

3–7 Grade ELA Lesson Plan

Creature Clinic by Gavin Aung Than

Grade Levels

3–7

Time

45–60 minutes

Common Core State Standards (CCSS ELA)

- **RL.3–7.1:** Ask and answer questions using evidence from the text.
 - **RL.3–7.2:** Determine the theme or central message.
 - **RL.3–7.3:** Describe how characters respond to challenges and change over time.
 - **RL.3–7.6:** Explain how a character's point of view influences events.
 - **RL.3–7.7:** Analyze how illustrations contribute to the mood, meaning, and characterization in a graphic novel.
 - **W.3–7.3:** Write narratives using descriptive details, dialogue, and clear event sequences.
 - **W.3–7.1:** Write opinion pieces supported with reasons and evidence.
 - **SL.3–7.1:** Participate effectively in collaborative discussions.
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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze Kara Orc's character development as she faces difficult ethical decisions.
 - Explore themes of compassion, empathy, courage, acceptance, and doing what is right.
 - Use evidence from both the text and illustrations to support their ideas.
 - Examine how graphic novels use visual storytelling to build emotion and conflict.
 - Write a narrative about making a difficult choice with kindness and integrity.
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Essential Questions

- What does it mean to do the right thing?
- Should rules ever be questioned?
- How can compassion change the way we treat others?
- How do illustrations help readers understand characters' emotions and conflicts?

Materials

- *Creature Clinic* by Gavin Aung Than
 - Character Decision Graphic Organizer
 - Sticky Notes
 - Chart Paper
 - Writing Journals or Notebook Paper
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Vocabulary

- Compassion
 - Empathy
 - Integrity
 - Ethics
 - Courage
 - Perspective
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
 - Inference
 - Graphic Novel
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Before Reading (10 minutes)

Activate Prior Knowledge

Ask students:

- Have you ever had to choose between following a rule and helping someone?
- Why do doctors, veterinarians, and caregivers help others?
- What does it mean to show compassion?
- Can someone disagree with a rule and still be respectful?

Students complete a **Think-Pair-Share**, followed by a whole-class discussion.

During Reading (25 minutes)

Character Decision Tracker

Students follow Kara's journey.

Story Event	Kara's Choice	Evidence (Words & Pictures)	What Kara Learns
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Encourage students to notice:

- Facial expressions
- Dialogue
- Body language
- Visual clues
- Relationships with her mother
- How other mythical creatures respond
- Moments when Kara must make difficult decisions

Class Discussion

Discuss:

1. Why is Kara determined to help the human patient?
2. What makes Kara's decision difficult?
3. How does Kara's relationship with her mother change throughout the story?
4. How do the illustrations help readers understand Kara's emotions?
5. What lesson does the story teach about kindness and courage?

Mini-Lesson

Character vs. Character and Character vs. Society

Explain that stories often include different types of conflict.

Create a class anchor chart.

Kara's Conflicts

Character vs. Character

- Kara and her mother
- Kara and those who distrust humans

Character vs. Society

- The clinic's rules
- Long-held beliefs about humans

Discuss how these conflicts help develop the story's theme.

Collaborative Activity (10–15 minutes)

Ethics Committee

Divide students into small groups.

Present this scenario:

A mysterious creature arrives at the clinic needing help, but helping them breaks an important rule.

Groups discuss:

- What should the clinic staff do?
- Why?
- What are the possible consequences?
- How can compassion and responsibility work together?

Each group presents its recommendation and supports it with reasons.

Writing Activity (20–25 minutes)

Writing Prompt

Imagine you are a doctor, veterinarian, or healer at Creature Clinic. One day, someone arrives who is not supposed to be there but desperately needs your help. Write a story describing the difficult decision you face, the people you meet, the challenges you overcome, and how your actions show compassion, courage, and integrity. Include descriptive details, dialogue, and explain what you learn from the experience.

Extension Activities

Grades 3–4

Create a Mythical Patient

Invent a mythical creature visiting Creature Clinic.

Include:

- Creature name

- Special abilities
 - Symptoms or injury
 - Treatment plan
 - Illustration
 - A short paragraph explaining how the creature recovers
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Grades 5–7

Opinion Writing

Write an essay answering:

Did Kara make the right decision?

Support your opinion with evidence from the story.

Graphic Novel Project

Create a six-panel comic showing:

- A new patient arrives
 - A difficult decision
 - Team members disagree
 - A creative solution
 - The patient recovers
 - The lesson learned
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Assessment

Formative

- Class discussions
 - Character Decision Organizer
 - Group collaboration
 - Reading observations
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Summative Writing Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Ideas	Thoughtful and detailed	Clear	Developing	Limited
Organization	Well organized	Mostly organized	Some organization	Difficult to follow
Text Evidence	Strong support	Some support	Minimal support	No evidence
Conventions	Few errors	Some errors	Frequent errors	Many errors

Exit Ticket

Students answer one question:

- What made Kara's decision difficult?
- What does compassion look like in the story?
- How did Kara change by the end of the book?
- What advice would you give Kara before she made her decision?

Differentiation

Support

- Partner reading
- Graphic organizers
- Sentence starters
- Teacher-guided discussion
- Visual vocabulary cards
- Read-aloud support, if available

Extension

- Compare *Creature Clinic* with another story in which a character must choose between following rules and helping others.
- Rewrite an important scene from Kara's mother's point of view, explaining her concerns and how her perspective changes.
- Research a mythical creature featured in the book and create an informational poster describing its origins, characteristics, and role in folklore.

Cross-Curricular Connections

Science: Compare fictional mythical creatures with real animals. Discuss how veterinarians diagnose and care for animals and explore the similarities between veterinary medicine and human medicine.

Art: Design an original mythical creature and create a patient chart that includes an illustration, habitat, special abilities, and treatment plan.

Health: Learn about the roles of doctors, nurses, veterinarians, and other healthcare professionals, emphasizing empathy, responsibility, and ethical decision-making.

SEL: Discuss how kindness, fairness, and compassion can guide difficult decisions, even when those choices are unpopular or challenging.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Connection

Students reflect on:

- Empathy
 - Compassion
 - Courage
 - Integrity
 - Respect for differences
 - Responsible decision-making
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Big Idea

Creature Clinic reminds readers that true courage is shown through compassion and integrity. Kara's journey teaches that helping others sometimes requires difficult choices, and that empathy can bridge differences, challenge unfair assumptions, and inspire positive change. Through kindness and ethical decision-making, students discover that doing what is right often means seeing others not for their differences, but for their shared need for care and understanding.