

“The Sniper” by Liam O’Flaherty
Suggested Lesson Procedure
Total Time: ~120 Minutes

1) Before Reading (~20 Minutes)

Tell students they will be doing a pre-reading strategy called Story Impressions.

(Story Impressions is a research-supported, evidence-based pre-reading strategy, and it is widely used in literacy instruction because it activates background knowledge and improves engagement, comprehension, and text structure awareness.)

Students will look at words from the story and use them to predict what might happen. Have students write a one-paragraph story using all the words in the order they’re listed. If time allows, ask a few volunteers to read their paragraph aloud.

2) Vocabulary (~20 Minutes)

Review the author’s background and the historical context using the PowerPoint. Then introduce the vocabulary words and have students copy the definitions into their vocabulary charts.

3) Read the Story (~10 Minutes)

Read the short story together as a class.

4) Reading Comprehension Questions (~15 Minutes)

Complete the reading comprehension questions together as a class to ensure students understand the plot.

5) Literary Analysis (~40 Minutes)

Have students work in pairs to complete the literary analysis questions. Give them sufficient time to answer all items, and then either collect their work or review the answers as a class.

6) After Reading (~15 Minutes)

Have students complete the human qualities list, and conclude the activity with a brief whole-class discussion to share ideas.