

Lesson Plan – Portuguese (12th Grade)

Theme: Simplicity as a revelation of the world — Reading and recreating Alberto Caeiro through storytelling

Author / Work: Alberto Caeiro (The Keeper of Sheep, The Loving Shepherd)

Duration: 2 lessons of 60 minutes each

Class: 12th grade (17–18 years old)

Domain: Literary Education – Portuguese Modernist Poetry (Fernando Pessoa – Heteronyms)

Learning Objectives

- Understand the specificity of the heteronym Alberto Caeiro within Fernando Pessoa's work.
- Identify the main themes, motifs, and stylistic features of Caeiro's poetry.
- Develop expressive reading, interpretation, and oral argumentation skills.
- Apply storytelling principles to literary reading and creative text production.
- Use artificial intelligence critically and creatively in literary exploration.
- Value simplicity and sensory perception as forms of poetic knowledge.

Specific Competencies

- Read and interpret literary texts from Portuguese heritage.
- Relate formal and thematic aspects to the author's worldview.
- Produce creative and reflective texts, integrating digital tools.
- Express oneself orally with accuracy and expressiveness.
- Use AI ethically, critically, and responsibly in educational contexts.

Content

- Fernando Pessoa: the heteronymic project.
- The heteronym Alberto Caeiro: fictional biography, style, view of nature.
- Themes: sensory naturalism, simplicity, rejection of metaphysics, pure perception of the world.
- Poems: The Keeper of Sheep (I, IX, XXXIX); The Loving Shepherd.
- Storytelling: poetic narrative and the narrator's voice.
- Ethical and creative use of artificial intelligence in literary contexts.

Timing and Activities

Lesson 1 – The voice of nature

1. Introduction and motivation (10 min)

- Brief presentation of the heteronyms; expressive reading of an excerpt from The Keeper of Sheep.
- Guiding question: “If nature could tell its story, what voice would it have?”

2. Guided reading and interpretation (20 min)

- Collective reading and analysis of poems I and IX; discussion on sensory perception and Caeiro’s concept of “knowing.”

3. AI Activity – “Talking with Caeiro” (15 min)

- In pairs, students use an AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT or Copilot) to simulate a dialogue with Alberto Caeiro.
- Suggested prompt: “Imagine you are Alberto Caeiro. Answer as he would: what does it mean to see the world with simplicity?”
- Students then discuss whether the AI’s response reflects or distorts the heteronym’s philosophy.

4. Storytelling – “Giving voice to nature” (15 min)

- Groups create short 1–2 minute micro-narratives where natural elements speak as Caeiro’s disciples.
- Oral presentation of the stories.

Lesson 2 – Caeiro’s disciple today

1. Review and initial reflection (10 min)

- Discussion: “Is it easy to see the world without thinking?”

2. In-depth reading and analysis (20 min)

- Reading of poems XXXIX and The Loving Shepherd; guided discussion (love, nature, transcendence).

3. Creative storytelling – “Caeiro’s disciple in the 21st century” (25 min)

- Students write or narrate a short text imagining a modern disciple of Caeiro in the urban, technological world.

4. Summary and self-assessment (5 min)

- Reflection on what they learned about Caeiro, simplicity, and the use of AI.

Teaching Resources

- Selected poetic texts.
- Images of natural elements.
- Board, projector, speakers.
- Support worksheet with excerpts and guiding questions.
- Devices with AI access (computers, tablets, smartphones).
- Teacher-provided guide for ethical and responsible AI use.

Assessment

Type: formative and continuous.

Instruments:

- Observation grid for oral participation and group cooperation.
- Record of written or oral productions (storytelling and AI dialogue).
- Final self-assessment (oral or short written reflection).

Criteria:

- Critical and well-grounded interpretation of texts.
- Clarity and expressiveness in oral communication.
- Creativity and coherence in poetic voice recreation.
- Ethical and critical use of AI as a learning support tool.

Extension / Optional Project

Creation of a “Diary of Caeiro’s Disciple,” with short poetic narratives written throughout the sequence.

Each text represents a simple, sensory observation of daily life — a collective anthology of the class, optionally including AI-generated responses that students critically rewrite.