



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2009 Volume I: Storytelling around the Globe

A.VOID: Who Are the Poor People? How Environment Impacts the Development of Character

Guide for Curriculum Unit 09.01.03, published September 2009
by Jill DeLeeuw

This unit is designed to engage students in a study of characters living in poverty in the United States, Latin America, and the Middle East. This unit focuses on building reading comprehension and inferencing skills through the use of film in direct teacher modeling and Literature Circles which incorporate all three cultures. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the designated culture, its manifestation of poverty, and watch a film from that culture illustrating characters living in those conditions. Students will then analyze characters for tone, mood, actions, and thoughts in a novel of at their appropriate Lexile level for growth and challenge. The end assessment of this unit is a choice by the student of a 1) Character Diary, 2) Podcast Interview, or 3) Character Board Game.

(Developed for Language Arts, grade 6; recommended for Language Arts and English, grades 6-8)

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