

## CONSTANCE HALE'S LESSON PLANS FOR TEACHERS

### A note to you.

Are you a teacher trying to help struggling writers perk up their prose? Would you like to learn a little about language yourself as you put together lesson plans for your wards?

Touché! These two suites of lesson plans complement the latest edition of *Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wicked Good Prose*. Whether or not you actually use the book in the classroom, the idea is to share presentations, exercises, and writing prompts that I have developed for workshops all over the country. Some of these exercises and prompts appear in the book as "catechisms." Others I have road-tested with students of varying ages and levels of accomplishment.

The lessons, especially in Suite One, are organized to correspond to chapters of the book, but introductory material at the beginning of each lesson gives you some room to play. Depending on how your classes are organized, you can stretch the lessons out for an entire year or compress them into a semester. You may want to focus on Suite One ("Working With Words" and "Working With Sentences") if you are working especially on grammar. If you are teaching more advanced writers, you might want to skip right to Suite Two ("Making Music"). In some cases, I have given different iterations of exercises for different age levels. When there are handouts or answer keys, they are collected at the end of the chapter. The handouts are available in downloadable PDF form on my website: <http://sinandsyntax.com/teachers/>.

I include some additional reading, especially on verbs, from *Vex, Hex, Smash, Smooch*. (All page numbers will refer to the most recent editions of my books.) I also offer links to related posts and essays I've written for websites.

I am humbly submitting all this to you. You teachers are doing yeoman's work and deserve unending praise. I am not a full-time teacher and have never had to work with core curricula or state or federal guidelines. *You* are the ones to figure out how best to use this material. I just hope it makes your job a little easier.

One caveat and a few pleas: This is a labor of love. I chose to self-publish these lesson plans to keep the cost low for teachers. They have been lightly edited. So please be charitable when you see typos or infelicities. Please send me your corrections, your own ideas, and your feedback on this material. My goal is simply to be as helpful as I can to everyone genuinely trying to teach others to write in a more sophisticated fashion. And to have a little fun in doing so.

Feel free to print pages for your students, but please ask other teachers to download their own copies. This material is copyrighted, and the slight fee is intended to cover some of my hard costs.

Do encourage students or colleagues to visit [sinandsyntax.com](http://sinandsyntax.com) (especially the area for teachers called “Talking School”) and follow me on Twitter and Facebook. I’m trying to build a community of those who care about language.

Enjoy, and keep in touch!

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