

COMMON-CORE-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR

“The Ruum”

BY ARTHUR PORGES



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Written by

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Table of Contents

Title of Activity	Page	Common Core Standards
Prereading activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prediction guide • vocabulary preview 	5-7	The vocabulary preview provides words in context so that students can determine meanings. CCSSRL4
Active Reading Guide	8-13	With this activity, students are required to complete a close reading of this complex text. We have divided the first half of the story into sections. Questions from each section are provided to guide students in reading and figuring out the meaning of what they have read. The questions require the students to return to the text, to defend their answers with text, and to infer and draw conclusions. Also, key story elements and author's craft and structure are addressed. CCSS7RL1, 3 Anchor Standards 1-6
Close Reading Notes	14	This handout provides a chart for students to take notes as they continue the second half of the story. Without questions to guide them, they will need to complete a close reading independently and take notes to clarify any part of the story that is complicated for them. CCSS7RL1,10
Post Reading Questions	15	These questions can be used to aid in comprehension and to assess comprehension after students complete their close reading of the story. With these questions, students are required to make inferences, draw conclusions, and piece together parts of the plot. CCSS7RL1,3 Anchor Standards 1-6

Vocabulary	16	This handout provides a chart for students to record words that they encounter in the text. They are asked to write definitions based on the context clues and then use a dictionary to make sure their definitions are correct. CCSS7RL1,4
Making Inferences & Analyzing How Characters Affect the Plot	17	This handout requires students to draw conclusions and make inferences. This is a good review after the story and should help struggling readers pull all parts of the plot together. At the end of the handout, <i>if/then</i> statements are provided so students can analyze how the characters affect the plot. CCSS7RL1,3
The Ruum Test	18-21	This test provides twenty multiple choice questions. Students are required to use context clues, analyze characters, plot, setting, irony, determine the point of view and genre, and much more. CCSSR Anchor Standards 1-6
Tableau	22	This activity requires students to work in groups to develop a creative tableau and then perform it for the class. A writing assignment accompanies this assignment. A rubric is provided. CCSSW Anchor Standard 4
Answer keys	23	

A portion of the highlighted page is yours free! Scroll down to print. Download your [complete teaching unit for *The Ruum*](#) to receive all handouts listed in this table of contents. Download it now, and use these Common Core-based lessons for years to come!

THE RUUM

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

“The Ruum” is always a hit with middle schoolers, if they understand it. This story is written above the seventh grade reading level, and most students will need help. Our suggestion is to read the beginning of the story with the students using the active reading questions as your guide. Read the portions out loud to your students as they follow along, and then stop to answer the questions together. Have them read some of the portions independently and then go over the questions together so that you can address any misunderstandings. Once the questions on the active reading guide are completed, students can then read the rest of the story independently. Hand out the close reading chart and tell them to take notes on each page that they read. Encourage them to ask themselves questions, just as the reading guide asked questions. Once the story is complete, you can assess their comprehension with the other handouts. Be sure to hold a discussion on the irony in the story and the outcome of the story. We hope you enjoy these handouts! Use the chart below to mark your starting and stopping places before beginning the story.

***Use the chart below to mark your starting and stopping places before beginning the story. We strongly suggest marking these starting and stopping places in the story prior to reading. This will help tremendously with the active reading guide questions.**

Section	Start with the paragraph beginning...	End with the words...	Page number
	First paragraph <i>The cruiser</i>	<i>...to the commander</i>	
	<i>“Excellency...”</i>	<i>...it may have collected.”</i>	
	<i>The commander’s triangular eyes...</i>	<i>...age of reptiles</i>	
	<i>When the two men...</i>	<i>...don’t scare ‘em to death!”</i>	
	<i>Jim thumbed his nose...</i>	<i>...no gloomy forebodings</i>	
	<i>Moving with the unhurried...</i>	<i>...sheepskin holster in the lean-to</i>	
	<i>He was whistling..</i>	<i>...no bigger than a pony</i>	
	<i>Fascinated, Jim walked down...</i>	<i>The man turned and fled.</i>	
	<i>Jim Irwin weighed ...</i>	<i>...hardly breaking his stride</i>	
	<i>One thing was certain...</i>	<i>...every nerve a charged wire</i>	
	<i>But there was no change of technique...</i>	<i>...might put it many minutes behind him.</i>	
	Students will read the remainder independently.	They will use the close reading chart to take notes as they read.	

THE RUUM

Active Reading Guide

Understanding what you read – To help you comprehend this story, follow the directions on this reading guide. Make sure you stop and answer the questions as you read.

Stop after the first paragraph, and answer the following questions.

1. Where is this story taking place? _____
2. So far, there are two characters. Who are these characters? _____ and _____

Read the second paragraph. Then stop to answer the following questions.

3. What is the problem? _____
4. Do you know which planet in our solar system is the third planet from the sun? _____

Read the next four paragraphs. Stop when you finish the line, “*And on the earth, it was the age of the reptiles.*” Answer the following questions before continuing the story.

5. Is the commander human? _____ How do you know? _____
6. How does the commander feel about the ruum being left? _____

Find some words that the author uses to show how the commander feels.

***This is only a sample from this active reading guide.**

[Download the entire teaching packet for “The Ruum” now](#), and receive the entire reading guide, a test, and everything you see in the table of contents! Use these teaching handouts immediately and for years to come!

Also, check out our other resources. We have tons of resources for ELA teachers including [novel units](#), [short story lessons](#), [writing activities](#), and [Common-Core bell ringer activities](#). You can print free samples from all of these online teaching materials!

Happy Teaching! ☺
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