

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of the themes and concepts presented in "The Demon In The Freezer" by Richard Preston, including the implications of bioterrorism, the history of smallpox, and the importance of scientific research in public health.

Materials and Prep

- Copy of "The Demon In The Freezer" by Richard Preston
- Notebook or journal for reflections
- Pens or pencils
- Access to a computer or device for research (if needed)
- Whiteboard or large paper for brainstorming ideas

Before the lesson, the student should read the first few chapters of the book to familiarize themselves with the main ideas and characters. It may be helpful to note any questions or thoughts they have while reading.

Activities

- **Discussion Circle:**

Start with a group discussion where the student shares their initial thoughts about the book. Encourage them to express their feelings about the themes of fear and scientific responsibility. This will help them articulate their understanding and engage critically with the text.

- **Character Mapping:**

Create a character map that outlines the main figures in the book and their roles. This visual representation will help the student connect with the characters and understand their motivations and relationships throughout the story.

- **Research Project:**

Assign a mini-research project on a related topic, such as the history of smallpox, the development of vaccines, or bioterrorism. The student can present their findings in a creative format, such as a poster, PowerPoint, or even a short video.

- **Creative Writing:**

Encourage the student to write a short story or a diary entry from the perspective of a character in the book. This exercise will help them explore the emotional depth of the narrative and develop their creative writing skills.

Talking Points

- "What do you think makes smallpox such a significant topic in our history? It's not just about the disease; it's about how we respond to threats."
- "Consider the idea of bioterrorism. How does it change the way we view science and medicine? Can you think of other examples?"
- "Richard Preston writes about fear and responsibility. How do you feel about the scientists in the book? Do you think they are heroes or just doing their job?"
- "What role does public health play in our lives? Why is it important to learn about diseases that have been eradicated?"

- "How does the story make you feel about the balance between scientific advancement and ethical considerations? Where do you think we should draw the line?"