
Coal City Unit District #1
AP English Literature and Competition
Language Arts Curriculum

Essential Understanding: Characters in literature allow readers to study and explore a range of values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, and cultural norms represented by those characters.

Skill 1 - Explain the function of character.

- 1A Identify and describe what specific textual details reveal about a character, that character's perspective, and that character's motives.
- 1.B Explain the function of a character changing or remaining unchanged.
- 1.C Explain the function of contrasting characters.
- 1.D Describe how textual details reveal nuances and complexities in characters' relationships with one another.
- 1.E Explain how a character's own choices, actions, and speech reveal complexities in that character, and explain the function of those complexities.

Enduring Understanding: Setting and the details associated with it not only depict a time and place, but also convey values associated with that setting.

Skill 2 - Explain the function of setting.

- 2.A Identify and describe specific textual details that convey or reveal a setting.
- 2.B Explain the function of setting in a narrative.
- 2.C Describe the relationship between a character and a setting.

Enduring Understanding: The arrangement of the parts and sections of a text, the relationship of the parts to each other, and the sequence in which the text reveals information are all structural choices made by a writer that contribute to the reader's interpretation of a text.

Skill 3 - Explain the function of plot and structure.

- 3.A Identify and describe how plot orders events in a narrative.
- 3.B Explain the function of a particular sequence of events in a plot.
- 3.C Explain the function of structure in a text.
- 3.D Explain the function of contrasts within a text.
- 3.E Explain the function of a significant event or related set of significant events in a plot.
- 3.F Explain the function of conflict in a text.

Enduring Understanding: A narrator's or speaker's perspective controls the details and emphasizes that affect how readers experience and interpret a text.

Skill 4 - Explain the function of the narrator or speaker.

- 4.A Identify and describe the narrator or speaker of a text.
- 4.B Identify and explain the function of point of view in a narrative.
- 4.C Identify and describe details, diction, or syntax in a text that reveal a narrator's or speaker's perspective.
- 4.D Explain how a narrator's reliability affects a narrative.

Enduring Understanding: Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text.

Skill 5 - Explain the function of word choice, imagery, and symbols.

- 5.A Distinguish between the literal and figurative meanings of words and phrases.
- 5.B Explain the function of specific words and phrases in a text.
- 5.C Identify and explain the function of a symbol.
- 5.D Identify and explain the function of an image or imagery.

Enduring Understanding: Comparisons, representations, and associations shift meaning from the literal to the figurative and invite readers to interpret a text.

Skill 6 - Explain the function of comparison.

- 6.A Identify and explain the function of a simile.
- 6.B Identify and explain the function of a metaphor.
- 6.C Identify and explain the function of personification.
- 6.D Identify and explain the function of an allusion.

Enduring Understanding: Readers establish and communicate their interpretations of literature through arguments supported by textual evidence.

Skill 7 - Develop textually substantiated arguments about interpretations of part or all of a text.

- 7.A Develop a paragraph that includes 1) a claim that requires defense with evidence from The text and 2) the evidence itself.
- 7.B Develop a thesis statement that conveys a defensible claim about an interpretation of literature and that may establish a line of reasoning.
- 7.C Develop commentary that establishes and explains relationships among textual evidence, the line of reasoning, and the thesis.
- 7.D Select and use relevant and sufficient evidence to both develop and support a line of reasoning.
- 7.E Demonstrate control over the elements of composition to communicate clearly

Enduring Understanding: Readers can deepen and expand their interpretation of literature by applying different academic frameworks, each of which highlights particular assumptions, values, perspectives, and meanings within a text.

Skill 8 - Apply various academic frameworks to part or all of a text.

- 8A. Identify various academic frameworks.
- 8B. Research and summarize various academic frameworks.
- 8C. Apply various academic frameworks to analyze literature.

Enduring Understanding: Effective readers and writers of literature use precise academic and literary vocabulary to analyze complex texts, communicate nuanced interpretations, and construct sophisticated written arguments.

Skill 9 - Identify and utilize appropriate vocabulary.

- 9A. Acquire and use accurately academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level.
- 9B. Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Note: All of these Enduring Understandings and Skills are directly pulled from the College Board's AP Literature and Composition framework except for # 8 and 9 which are Coal City High School specific.