

Designer: Amy Godding		Unit:
Subject: Language Arts		Topic: Dilemmas
Grade: 7 th		Day #: Any (one day activity)
Content Objective: Students will use language arts skills and strategies to think critically (Standard 2B)		
Language Objective: Students will understand the meaning of the word “dilemma” as a complex, multi-faceted problem.		
Materials:		
Student Materials:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pens/Pencils - Nin & Zug story handout Paper 		
Teacher Materials:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nin & Zug story - White board w/ markers. 		
Lesson Procedures:		
Time	Activity	Notes
	Self Starter	
3 min	<i>Anticipatory Set-</i> Introduce the concept of a Dilemma.	Ask for the class to help define it.
5 min	<i>Hand out</i> Nin & Zug papers and <i>read the story aloud.</i>	Tell students to not do anything with their papers until they receive their instructions AFTER the story is read.
10 min	<i>Give students time to fill out “blame table” at the bottom of the sheet in groups of 3-4 people. Inform groups that they must come to an agreement. “Persuasive skills”</i>	-Ask an early finisher to copy the table on the board in large letter. -Stop groups mid-flow for class discussion.
10 min	<i>Class discussion.</i> As a class fill out the “blame table” on the board.	-Leave gender and relationship parts for last. -Ask for alternative answers, ask for reasons why -Towards the end, ask if their opinions change if the gender assumption changes.
2 min	<i>Lesson Assessment</i>	Inform “college level exercise” Ask if I should use it again. Thumbs up or thumbs down.

Reflection:

Essential Question:

- What assumptions do people/you make?
- How do those assumptions affect your opinions?

Enduring Understanding:

- Students will understand how assumptions color their interpretations of events.

Name: _____



Once upon a time, there were two islands separated by a body of water. There was a ferry that traveled between the islands once a week. On one island lived Nin, and on the other island lived Zug. One week, Nin and Zug met on the ferry and instantly fell in love. Neither of them had any other means of transportation, so they met each other every week on the ferry.

One day, Zug said "This long distance relationship is just too hard. I can't handle it. It's over." Well, Nin was devastated—got off the boat, sat on the dock and cried. Along came Goo who asked what was wrong. Nin recounted the story and Goo said "No problem! I have a boat; I'll take you across to the other island. But there is one condition. You have to spend the evening with me." Nin thought about it and agreed.

The next morning Nin and Goo set off for the other island. But news traveled faster than Goo's boat and Zug had learned about Nin's decision before they arrived. Zug was waiting on the shore when the boat arrived. Zug said, "Nin, you have been unfaithful. Leave." Again, Nin was devastated—sat on the shore and cried. Along came Yak who asked what was wrong. Nin recounted the entire story; Yak became enraged, stormed off and beat Zug into a pulp.

Directions:

- 1- Whose actions were the worst, whose were the least? Rank characters' actions.
- 2- Mark down which characters are boys and which are girls.
- 3- Write down what relationship each character has to the others. Your choices might be a friend, family member, a stranger, or another choice.

Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

	Worst	Bad	Less Bad	Least Bad	Boy/Girl	Relationship
Nin						
Zug						
Goo						
Yak						

Begin challenging your own
assumptions. Your
assumptions are your
windows on the world.
Scrub them off every once in
awhile, or the light won't
come in.

~Alan Alda

*Copy into your notebooks and write a
paragraph what assumptions you tend to
make.*