

Lesson plan for the chapter titled: Moira Smith (A Love Story) in *Women in Blue*.
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Audience: Used for an 8th grade language arts classroom

Common Core Standards:

Reading informational text:

8.1 - Cite textual evidence to support your ideas, draw inferences based on text

8.2 -Determine a central theme

Writing:

8.1 - Write arguments to support claims

Speaking

8.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

Driving Questions for the Unit:

-How can one event impact and / or unite a nation or community?

-What three words would you choose to describe a leader / hero and why?

Objectives:

-Students will read and respond to the opening quote by John Kerry.

-Students will read the chapter *Moira Smith* from Women In Blue.

-Students will analyze and discuss the chapter.

Starting quote: (Quick Write to start class)

-Project the following quote for students to see. Students will do a quick write as they work to explore the quote - 5 minutes to write (What strikes you about this? What are your first thoughts or reactions? What do you think or remember and why? What other connections can you make with the text?)

John Kerry, "It was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us."

-Students will discuss their ideas with either a partner or the class. Key point of discussion is how can something so bad bring out the best in everyone?

Then discuss the idea of being a leader / hero. Define it and give examples. Explain that this quote was stated in regards to 9-11. It will also tie into the chapter that they will read.

As you read the chapter or as they read the chapter with a partner, explain that they will be reading about a woman named Moira Smith. The opening pages (72 - 76) talk about her

experiences growing up. Pages (77- 81) talk about her and 9-11.

Digging Deeper

Double Journal entry

As you read the chapter or as they read the chapter with a partner, explain that they will be reading about a woman named Moira Smith. The opening pages (72 - 76) talk about her experiences growing up. Pages (77- 81) talk about her and 9-11.

Double Journal Entry Assignment

The left side must contain a minimum of 3 quotes or lines from the chapter. If it is a particularly large selection, you may paraphrase it.

The right side must analyze why you feel this is an important part of the chapter. You can respond to questions such as:

- What strikes you about this? Why?
- What was your first thought when you read this? Why?
- What does the passage / idea make you think of or remember? How / Why?
- Do you want to agree or disagree with a statement that was made?
- How do you feel about this?
- What else have you read / heard / or experienced that connects with the author's ideas?

Remember each response should be at least 2 or more sentences. Explain your ideas.

Quote	Explanation

As students read or listen to pages 72-76 have them focus on text that would show she was developing leadership skills. Then have them write their explanations.

Then read 77 to 81. Have them focus on the leadership / heroism she had in a time of crisis. Once again look for text to and then support their ideas. They may also be looking at text that may give them more information on 9-11.

When they finish, they can use their quotes for discussion. Have them discuss what they thought of Moira Smith prior to 9-11. How would these events, skills, or attitudes help prepare her for something like the events of 9-11? How did she show heroism during 9-11? (Just a few questions to think through).

Then:

Tie in back to the opening quote:

John Kerry, “It was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us.”

How does this apply to Moira Smith?

Students can write an explanation or discuss their ideas as a wrap up activity.

Extended ideas:

- Do more research on Moira Smith.
- Explore 9-11 and others that made an impact during this time (leadership / heroism).
- Read other chapters in the book to see how other women have shown courage / leadership / heroism through other events and time periods.



WOMEN IN BLUE

16 Brave Officers, Forensics Experts,
Police Chiefs, and More



CHERYL MULLENBACH

WOMEN OF ACTION