

ELA 8 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessments
<p>Introduction to Literary Elements Moral Growth UNIT 1</p> <p><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> Non-fiction essays</p> <p>Short videos</p>	<p>Identify literary elements and their purposes.</p> <p>Identify theme.</p> <p>Understand the importance of social historical context and setting of the novel <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>.</p> <p>Explore identity and stereotypes as they relate to prejudice.</p> <p>Reflect on right vs. wrong, the law, democracy, conscience, and how the novel is still relevant today.</p>	<p>Reading: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close read for deep comprehension of specific chapters - Recognize key similarities and differences to non-fiction texts - Question the narrator's bias and reliability - Make inferences regarding what motivates characters' actions and words - Understand the effect symbolism has on a novel - Identify and present commentary on writers' craft. <p>Writing: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect on specific pieces of literature - Take notes on a central question throughout our reading and our discussions - Engage in reflective writing in order to enrich their reading experience - Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents reveal aspects of a character and propel the action - Write a cohesive essay with textual evidence and analysis <p>Speaking & Listening: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively listen and respond to others in discussions - Contribute and clarify their views to advance understanding - Formally present their ideas to the class <p>Language: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words using the context and reference materials - Use Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word 	<p>Literary Analysis Essay (Imagery) Literary Analysis Essay (Characterization) Literary Analysis Essay (Setting)</p> <p>Thematic Essay (<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>).</p>

<p>Historical Fiction UNIT 2 <i>Private Peaceful</i></p> <p><i>WWI Poetry</i></p> <p><i>To A Mouse</i></p> <p><i>Selected Short Literature</i></p>	<p>Understand the protagonist's journey: empathize with him and recognize his dilemma.</p> <p>How structural techniques impact the novel's theme.</p> <p>The social-historical context and plot challenges the protagonist's as well as the reader's previous understanding.</p>	<p>Reading: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make meaningful inferences - Demonstrate how setting/context can influence the book's theme - Identify what a motif is and how it contributes to an overall theme <p>Writing: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Write and revise autobiographical vignettes - Use various figurative language including similes, metaphors, personification and analogies - Create imagery through use of the five senses - Implement character, plot structure and conflict in their own narrative piece - Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description and reflection <p>Speaking & Listening: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively listen and respond to others in discussions - - Contribute and clarify their views to advance understanding - - Formally present their ideas to the class <p>Language: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling - Understand figurative language - Recognize repetition, alliteration, hyperbole - Use a dash to indicate a pause or break - Incorporate correct use of dialogue 	<p>Collection of written vignettes</p> <p>Essay on Symbolism</p>
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<p>Small Group Novel Study. UNIT 3</p> <p><i>Selected Novels</i></p>	<p>Literature can be identified as belonging to more than one genre.</p> <p>A story's complexity and the readers are impacted by the way an author intentionally structures the story</p> <p>Groups discussing literature often arrive at interesting conclusions about plots and themes.</p>	<p>Reading: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand how a multi-genre novel can create multiple interpretations - Recognize the author's use of fantasy elements and how they serve as a mirror to life events in this genre - Research literary references to examine the author's intention - Compare and contrast the structure of two texts and analyze how the differing structure contributes to its meaning and style - Analyze how memory influences a narrative <p>Speaking & Listening: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Practice responding to texts and peers while making meaningful contributions in small and whole-class discussions - Design, construct, and deliver a presentation of findings from within a novel. <p>Language: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling - Make similarities and differences clear through precise comparisons and transitions - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words using the context and reference materials 	<p>Socratic Seminar</p>
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<p>Research Writing UNIT 4</p> <p><i>Current events and selected non-fiction texts</i></p>	<p>Determining acceptable sources.</p> <p>Using statistics in writing.</p> <p>Preparing arguments and using support.</p> <p>Cross-curricular involvement in research and topics.</p>	<p>Reading: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find a variety of rich resources including primary documents - Take notes on various sources and learn how to synthesize - Recognize how everyday newspapers and magazines rely on research <p>Writing: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a research question that involves an injustice - Paraphrase, use experts' quotes, case studies, facts, and statistics to support their arguments - Write arguments which build on one another in a logical and convincing manner - Write a thesis statement that reflects their essay - Use the opposition to make an argument more convincing - Write an effective introduction and conclusion - Incorporate relevant background information - Write a formal research paper with MLA citations and an MLA Works Cited page - Conference and revise their writing over an extended period of time <p>Speaking & Listening: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider how they can make a difference and serve as an advocate for their subject (possibly doing community service) - Prepare an oral presentation for their peers on their advocacy project - Respond to their peers' questions - Closely listen and evaluate their peers' arguments. <p>Language: Students can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling - Use a variety of sentences including compound and complex - Use commas, semicolons, and colons correctly - Acquire and use accurately academic and domain-specific words and phrases - Use transitions effectively to help build their points - Use third-person 	<p>Research Paper</p>
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