

PROHUMAN CURRICULUM - GRADE 7

OVERVIEW OF UNITS:

Unit 1	September	Optimism
Unit 2	October	Grit
Unit 3	November	Gratitude
Unit 4	December	Curiosity
Unit 5	January	Courage
Unit 6	February	Compassion
Unit 7	March	Fairness
Unit 8	April	Understanding
Unit 9	May	Humanity

UNIT 7: FAIRNESS

LESSON 1: LEARNING FAIRNESS FROM LITERATURE

SUMMARY:

The Prohuman Grade 7 curriculum is aligned to two sets of standards: [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts](#) and [Character and Social Emotional Development \(CSED\) National Guidelines](#). The full collection of units introduces all nine of the prohuman character strengths: optimism, grit, gratitude, curiosity, courage, compassion, fairness, understanding, and humanity.

In Unit 7, Lesson 1, “Learning Fairness from Literature,” students will learn examples of fairness from a contemporary work of young adult literature, [Ajay and the Mumbai Sun](#) by Varsha Shah. Students will develop their reading comprehension, critical thinking, and writing skills by answering questions about the text. Additionally, students will develop their academic dialogue skills by participating in class discussions.

SUGGESTED TIME:

- 1 class period to introduce the text; 1 class period to discuss the text; if desired, additional class periods can be devoted to in-class silent reading of the text
- The book, [*Ajay and the Mumbai Sun*](#) by Varsha Shah, is 52 chapters and 193 pages.
- The suggested reading schedule is 4 chapters per day, either as in-class reading time or for homework (each chapter is short, between 2 and 4 pages).
- With this schedule, students will complete the book in 13 in-class reading sessions or 13 homework sessions.
- Students can complete the short-answer questions on the worksheet as they read the book.
- Allow at least 50 minutes for in-class discussion of the short-answer questions on the worksheet.

RELATED SUBJECT: English Language Arts

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Read a contemporary work of young adult literature
- Identify and analyze the book's central ideas
- Identify and analyze the book's genre, point of view, characters, setting, and plot
- Write answers to questions about the book, demonstrating an understanding of standard English sentence structure and grammar
- Engage effectively in collaborative discussions about the book

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Book: [*Ajay and the Mumbai Sun*](#) by Varsha Shah
- Prohuman Grade 7 Unit 7 Worksheet 1: Learning Fairness from Literature

VOCABULARY:

Fairness: I treat everyone the same. If someone has been left out, I bring them in.

ELA COMMON CORE STANDARDS MET

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3	Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.	✓

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.C	Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.D	Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.	✓
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	✓

CHARACTER AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL (CSED) NATIONAL STANDARDS MET

Moral Character A2	Understand and explain why it's important to do the right thing, even when no one is looking	✓
Moral Character A3	List and explain the reasons why people sometimes lie, steal, or cheat (e.g., "everybody is doing it")	✓
Moral Character A6	List and explain the reasons why people sometimes do not care or help others	✓

Performance Character A6	Describe a role model who demonstrates a positive attitude, effort, and grit	✓
Civic Character A2	Explain why friends have a responsibility to speak up or take action to prevent or stop others from engaging in disrespectful, dangerous, harmful, or illegal conduct	✓
Civic Character B1	Explain why some citizens do not respect authority or obey rules and laws	✓
Social-Awareness A1	Experience and demonstrate empathy	✓
Social-Awareness A4	Analyze the impact of stereotyping, discrimination, and prejudice (at school, in the community and beyond)	✓
Social-Awareness A5	Practice “perspective taking” as a strategy to strengthen your acceptance of others	✓
Social-Awareness A6	Demonstrate awareness and understanding that despite differences, all people have similar needs, feelings and wants	✓

LESSON PROCEDURE

Step 1:

- Ask students what fairness means.
- Give the definition of fairness: I treat everyone the same. If someone has been left out, I bring them in.

Step 2:

- Explain that we will be reading a contemporary work of fiction, [*Ajay and the Mumbai Sun*](#) by Varsha Shah.
- Explain that book is a good example of an allegory about fairness.
- Ask students to define allegory as a class.
- Provide students with this definition:
 - Allegory: A story, play, poem, picture, or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion, or politics.

Step 3:

- Have students complete the book, either through multiple in-class silent reading sessions, or as homework.
- Students should complete the short-answer questions on the worksheet as they read the book.

Step 4:

- Allow at least 50 minutes for in-class discussion of the short-answer questions on the worksheet.

GRADE 7 UNIT 7 WORKSHEET 1: LEARNING FAIRNESS FROM LITERATURE

Vocabulary

Allegory: A story, play, poem, picture, or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion, or politics.

Fairness: I treat everyone the same. If someone has been left out, I bring them in.

Oligarch: A very rich business leader with a great deal of political influence.

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER AS YOU READ [Ajay and the Mumbai Sun](#) by Varsha Shah:

- 1.) Who are the main characters in this story and what is the dream of each one?
- 2.) How does Ajay demonstrate a positive attitude, effort, and grit?
- 3.) What was the impact of stereotyping, discrimination, and prejudice in this story?
- 4.) Why do friends have a responsibility to speak up or take action to prevent or stop others from engaging in disrespectful, dangerous, harmful, or illegal conduct?
- 5.) In Chapter 20, what is the quote about justice that Niresh shows Ajay? What is the dilemma about fairness that Ajay finds himself in with the factory?
- 6.) In Chapter 32, what is the disagreement Ajay and Jai have about the nature of evil?
- 7.) In this novel, why did some people lie and not care about others?
- 8.) Discuss at least two aspects of this book that show it is an allegory.

- 9.) In Chapter 47, what does Ajay conclude about Jai's belief that "people are worth more than the worst thing they have done"? What role does this belief play in forgiveness?
- 10.) In what ways is there fairness at the end of this story?
- 11.) How can you show fairness to others?
- 12.) Why is it important to do the right thing, even when no one is looking?
- 13.) Write about a time when you did the right thing, even when no one was looking.