



Share My Lesson, an online site for high-quality, free teaching resources, features lessons and instructional units aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Many were written by members of the American Federation of Teachers with support from the AFT Innovation Fund. Featured below are some of the more popular resources that can help teachers as they implement the new standards in their classrooms. For more resources, visit www.sharemylesson.com.

MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Thanks to an AFT Innovation Fund grant, the Chicago Teachers Union Quest Center supported teams of National Board Certified Teachers who wrote four units featured on Share My Lesson: an interdisciplinary unit focusing on informational text for grades K–2; a geometry unit for grades K–3; a unit focused on close reading for grades 3–5; and a high school mathematics unit on quadratics. The quadratics unit prepares students to analyze quadratic and linear functions and to identify key components of the graph of a quadratic equation. This lesson is available at <http://bit.ly/17RSdJJ>.

CINDERELLA AND THE WORLD

The Cleveland Teachers Union, with help from an AFT Innovation Fund grant, supported a team of classroom teachers that wrote lessons for students in grades K–2, with lessons for additional grades to follow. A national expert reviewed each lesson using the EQuIP Rubric, a widely used tool designed to evaluate Common Core materials. One popular example of the work: a first-grade unit, “Cinderella around the World,” in which students compare and contrast multiple versions of the Cinderella story by different authors and from different cultures. Students then retell their favorite version and write an explanation of their choice. The lesson is available at <http://bit.ly/17ICGhp>.

RATIO REVIEW

The Boston Teachers Union, with a grant from the AFT Innovation Fund, created a project called 21st Century Lessons that brings together skilled classroom teachers to collaborate on high-quality lessons aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Each lesson is part of a larger unit, allowing Share My Lesson users to plan for multiple days of instruction. Among the most-viewed items: an “Introduction to Ratios” that begins with a review of simplifying fractions and asks students to represent real-world situations as fractions. Students then are asked to express ratios in three ways (and in simplest terms), to compare a part with the whole, and to explain what terms such as “1 out of 5” mean. This lesson on ratios is available at <http://bit.ly/HMXtDY>.

ANALYZING THEME

The nonprofit Teaching Channel hosts a free online video library that provides educators with practical tools and resources that are organized by subject and grade level (K–12). One of Teaching

Channel’s most popular offerings is a video for grade 6 on how to analyze theme. The lesson’s objective is to understand theme and how it develops throughout a text. It is available at <http://bit.ly/17cOFhi>.

LITERATURE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The Albuquerque Teachers Federation, with support from the AFT Innovation Fund, teamed up with the website Colorín Colorado to create a unit for eighth-grade English language learners that explores Kate Chopin’s 19th-century short story “The Story of an Hour.” Activities include interactive readings, embedded vocabulary instruction, and mini-lessons on literary concepts such as irony. The unit also provides students an opportunity to summarize and paraphrase the story. For an overview, visit <http://bit.ly/17cNZZu>.

UNDERSTANDING RATIONAL NUMBERS

The AFT has a cadre of expert math teachers in all grade levels who served as reviewers and commenters on the Common Core State Standards as they were being written. These teachers have stayed involved with the Common Core, offering comments on the standards and on key documents and tools as they have been created. These teachers have also created Common Core–aligned resources for Share My Lesson. Among them is “Clothesline Numbers—Number Magnitude,” a lesson in which students work with the values and ordering of rational numbers. The objective is to understand the order and absolute value of rational numbers (including negative rational numbers and, in particular, negative integers). The lesson is available at <http://bit.ly/17RSQTu>.

PREREQUISITES OF A TRAGEDY

“The Great Fire” is a lesson for grade 6 that focuses on the Chicago Fire of 1871. The lesson explores the historical truths related to poverty, city construction, and city services that led to the devastating fire. Students are asked to develop an essay that requires them to analyze both nonfiction text and historical context. Contributed by Student Achievement Partners, the resource features an exemplar that models what excellent text-dependent questions and a culminating activity look like over the course of several lesson periods. The exemplar includes an appendix with additional reading, websites, and photos. It is available at <http://bit.ly/PpKFlf>.