

Contemporary Literature Syllabus

Contemporary Literature builds on skills developed in previous courses and includes informational and complex narrative reading; analysis of story elements; use and understanding of literary devices; making predictions and inferences, and evaluating text for organizational structures. This course focuses on three main units with supplemental texts to support them. The course also includes 75 Vocabulary words and a variety of grammar topics associated with the ACT, which are included as part of a final for the course.

Unit 1: Coming of Age Narrative (6 weeks)	Unit 2: Memoir/Nonfiction (6 weeks)	Unit 3: Dystopian/Sci Fi (6 weeks)
<p>Text: <i>Mosquitoland</i> by David Arnold (Lexile 750), Pages 336</p> <p>ELOs/Standards: ELOs 1-4, 9, 11, 12, 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Themes and Central Ideas: Identity, Friendship, Family, Home, Quest/Journey, Mental Illness, BlindnessCharacters, setting, conflicts, etc. in literary texts.Comprehend independently and proficiently in literary textsAuthor’s perspective or point of view: MimContent VocabularyWriting Process and Modes: Narrative StorytellingSupport ideas with citations from the book <p>Activities & Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sticky notes looking for the following: allusions; connections to self, other texts, and the real world; figurative language (similes, idiom, metaphors, personification, alliteration, hyperboles, oxymorons, onomatopoeia, etc.); indirect characterization; quotes/passages; symbols; themes; and vocabulary.Journal EntriesBook ReviewSocratic SeminarsReading Checks	<p>Text: <i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover (Lexile 970), Pages 352</p> <p>ELOs/Standards: ELOs 5-8, 9, 11, 12, 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Themes and Central Ideas: Education, Memory, Delusion, Family, AbuseDevelopment and interaction of individuals, ideas, and events in nonfiction textsComprehend independently and proficiently in nonfiction textsAuthor’s perspective or point of viewContent VocabularyWriting Process and Modes: Memoir WritingPresent information, findings, and supporting evidence <p>Activities & Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pre-Reading Activity - Study of Ruby Ridge with DocumentaryGroup PresentationsSilent DiscussionsReading Checks	<p>Text: <i>Bruiser</i>, <i>Unwind</i>, and <i>Scythe</i>, by Neal Shusterman (Lexile 740, 830, and 820), Pages 337, 435, and 328</p> <p>ELOs/Standards: ELOs 1-4, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evaluate themes and political/social messages in literary textsDevelopment and interaction of individuals, ideas, and events in literary textsComprehend independently and proficiently in literary textsAuthor’s perspective or point of viewContent VocabularyWriting Process and Modes: Dystopian WritingCommunicate collaborativelySupport ideas with citations from the novel and secondary sources <p>Activities & Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly Group Discussions w/Roles (Director, Summarizer, Passage Analyst, Vocabulary Enricher)Weekly Activities: (1) Author Study, (2) Literary Components (characters, setting, conflicts), (3) Themes & Political/Social MessagesFinal Presentation

[Link to Class Rules and Procedures](#)