

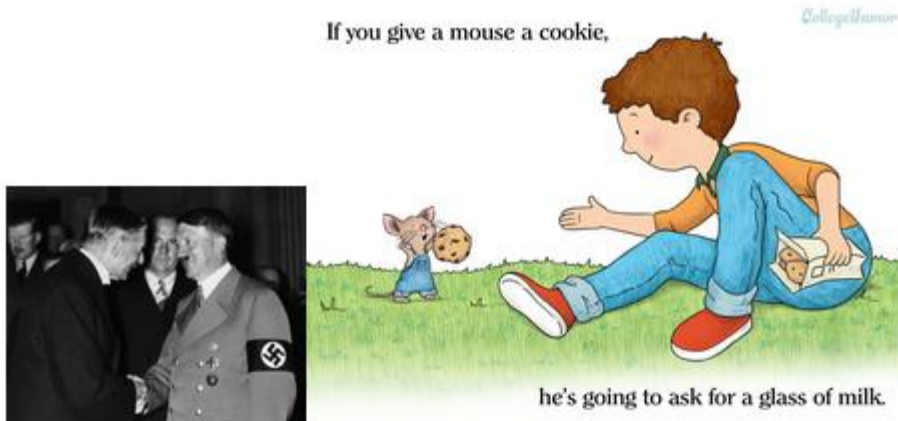
## Appeasement in WWII and Today

<b>Created On</b>	06/20/2016	<b>Type of Contribution</b>	General Instruction Strategy
<b>Last Modified</b>	06/20/2016	<b>Technology Needed</b>	Overhead projector
<b>Class Time</b>	30 minutes-full class period		

### Summary:

Students examine and discuss the Allies' policy of appeasement leading up to WWII through a reading of the classic children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie..." followed by a Socratic Seminar. Lesson also relates WWII to the present.

### Teacher Instructions:



1. Note: This lesson is ideal after students have some background knowledge regarding events leading up to the Second World War, specifically on German aggression and French and British policies towards that.

2. Obtain a copy of the children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Numeroff. Depending on the class, either read it aloud or provide students with scanned/electronic copies.

"If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" read aloud.

3. Discuss the message of the story with students, considering the author's intention in writing it, intended message etc.

4. Shift towards the events leading up to WWII, focusing on the now infamous "Munich Agreement" and the appeasement it has been associated with. Provide students with the handout "Hitler Appeased at Munich."

5. Ask students to research and find one modern example in which the lessons of appeasement could be, or are, applied today. (China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, etc) In preparation for the question(s): "To what degree do the lessons of appeasement gained from WWII apply to today" and "Should American presidents take the lesson of "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" to heart?"

6. Have students conduct a Socratic Seminar (inner circle/ outer circle etc.) in which they spend approximately 10-15 minutes on each of the aforementioned questions. Some good ideas to explore might be, is appeasement always bad? can it avoid war? is peace always preferable to war, or vice versa? NOTE: It is suggested that the class have some experience or understanding what a Socratic Seminar is and how it works in order for the best chance of an insightful and valuable discussion. For teachers with little to no experience with Socratics, the attached pdf under teacher resources may help.

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**Teacher Resources:**  
[Socratic-Seminar AVID \(1\).pdf](#)

**Student Handouts:**  
[Hitler Appeased at Munich.docx](#)  
[Socratic Seminar Appeasement.docx](#)

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**Credits:**

The AVID program.