

PIER Summer Institute 2017 – Submitted by Diana Hossain

Lesson Plan for ESL 165 (Reading and Writing – 3rd level)

Title: Exploring *the sense of belonging* in Gabeba Baderoon’s poetry and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Americanah

Objectives:

1. To explore and subsequently evaluate *the sense of belonging* demonstrated by two African writers
2. To synthesize *one’s own sense of belonging* as students living in another culture

Activities:

1. Definition, discussion and understanding of the “sense of belonging” (What does it mean to belong to a culture? What are the challenges of belonging, non-belonging, and refusing to belong?)
2. Close reading of two of Baderoon’s poems – *Poetry for Beginners* and *Focal Length*¹ (What is belongingness and how is it expressed in *Focal Length*? What does it mean to have a sense of purpose?)
3. Close reading of selected scenes from Adichie’s novel, Americanah. (What is social belonging? Social non-belonging?) Scenes include topics on yearning, loneliness, returning home, relationships, adaptation, ambiguity and contradiction. Scenes for close reading are on the following pages of the novel, Americanah: pages 160, 241, 317, 359, and 373
4. Extraction from readings of examples of belonging, non-belonging, and refusing to belong
5. Journal writing that explores students’ sense of belonging as it compares to Baderoon and Adichie (Can you relate to Baderoon’s and Adichie’s sense of belonging as it applies to your own life?)
6. Student creation of class blog that allows for sharing of ideas relevant to *sense of belonging*.

Outcomes:

1. To be able to critically think, speak, and write about *the sense of belonging* and how it relates to an individual’s place in the world
2. To better understand one’s own sense of place in a culture

¹ Gabeba Baderoon. “Focal Length; Poetry for Beginners; ID Photos.” *Feminist Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1, 2015, pp. 134–137., www.jstor.org/stable/10.15767/feministstudies.41.1.134.

