

English & Sex Trafficking Lesson Plan

SUBJECT AREA(S)

English / Language Arts /
Literature

TIME

50 – 60 minutes

AUDIENCE

Middle + High School Students

OBJECTIVES

- Learn about sex trafficking in the U.S. and in your city/state/region.
- Learn terminology related to sex trafficking.
- Practice critically analyzing literature and media on human trafficking.
- Practice synthesizing research materials (news articles, national stats, etc.) into a brief, informative essay.

PURPOSE

- To continue exploring the social injustice of sex trafficking.
- To facilitate discussion about sex trafficking.
- To increase knowledge about this issue and the relevance to school-age students.
- To inspire students to be active participants in community change.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS*Anchor Standards for Reading*

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Anchor Standards for Writing

2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

6. Use technology, including the internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

9. Draw evidence from literary and/or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO SEX TRAFFICKING

As an introduction, ask the students to define domestic sex trafficking. Include the activities of each role: sex trafficker (pimp), sex buyer (john), and sex trafficking victim. Write their answers on the board under the three roles.

1. Explain the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000) to the class.

TVPA: “The TVPA of 2000 is the cornerstone of Federal human trafficking legislation, and established several methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting victims and survivors of trafficking. The act establishes human trafficking and related offenses as federal crimes, and attaches severe penalties to them. It also mandates restitution be paid to victims of human trafficking. It further works to prevent trafficking by establishing the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is required to publish a Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report each year. The TIP report describes and ranks the efforts of countries to combat human trafficking. The act also established the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, which assists in the implementation of the TVPA. The TVPA protects victims and survivors of human trafficking by establishing the T visa, which allows victims of human trafficking, and their families to become temporary U.S. residents and eligible to become permanent residents after three years.” (Source: <https://polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws>)

TVPA Definition of Sex Trafficking: a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, OR in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

- **NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18** can sell their body, they are automatically a sex trafficking victim.
- Adults must prove that they were forced to exchange sex for something of value (money, drugs, place to stay, transportation, food, protection, etc.) through means of **FORCE, FRAUD, or COERCION**.
- **FORCE:** can include kidnapping, drugging, physical assault, assault with a weapon, sexual assault.
- **FRAUD:** can include tricking the victim into believe that the trafficker loves her/him; telling the victim s/he is going to be a model or a star, offering to provide basic needs without explaining the true intention or what is required in return.
- **COERCION:** (a) threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; (b) any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or (c) the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (Source: TVPA).

2. Discuss the roles of the sex trafficker (pimp), sex buyer (john), and sex trafficking victim.

Ask students if they are able to discuss what each role entails. Write their answers on the board under the three roles.

Suggested language:

Sex trafficker or pimp: This is the person that recruits victims, through love, force, or event by providing for their basic needs, like food or a place to stay. The sex trafficker or pimp links the sex trafficking victim to sex buyers. This person controls the behavior of the victim and collects the money made from exchanging sex by the victim. Sex traffickers can be extremely violent and will resist the victim's attempt to leave by any means. A sex trafficker can be any gender and can be a mother, friend, boyfriend, or anyone.

Sex buyers: These are most often men who shop for prostituted persons on the street, in strip clubs, in massage parlors, through escort services, and online.

Sex trafficking victims: Victims can be male, female, transgender and of any race and sexual orientation, and of any age – including under the age of 18. They are often lured or romanced into sex trafficking by an older person through promises of money, success/fame, a future together, or through threats of exposure (to parents/friends/school/church).

3. Review the warning signs of a sex trafficking situation.

- S/he's dating an older guy (he might give you the creeps)
- S/he's super secretive about him
- He buys her/him lots of expensive presents
- He made her/him get a weird tattoo
- S/he has lots of unexplained cash
- S/he shops for clothes and stuff you know s/he cannot afford
- S/he has a second cell phone
- You find hotel room keys in her purse
- S/he has cuts and bruises
- S/he has a fake ID
- S/he has been really depressed, nervous, tense or afraid
- S/he misses a lot of school or dropped out of school
- Grades have dropped out of the blue
- S/he runs away a lot and avoids her/his family and friends
- You never know when s/he's telling the truth
- S/he started drinking or doing drugs
- You feel like s/he is brainwashed

Instructions: Conduct research on the issue of sex trafficking in the United States by looking up news articles, national statistics, and organizations that are combatting sex trafficking locally and nationally.

Writing Prompt

Sex trafficking has been called one of the greatest injustices of our time. Write a paper discussing what sex trafficking in the United States looks like and what is being done to combat this social injustice.

Worksheet with Writing Prompt



Expository Essay on Sex Trafficking

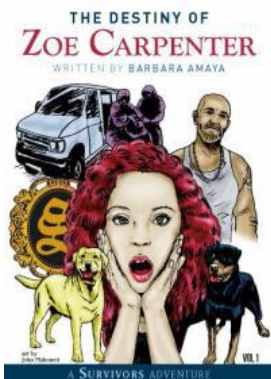
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ASSIGNMENT 3 – Read a Book on Sex Trafficking

Another great option for examining the social injustice of sex trafficking within the context of an English class is to read a book together, either out loud as a class or assign students to read a book on their own time. As a bonus, you could have the students write a letter to the author of the book, discussing the impact that the book had on them. You can send the letters directly to the publisher who will relay the letters to the author.

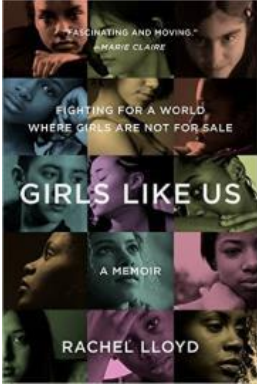
Book Ideas for High School Students



The Destiny of Zoe Carpenter: A Graphic Novel

By: Barbara Amaya

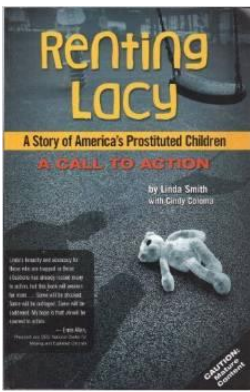
The Destiny of Zoe Carpenter is the first volume in a series of graphic novel that features a heroine named Zoe Carpenter who begins to learn about human trafficking. The graphic novel was written with the intent of teaching individuals in grades k-12 about human trafficking.



Girls Like Us

By: Rachel Lloyd

Girls Like Us Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale is a memoir of sex trafficking survivor Rachel Lloyd who gives readers an in depth look into her experience as well as a general overview of the definition of sex trafficking.



Renting Lacy

By: Linda Smith

The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 13 years old. Forced into a life they never chose, manipulated, abused and tortured at the hands of the pimps who control them, our country's children are sold on the streets, on the internet and at truck stops across America every night.