

Lesson Plan *for*
Marvelous
Middle Grade
Reads

Amal Unbound

Written by Aisha Saeed

Puffin Books

978-0-399-54469-9 | Trade Paperback

240 pages | \$8.99 | Lexile HL600L

**LESSON FOCUS**

Complex character analysis

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

This lesson focuses on comparing two characters from an excerpt. Authors develop complex characters in order to tell a whole story. Students will examine how two characters experience the same incident, use the same verbiage, and yet come to different conclusions.

LEARNING TARGETS

Students will compare two characters from an excerpt, paying close attention to:

- The character's role in the story
- What is motivating their actions
- What choices they make
- How they respond to the incident
- What opinions the reader might have of each character

MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
- Multiple Character Analysis chart

SUMMARY

Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate. The compelling story of a girl's fight to regain her life and dreams after being forced into indentured servitude.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1: Introduce *Amal Unbound* to students.
- Step 2: Read chapter 10 aloud with students.
- Step 3: Introduce the Multiple Character Analysis chart (direct instruction or review). Students will analyze an incident in which Amal was involved. Explain the questions readers should ask when analyzing multiple characters.
- Step 4: Review the events of chapter 10. Fill in thoughts on the Analysis Chart.
- Step 5: Read chapter 11 together. Do not pause to fill in the chart; rather read the chapter completely and then go back for a closer read. Record thoughts in the Analysis Chart for Chapter 11.
- Step 6: Allow students to work on an Analysis Chart for Chapter 13 independently and share with partners when complete.

MULTIPLE CHARACTER ANALYSIS: CHAPTER 10

Character	Role in the story / chapter	Motivating actions	What choice did the character make?	How does this character react with other characters?
Amal	Oldest daughter in her family. Needed to go to the store.	Amal wanted to get out of the house and get away from her younger sibling. She wanted a break from helping her mother recover from childbirth and watching her sisters.		

What initial reaction do you have of Amal? Of the man who hit her with his car?

Recreate the chart above on a separate piece of paper to analyze Amal and Amal's father in chapter 11. What is your reaction to Amal and Amal's father? Has your initial reaction changed?