**PAIDEIA SEMINAR LESSON PLAN**

**Text: “Superman and Me” by Sherman Alexie**

**Grade / Subject: 5th Grade / Literacy**

**Ideas, Values: Duty, Education, Equality, Knowledge, Perseverance, Power**

**Pre-Seminar Content**

* **Launch Activity:** Write about a time you’ve struggled to overcome a challenge.
* **Background:** Sherman Alexie background info/Annotation lesson
* **Inspectional read:** Read “Superman and Me” and discuss text connections to launch activity writing assignment. (*perseverance*)
* **Vocabulary Development:** prodigy, extended metaphor, figurative language;

Review unfamiliar vocabulary in the text as identified by students.

* **Analytical read:** Using Annotation Chart, work in small groups to read and annotate the text. (Scaffold by annotating first 2 paragraphs as a whole group.)

Prepare *SOAPSTone* and *Bridge Map* graphic organizers.

**Pre-Seminar Process**

Define and state purpose for Paideia Seminar.

Describe the responsibilities of facilitator and participants.

Have participants set a Personal Goal.

Agree on a Group Goal.

**Seminar Questions**

**Opening**: (Round Robin) Choose one word or phrase (from the text or your own choice) to summarize the main idea of “Superman and Me.” Why did you choose this word/phrase?

**Core** (Analyze textual details.): Challenge students to cite text evidence.

* Who is the audience for the essay?
* Based on evidence from the text, describe the expectations for learning on the Indian reservation.
* Explain why Alexie was not considered a child “prodigy.”
* Utilizing the illustrations from the text, explain the connections between Superman’s and Alexie’s lives.
* Alexie uses the phrase “aching devotion” (last sentence, paragraph 2) to describe his relationship with his father. What inferences can we make about their relationship?
* Provide an example of figurative language in paragraph three. Explain why the author uses this type of figurative language.
* What is the effect of Alexie’s analogy of a paragraph to a fence? How does this expand on his idea of enclosure and release in both the fourth and eighth paragraphs?

**Closing** (Personalize and apply the textual ideas.):

After reading and discussing “Superman and Me,” do you have any text-to-self connections with the idea of persevering to achieve in the face of challenges?

# **Post-Seminar Process**

Reflect/evaluate on the established Group Goal

Have participants reflect/evaluate their Personal Goal.

Transition to writing task.

**Post-Seminar Content**

* **Transition to Writing**: Review concept of extended metaphor and use in text.
* **Writing Task:** In Sherman Alexie’s essay, “Superman and Me,” Alexie uses an extended metaphor to explain the connection between him and the fictional character Superman. Write an essay in which you explain the metaphor and trace how it develops throughout the essay.
* **Brainstorm:** Bridge Map Graphic Organizer (for analogies; relating factor)
* **Structuring the Writing:** TIDE Graphic Organizer
* **First Draft**: Plug the relating factors found on your Bridge Map into the TIDE graphic organizer to outline your paragraphs. Write a rough draft.
* **Collaborative Revision:** Peer Writing Review Sheet (check for text evidence!)
* **Edit:** Using peer feedback, revise/edit accordingly; check for claim/argument and supporting text evidence.
* **Publish:** Type final draft.