

Lesson 2: Introducing the Novel

What's on for today and why:

To introduce Marita Golden's novel *A Woman's Place* and give the students a strong background about the content. By talking about the author and giving some background on the setting as well as how this book relates to the unit we will get the students comfortable with the novel, which should help them to want to understand and ask questions.

What to do:

1) First distribute the novel and have the students flip through it while everyone gets one. With the novel hand out the assignment sheet explaining which parts of the novel are due when with the accompanying work.

2) Then start talking about the setting of the novel by asking the students what they know about the last forty years. On the board write each decade as a heading and list the information as the students suggest it. Then go back and point out the information that is most useful in relation to the novel. Encourage the students to write these lists in their notebooks and refer back to them when reading the novel.

3) With the time remaining give the students some background about Marita Golden and ask them to see if they can make any connections between the information about the author you are giving them and the lists they just finished putting into their notebooks.

4) For homework have the students read pages 1-27 in *A Woman's Place*. Ask that they begin a journal about the novel to keep any pertinent information they think they might forget as well as any thoughts they have about each chapter.

How did it go?

With any luck you will have had students who were making connections and asking questions about the information you gave them. If so, you will have succeeded in sparking their curiosity and giving them some incentive to want to read the novel as well as helped them to a better understanding when they do read it. The reading journal should help them organize their thoughts about the novel and focus any questions they have since the class discussions will not cover every chapter and will definitely not be focusing on plot.