
English 9B

Course Description

English 9B takes an analytical approach to reading and writing. In Unit 1, students explore the novel as fictional prose literature. Students are introduced to the characteristic traits of science fiction, realism, and fantasy genres, and they analyze how a writer's effective use of inference, action sequence, and tone can help readers draw logical and accurate conclusions about a story based on the written text alone.

In Unit 2, students explore nonfiction narratives including excerpts from famous personal journals, autobiographies, and personal narratives. Students write a personal narrative in which they use carefully selected incidents, focused details, analysis, and reflection to convey a meaningful experience.

In Unit 3, students analyze speeches by Sojourner Truth, Martin Luther King, Jr., and John F. Kennedy to discover how carefully chosen words, combined with effective speaking techniques, have resulted in some of the most powerful, persuasive messages in history. Students apply what they have learned by writing and delivering their own persuasive speeches.

In Unit 4, students learn and practice research strategies and techniques, including how to skim and scan materials, how to make note cards, and how to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of resources. Techniques for text citations and bibliographies/works cited are also emphasized. Students complete a research paper on how media impacts pop culture.

Throughout the course, students are directed to relevant websites for author biographies and to explore topics such as media literacy, evaluating information sources, and citation methods. Discussion group activities enable students to communicate with their teacher and peers about course content.

Overview

Unit 1 – Fictional Narrative Prose Literature: The Novel

- Lesson 1: Science Fiction
- Lesson 2: Realism
- Lesson 3: Fantasy
- Lesson 4: Experiencing a Choice Novel

Unit 2 – Nonfiction Narrative Prose Literature

- Lesson 1: Nonfiction Narratives: Journals
- Lesson 2: Nonfiction Narratives: Autobiography
- Lesson 3: Characteristics of a Personal Narrative

Unit 3 – Expository Prose Literature

- Lesson 1: Expository Prose Literature: Speeches
- Lesson 2: Analyzing Strategies of Effective Speeches

Unit 4 – Research

- Lesson 1: Research Strategies
- Lesson 2: Evaluating and Documenting Resources

Unit 5 – Poetry

- Lesson 1: Narrative Poetry: The Ballad
- Lesson 2: Narrative Poetry: The Epic
- Lesson 3: Narrative Poetry: The Romance

Objectives

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

- Analyze a literary selection to identify the descriptive words and events the author used to create a tone or atmosphere for the story.
- Define the literary terms "novel" and "genre" and identify several novel genres, including science fiction, realism, and fantasy.
- Identify various methods authors use to order or sequence events in a story, including chronological (time), flashbacks, simultaneous, and a chain of events.
- Identify several genres of nonfictional realism, including autobiographies, biographies and memoirs, and personal narratives.
- Identify the kinds of detail that should be incorporated into a personal narrative to reveal the narrator, convey the action, build suspense, establish emotion, and heighten imagery.
- Write a personal narrative that reflects meaning and significance about a life experience.
- Analyze how Sojourner Truth's 1851 speech "Ain't I a Woman" was a rebuttal to the claim that women were inferior to men and should not be given equal rights to vote or own property.
- Observe the deliveries of the JFK, King, and Truth speeches and analyze how each particular manner of delivery shapes the speech message and affects the audience: the use of pauses, vocal inflections, voice qualities, and body language, including eye contact and gestures.
- Identify the historical, literary, and spiritual allusions employed in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and in John F. Kennedy's 1961 Inaugural Address, and explain their effectiveness.
- Recognize and understand the purposes of research, and apply research techniques to a research paper.
- Identify historical and religious references when examining the poetic text of Homer's epic, the *Odyssey*, and explain how these references aid the understanding of the story, the time period, and the poet's intent and/or purpose.
- Identify the three primary forms of poetry as "narrative," "dramatic," and "lyric," and explain the intent or purpose of each.
- Identify the three genres most commonly recognized as narrative poetry, including the "ballad," "epic," and "romance," and explain the similarities and differences among them.
- Identify the common characteristics of narrative poetry, including subject matter conveyed through words and phrases arranged in metric lines of verse to provide a distinct rhythm, and stanzas displaying a distinct number of lines having a rhyming pattern, and/or a refrain.
- Examine the text of a ballad and analyze how the poet's choice of words, worked into a rhyme scheme and rhythmic pattern, can add sensory dimension to the storytelling.
- Read the text of a given ballad to identify the setting and the speaker, and to summarize the actions and the details of the story.
- Explain necessary background information, identify characters and setting, and summarize the action and details of a romance tale written in poetic text.
- Identify historical, religious, and literary allusions when examining the poetic text of a given romance tale, and explain how these references enhance understanding of the story and its intended message and theme.
- Identify any devices of sound, including rhythm, rhyme, repetition/refrain, and word sounds like alliteration and onomatopoeia, when analyzing the poetic text of a given romance tale, and explain their use to enhance the meaning and the mood of the poem.
- Read the text of a given ballad to identify the setting and the speaker, and to summarize the actions and the details of the story.

Activities and Assessments

- **11 Writing Assignments** – Throughout the course, students demonstrate their understanding of English concepts by completing writing assignments. The teacher grades these assignments and provides feedback.
- **6 Online Discussion Group Activities** – In selected lessons in each unit, students participate in group discussions of topics relevant to the material covered. The teacher evaluates the students' contributions to the discussions and provides grading and feedback.
- **6 Quizzes and 2 Examinations** – Students periodically take quizzes over topics covered in the lessons. In addition, there are two exams that evaluate students' comprehension of the material presented in the course units. All of these assessments are computer-graded and provide students with instant feedback on their work.