

POSTSECONDARY LEVEL

LESSON PLANS TO ACCOMPANY

“Melville and Orwell: Two Sides of Empire”

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1. Name three books that George Orwell wrote. Which is his most famous?

2. When did Herman Melville write Moby Dick? What is the plot of this book?



3. How does the author say these two authors are similar? What do they share that T.S. Eliot does not share?

4. What is the author's thesis?

5. What does the author use as proof or support for his argument?



6. How did Melville and Orwell grow up? How does the author say that their life experiences affected their writings?

7. How does Melville's writing change over the course of his lifetime? How is *Typee* different from *Moby Dick* in its portrayal of different cultures?



8. What is the “empire theory of literature?” Do you agree with it?

9. In which quadrant of the author’s color wheel of empire does “*The Great Gatsby*” fit? Why? Where does “*Of Mice and Men*” fit? Where does “*Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*” fit? Why?



10. How do Melville and Orwell depict animals in their writings? What does this have to do with empire?

