

DRACONIM LACRIMA MORTIS

Teacher’s Guide

Grades 8-12

Curriculum Connections

- Environmental Science
- English Language Arts
- Social Studies/Civics
- Media Studies
- Art
- Indigenous Studies

Content Advisory

- Environmental disasters
- Corporate/government cover-ups
- LGBTQ+ themes (handled sensitively)
- Some emotional intensity
- Complex scientific concepts

Unit Overview

This guide provides a 4-6 week unit plan integrating multiple subject areas.

Pre-Reading Activities

1. Environmental Awareness

- Students document local environmental changes
- Research recent environmental disasters
- Create “state of the environment” presentations

2. Background Knowledge Building

- Study chemical dispersal patterns
- Learn about northern lights
- Explore Indigenous perspectives on nature
- Study youth activism movements

During-Reading Activities

1. Chapter Response Journals

Students maintain journals addressing:

- Plot development
- Character evolution
- Environmental themes
- Personal connections
- Scientific concepts
- Symbolic elements

2. Scientific Connection Worksheets

- Chemical pollution tracking
- Ecosystem effects
- Forest fire ecology
- Weather patterns
- Environmental monitoring

3. Literary Analysis

- Symbolism (dragons, dragon glass, fire)
- Character development
- Theme tracking
- Setting analysis
- Narrative structure

4. Media Literacy

Examine:

- Social media activism
- Information sharing
- News coverage
- Public response
- Corporate communication

Cross-Curricular Activities

Science

1. Chemical Reactions
 - Study chemical dispersal
 - Analyze pollution patterns
 - Explore atmospheric science
2. Ecosystem Studies
 - Forest fire ecology
 - Water pollution effects
 - Food chain disruption
 - Habitat loss

Social Studies

1. Activism Study
 - Youth movements
 - Environmental protests
 - Social media campaigns
 - Corporate responsibility
2. Indigenous Perspectives
 - Traditional ecological knowledge
 - Land stewardship
 - Cultural connections to nature

Art

1. Visual Interpretation
 - Dragon designs
 - Northern lights
 - Environmental damage visualization
 - Book scene illustration
2. Mixed Media Projects
 - Pollution visualization
 - Environmental change documentation
 - Activist art creation

English Language Arts

1. Writing Assignments
 - Character analysis essays
 - Environmental journalism pieces
 - Personal reflection essays
 - Creative writing responses
2. Discussion Topics
 - Environmental responsibility
 - Individual vs. collective action
 - Youth empowerment
 - Family dynamics
 - Personal identity

Assessment Ideas

1. Project-Based Learning

- Environmental action plans
- Community awareness campaigns
- Research presentations
- Art installations

2. Written Assignments

- Analysis essays
- Journal responses
- News articles
- Creative writing

3. Group Projects

- Environmental campaigns
- Scientific studies
- Community action plans
- Artistic collaborations

Sensitive Content Advisory

Primary Themes

1. Environmental Trauma

- Descriptions of environmental disasters
- Animal deaths and illness
- Habitat destruction
- Long-term environmental damage
- Community health impacts

Note: Some students may have personal experience with environmental disasters or health impacts from pollution.

2. Corporate/Government Misconduct

- Cover-ups of environmental damage
- Corporate negligence
- Government complicity
- Public deception

Note: May challenge students’ trust in institutions or raise concerns about their own communities.

3. LGBTQ+ Content

- Character coming out as gay
- Family acceptance/concerns
- Social pressures
- Identity concealment

Note: Important to handle with sensitivity, particularly in diverse classrooms or communities with varying views.

4. Mental Health Considerations

- Anxiety about environmental issues
- Social pressure and stress
- Identity struggles
- Emotional overwhelm

5. Indigenous Content

- Traditional knowledge
- Sacred sites
- Cultural perspectives
- Historical mistreatment

Teaching Recommendations

1. Classroom Management

- Establish safe discussion guidelines
- Allow students to opt out of sensitive discussions
- Provide alternative assignments if needed
- Create support systems for affected students

2. Parent Communication

- Inform parents of content in advance
- Provide opt-out options for sensitive discussions
- Share resources for further discussion at home
- Be available for parent concerns

3. Support Resources

- Have counseling resources available
- Provide environmental action resources
- Share LGBTQ+ support information
- List cultural support services

Professional Considerations

- Know your school’s policies on sensitive content
- Be aware of community standards
- Have administration support
- Document your approach
- Stay within professional boundaries

Resources Needed

1. Classroom Materials

- Book copies
- Science equipment
- Art supplies
- Technology access

2. Digital Resources

- Environmental websites
- Scientific databases
- News sources
- Social media platforms

3. Community Connections

- Environmental organizations
- Indigenous educators

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- Local activists
- Scientific experts

Important Themes to Emphasize

- Environmental responsibility
- Youth empowerment
- Scientific understanding
- Cultural respect
- Personal growth
- Community action

Note: This guide can be adapted based on grade level, subject focus, time available, student needs, local context, and available resources.