Lesson plan 10.1

An example of a lesson plan identifying a specific text objective and a conceptual objective. These are the two points under ‘lesson outcomes’.

**Time/length:** 50 minutes

**Topic/focus:** Setting in *Cloudstreet*

**Subject:** Literature

**Year Level:** 12

**Context:** Students have read *Cloudstreet* and are studying elements of the construction of the novel preparatory to producing an essay on an aspect of the novel of their choice.

EQUIPMENT/RESOURCES

Recording of the hymn ‘Shall we gather at the river’

SYLLABUS OBJECTIVE

* How specific literary elements and forms shape meaning and influence responses (ACELR059)

LESSON OUTCOMES

* Interpret the role of the river in *Cloudstreet*
* Understand that setting can have a symbolic function in many texts

ASSESSMENT OF LESSON OUTCOMES

* Students’ notes and participation in discussion

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| Time | Steps |
| **5 minutes** | **Engagement**  Play a recording of the hymn ‘Shall we gather at the river’, after asking students to listen for the purpose of deciding how the river is represented in the song. Class callout of words or phrases to complete the sentences ‘The river is a place of …’ or ‘a place where …’  Draw attention to the use of the first lines of the song as the epigraph for *Cloudstreet*. |
| **5 minutes** | **Set reading purpose**  Which of the identified ideas apply to the way the Swan River is represented in the novel? Are there other ways in which it is represented? |
| **20 minutes** | **Group reading and discussion**  Divide class into five groups; each group to undertake a close reading of a specific passage and collect quotations which support an idea from the song or another idea:   * Opening scene * ‘The River’ – Quick and Fish on their journey from Fremantle * ‘Ticking’ – Quick and Oriel bond while prawning * ‘Hypothetical, as the Smartbums Say’ – Quick and Rose meet on the river * ‘Moon Sun Stars’ – Fish’s death |
| **10 minutes** | **Sharing**  Each group presents a summary of its findings orally and posts its notes on a class blog for other groups to access |
| **10 minutes** | **Explicit teaching**  Concept of symbolism. Examples of setting playing a symbolic role in other texts: winter in *Narnia*, valley of ashes in *The Great Gatsby*, the moors in *Wuthering Heights*, the jungle in *Lord of the Flies*. |