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## American Literature 1B

### Course Description

In English 11B (American Literature 1B), students explore American literature themes of nature, ethnicity, gender, culture, family, and identity. The texts offer diverse perspectives in history, culture, class, geography, age, gender, and sexual orientation. Literature of various genres (short story, novel, poetry, autobiography, testimony, nonfiction) guides students to a better understanding of people of many cultural backgrounds. Students develop critical as well as creative thinking, writing, and communication strategies and skills as they examine the literary treatment of human relations in a multicultural society.

Creative and analytical writing projects, vocabulary terms, newsgroup contributions, and self-guided activities enhance the learning process. Students can listen to audio segments of authors reading their works, and watch video clips that explore the writing process, responses to literature, author profiles, and multicultural themes. Throughout the course, students are directed to numerous websites for further information. Discussion group activities in each unit enable students to communicate with their teacher and peers about course content.

### Overview

#### Unit 1 – Changes

- Lesson 1: Coming to America
- Lesson 2: Neighborhoods
- Lesson 3: Families

#### Unit 2 – Nature

- Lesson 1: Conservation
- Lesson 2: Harmony
- Lesson 3: Struggles

#### Unit 3 – Connections

- Lesson 1: Heritage
- Lesson 2: Friends
- Lesson 3: Community

#### Unit 4 – Choices

- Lesson 1: Partnerships
- Lesson 2: Identity
- Lesson 3: Acceptance

## Objectives

Students completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- Explore, interpret, analyze, and respond to major themes in American literature of diverse genres (short story, novel, poetry, drama, nonfiction, testimony, and autobiography) and diverse perspectives (history, culture, geography, age, gender, sexual orientation, and class).
- Explore, interpret, analyze, and respond by reading, writing, and discussing.
- Experience writing as a form of thinking, self-expression, and communication through reading other writers' works and through their own writing.
- Incorporate grammatical and compositional information when writing.
- Develop multicultural awareness through reading, reflection, application, and writing.
- Gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others, and critically examine their own beliefs and attitudes through reading and discussion.
- Increase their computer skills through word processing, navigating the course, participating in online class discussions, communicating by email, and conducting Web searches.
- Increase their awareness of the World Wide Web as an educational and informational resource.
- Develop a sense of class membership, using the Internet to communicate with their instructor and classmates.

## Activities and Assessments

- **51 Writing Assignments** – Within each unit, students do notebook exercises to gain a deeper understanding of the literary texts that is vital to successful completion of the course. These exercises are not graded.
- **12 Online Discussion Group Activities** – Before completing each unit, students participate several times in the course discussion group. They may respond to questions about the literary texts or to their classmates' contributions. The teacher evaluates the students' contributions to the discussions and provides grading and feedback.
- **4 Unit Quizzes** – There is a quiz at the end of each of the four units. Students will have two opportunities to take each quiz, and the higher score will be recorded. Quizzes are computer-graded and provide students with instant feedback on their work.
- **8 Unit Projects and 1 Final Project** – At the end of each unit, students will complete two writing projects – one creative writing and one comparative analysis. At the conclusion of the course, students will complete a final comparative analysis of two of the literary texts in the course. The instructor will provide grading and feedback on all of the projects.