

## Activity #4: Researching Global Literature as it Represents Region

<b>1. Writing and Research in the Disciplines (ENG 112)</b>
This course, the second in a series of two, introduces research techniques, documentation styles, and writing strategies. Emphasis is placed on analyzing information and ideas and incorporating research findings into documented writing and research projects. Upon completion, students should be able to evaluate and synthesize information from primary and secondary sources using documentation appropriate to various disciplines.
<b>2. Global Authors and Literature</b> <b>Lisa Stanley-Smith</b>
Students will research international authors and analyze short stories by the authors. Students will then present the information to the class, including handouts they have created summarizing their research.
<b>3. Objective:</b>
The purpose of this activity is to help students understand different cultures and global issues through the use of literary works and the authors.
<b>4. Time:</b>
5 weeks
<b>5. Materials:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. ENG 112 textbook</li><li>2. Course's learning management system (for example, Blackboard, Moodle, or equivalent) to retrieve provided links to literary works</li><li>3. Computer and internet access for research</li><li>4. Suggested short stories reading list and resources are found at the end of this activity.</li></ol>
<b>6. Procedure:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will watch Chimamanda Adichie's "The Danger of a Single Story" - <a href="http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story">http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story</a></li><li>2. The unit will cover five sections, one each week for study and discussion: Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe.</li><li>3. Students will access links in the course's learning management system with the required short stories for reading.</li><li>4. Students will sign up for a specific region, such as the Middle East, for their group reporting. The groups will decide among themselves who will cover what sections and who will present which sections.</li><li>5. Students will research the geography, demographics, politics, and social issues to help them connect the author's life to the global short story, and they will research the host country and region and provide historical events preceding and during the writing of the short story.</li></ol>

6. Students will present their research orally and provide a handout to each student for study purposes.
7. In addition to the handout, students may engage any alternative media format to visually present their research and findings to the class.
8. Students will discuss the authors and the works in class with an emphasis on understanding the various problems that exist in global societies and how this is incorporated into the writing by the author.

#### **7. Assessment:**

- Students will be graded on their handout, presentation, and their ability to make global and cultural connections with the short story.
- Students will take a test at the end of the Global Literature Unit to assess their knowledge and understanding of the authors, history, culture, and literary works discussed.

#### **Activity #4 Suggestions for a Short Story Reading List:**

**"The South" by Jorge Luis Borges**

**"The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield**

**"Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka**

**"The Second Bakery Attack" by Murakami**

**"Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid**

**"Heart of Darkness" by Joseph Conrad**

**Film on racism in *Heart of Darkness* by Chinua Achebe**

**"The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant**

**"Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri**

**"A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift**

#### **Activity #4 Suggested Resources:**

- The following site provides a list of prominent authors in contemporary world literature: <http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/author>

**The following resource is from UNC Chapel Hill's African Studies Center:**

- [http://africa.unc.edu/outreach/resources/resources\\_main.asp](http://africa.unc.edu/outreach/resources/resources_main.asp) --This page offers links on African culture and history.