in a plot. (CED122)

- 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.

**NAR Skill 4.D:** Explain how a narrator's reliability affects a narrative. (CED94)

- 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.

**FIG Skill 5.C and 5.D:** Identify and explain the function of an image or imagery. (CED73)

- 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.