

A Stone's Throw Away: The Dangers of Tradition

The Lottery

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Grade Level	9th Grade	**Time Frame**	2-3
Subject	English/Language Arts	**Duration**	50 minutes

Essential Question

How does Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" demonstrate the possible dangers of tradition?

Summary

In this lesson, students explore the theme of tradition by reading Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and an accompanying article "The Dangers of Tradition." As students develop their own beliefs concerning the value and possible dangers of tradition, they share their opinions with their peers and petition for a new school tradition or the removal of an old one.

Snapshot

Engage

Students participate in a Word Cloud, watch a YouTube clip from "My Lottery Dream Home," and respond with a Commit and Toss.

Explore

Students read or listen to "The Lottery" and take notes using the Tip of the Iceberg strategy.

Explain

Students read "The Dangers of Tradition," and continue the Tip of the Iceberg strategy.

Extend

Students use the Fold the Line strategy to engage in a discussion about tradition.

Evaluate

Students create a One Pager to petition for a new school tradition or the removal of an old one.

Standards

Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts (Grade 9)

9.3.R.7: Students will make connections (e.g., thematic links, literary analysis) between and across multiple texts and provide textual evidence to support their inferences.

Attachments

- Lesson-Slides-the-Lottery.pptx
- The-Dangers-of-Tradition-Bakari-Bosa.docx
- The-Dangers-of-Tradition-Bakari-Bosa.pdf
- The-Lottery-by-Shirley-Jackson.docx
- The-Lottery-by-Shirley-Jackson.pdf
- Tip-of-the-Iceberg-Dangers-of-Tradition.docx
- Tip-of-the-Iceberg-Dangers-of-Tradition.pdf

Materials

- Lesson Slides (attached)
- Tip of the Iceberg Handout (attached; one per student)
- "The Lottery" (linked; one per student)
- "The Dangers of Tradition" (linked; one per student)
- Internet connectivity
- Tablet or laptop
- Pens/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers (for One-Pager)
- Paper (for One-Pager)

35 minutes

Engage

Teacher's Note: Lesson Preparation

Before the lesson, you will need to queue up a Collaborative Word Cloud such as Mentimeter to share out with students so they can participate in the Engage activity.

Introduce the lesson by displaying the title **slide 2** from the attached **Lesson Slides.**

Display **slides 3-4**. Review the essential question and the learning objective.

Display **slide 5**. Explain the Tip of the Iceberg strategy to the class. Distribute or share digitally the attached **Tip of the Iceberg** handout. Direct your students to fill out the tip of the iceberg with words that come to mind when they hear the word "lottery."

Display **slide 6** and let your students know they will be using the notes they just took to create a Word Cloud. At this time, share the link to the Collaborative Word Cloud generator that you set up earlier with the class. As your students type in their examples, guide them to make the observation that the larger the word in the cloud, the more consensus the class has on what "lottery" means to them as a group. *Are there any words that surprise you? Stick out to you? Make you wonder?*

Display **slide 7**. Show the clip from "My Lottery Dream Home."

Embedded video

https://youtube.com/watch?v=kSmZ6G2eHwE

Encourage your students to add any new thoughts to their Tip of the Iceberg handout as they watch.

Display slide 8. Introduce your students to the Commit and Toss instructional strategy. Distribute small strips of paper and ask them to jot down one thing they'd want in their lottery dream home. Once they are done writing, ask students to crumple up their responses and toss them across the room or into an empty box. Have your students choose one and read it aloud, or you can read a few responses to the class.

Explore

Teacher's Note: Lesson Preparation

Prior to the Explore phase, prepare “The Lottery” and “The Dangers of Tradition” for distribution. You may choose to print copies for each student or distribute the links to your students via Internet-enabled devices like phones or laptops. These resources are provided by CommonLit, so you’ll need to sign up for a free subscription to access them.

Display **slide 9.** Distribute or share digitally Shirley Jackson’s short story, “The Lottery.” Direct your students to fill out the waterline portion of their Tip of the Iceberg handout with new thoughts about tradition as they read.

Once your students have completed the reading, have them partner up with someone sitting close to them and share what they thought of the story and how it changed (or didn’t change) their viewpoint on tradition. Ask a few of your students to share out with the whole class if they are comfortable.

Explain

Display **slide 10.** Distribute or share digitally the article, "The Dangers of Tradition." Direct your students to fill out the portion below the waterline in their Tip of the Iceberg handout with new thoughts about tradition as they read.

Once your students have completed the reading, have them partner up with someone sitting close to them and share what they thought of the reading and whether it provided any new insights on traditions to them. Ask a few of your students to share out with the whole class if they are comfortable.

Tell your students that they are going to be using what they learned from *The Lottery* and *The Dangers of Tradition* to help them justify their responses in the next activity.

Extend

Display **slide 11**. Introduce your students to the Fold the Line strategy, and explain to them that they will be engaging in a discussion about tradition.

Display the first prompt on **slide 12.** Direct your students to line up according to how much they agree with the prompt on a scale of 1-5. After they've lined up, instruct the student at the end to "fold the line" by walking to face the student at the front. Have the rest of the line follow the leader, pairing up with the next classmate in line. Each student should be standing across from the classmate who was standing at an opposite position in the line. If there is an uneven number, create one group of 3. Instruct your students to discuss the prompt with their partners.

Display **slides 13-15**, repeating the procedure for each prompt.

Evaluate

Display **slide 16.** Share the One-Pager instructional strategy with your students. Explain to them that they will be creating a One-Pager petitioning for a new school tradition or the removal of an old one.

Display **slide 17,** which illustrates an example of what the students will create. The labeled diagram demonstrates how the student example meets the criteria. Each criterion will appear as you continue to advance the slide to allow you to point out each necessary element of the student's work sample.

- Title of your proposed new tradition or old one you want removed
- Border around the page that includes one major belief you now hold about tradition
- Image representing your new tradition or the old one you want removed
- Three (3) or more questions with the answers included
- A statement arguing for your new tradition or against an old one

Display **slide 18** for students while they are working on their One-Pager. The slide shows both the example and the criteria.

Resources

Bosa, B. (2019). The Dangers of Tradition. Retrieved from CommonLit: https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/fyc-the-dangers-of-tradition

HGTV. (2017, Jan 4). *My Lottery Dream Home with David Bromstead Ep. 1 Preview | My Lottery Dream Home | HGTV.* Retrieved from YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSmZ6G2eHwE&t=5s

Jackson, S. (1948). The Lottery. Retrieved from CommonLit: https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/the-lottery

K20 Center. (n.d.). Collaborative Word Clouds. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/103

K20 Center. (n.d.). Commit and Toss. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/119

K20 Center. (n.d.). Fold the Line. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/171

K20 Center. (n.d.). One-Pager. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/72

K20 Center. (n.d.). Tip of the Iceberg. Strategies. https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/67

Webb, S. (2017, May 15). *Mixed Stones.* Retrieved from Unsplash: https://unsplash.com/photos/xgAcJZRk9_8