

English 11/12

Power of Language

Syllabus

Course Description:

How does language affect our everyday lives, dreams and world views? Students will learn about the power of language through covering the California state standards for Grades 11 and 12. They will begin this course by reading various influential poems of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries and then move on to reading the novel Fahrenheit 451, various influential short stories, the dramatic play Raisin in the Sun, the novel Beloved, various Shakespeare plays and various and foundational non-fiction pieces. They will learn how to determine themes of a text and analyze their development, objectively summarize, and cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says as well as inferences drawn from the text. Students will write four MLA-format essays: analytical, narrative, expository and persuasive. They will write three original works of fiction, one original work of nonfiction, and publish at least two of these pieces.

Students will analyze the impact of the author's choices in a story or drama, determine meanings of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings, examine sarcasm and irony. They will analyze and write dialogue, and practice various writing styles, such as stream of consciousness. They will analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama and poems. They will expand vocabulary by playing games and studying Greek and Latin root words, prefixes and suffixes.

To incorporate and develop a range of writing, students will write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for various purposes, incorporating figurative language, dialogue, and stream of consciousness. They will create three works of original short fiction, engage in writer's workshops to strengthen these pieces, write a short script and create poetry incorporating art. These writer's workshops also strengthen listening and speaking skills. Students will create various presentations, present their findings in front of an audience, practice speaking skills, work in groups to strengthen communication and collaboration skills, and create eight blogs. They will create websites, an online literary journal and use 21st technology such as Jamboard, Google Sites, Google Docs, Google Classroom.

Students will study non-fiction, including seminal and foundational U.S. documents and texts, and evaluate a speaker's POV. From time to time, we will be collaborating with other classes, such as Passion Project, U.S. History and Government.

And. . .I promise, students will have fun!!

Course Reading:

Literature, poetry, drama and non-fiction covered: 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Various short stories, including Last Night of the World by Ray Bradbury, and Hills Like White Elephants by Hemingway

Various poems, including Emily Dickinson, William Wordsworth, T.S Eliot, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman

Various plays: Raisin in the Sun by Hansberry, Shakespeare

Various Nonfiction: Braiding Sweetgrass by Kimmerer, Black Boy by Richard Wright, Society and Solitude by Ralph Waldo, Take the Tortillas Out of Your Poetry by Anaya and seminal U.S. documents

Course Outline:

Semester 1

Unit 1: Found Art Poem Collage

Life of the Poet

Life of the Poem

Poetry Presentations

Fahrenheit 451 Reading, review and analysis

Website Creation and Blog Post #1

Writer's Workshop: Taxi Piece

Unit 2: Fahrenheit 451 Reading, review and analysis

Writer's Workshop: Prisoner Piece

Blog Post #2

Writer's Workshop: Polishing original short stories

Analytical Essay for Fahrenheit 451: Rough Draft

Vocabulary games

Unit 3: Analytical Essay for Fahrenheit 451: Second Draft

What is irony and theme?

Stream of Consciousness analysis and original writing

Blog Post #3

Writer's Workshop: Polishing original short stories

Personification poetry art piece using collage

Vocabulary games

Unit 4: Analytical Essay for Fahrenheit 451: Final Draft

Mock Election: Review and discussion of issues

Study dialogue in terms of short stories Hemingway's Hills Like White Elephants and Bradbury's Last Night of the World

Examine word choice and overuse of adverbs
Consult general and specialized reference materials (thesauruses)
Polish short fiction and apply better word choices, reduce adverbs
Analyze dialogue by studying short films, Shawshank Redemption, and movies of students' choices

Unit 5: Write short script for one of Chaplin's silent films

Blog Post #4

Latin and Greek root words, suffixes and prefixes lesson

Create collages to begin imagined narrative

Write imagined narrative: Tell My Story

Writer's Workshop: Share Tell My Story

Background, history and impact of Raisin in the Sun

Read and analyze Raisin in the Sun

Semester 2

Unit 6: Raisin in the Sun final analysis

Creation of online literary journal for school

Publication of at least one original short story (if not all three) in online literary journal

Blog Post #5

Latin and Greek root words, suffixes and prefixes lesson

Animal group names: Visual Representation Art Project (word choice practice)

Non-fiction various readings, including Kimmerer's Braiding Sweetgrass and
Thoreau's Walden

Conduct short research project for expository essay

Expository Essay, Rough Draft (may be based on blog)

Writer's Workshop: Original Non-fiction

Unit 7: Expository Essay, Second Draft

Reading and analysis of Beloved by Toni Morrison

Persuasive Essay, Final Draft

Blog Post #6

Ted Talk Analysis: Evaluation of a speaker's POV,

Writer's Workshop: Original Non-fiction

Presentations

Unit 8: Presentations

Reading and analysis of Beloved by Toni Morrison

Persuasive Essay, Rough Draft

Reading and analysis of 17th, 18th and 19th foundational and seminal U.S. documents

Reading and analysis of 17th, 18th and 19th British literature

Conduct short research project for persuasive essay

Writer's Workshop: Original Non-fiction

Blog Post #7

Unit 9: Take the Tortillas Out of Your Poetry by Anaya

Poetry, including Amanda Gorman and Shakespeare

Persuasive Essay, Second Draft

Analysis of 17th, 18th and 19th literature, including Shakespeare

Writer's Workshop: Original Fiction

Blog Post #8

Unit 10: Syntax analysis through various works of fiction (Frederick Douglas, Toni Morrison, Zora Hurston, Jamaica Kincaid, Sandra Cisneros, James Joyce)

Consult general and specialized reference materials (rhyming dictionaries, thesauruses)

Writer's Workshop: Original piece, fiction or nonfiction

Publication of at least one additional original short story or nonfiction piece in online literary journal

Expository Essay, Final Draft

Grading:

30% Group Discussions/Reflections (including two class presentations)

50% Weekly Assignments (including Analytical, Narrative, Expository and Persuasive essays)

20% Three original fiction pieces, one non-fiction and two publications