English/Literature
Curriculum Unit Overview
British Literature (Grades 11-12)

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Curriculum Development Hub

Unit 1 Beowulf

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Course Title: British Literature	**Course Author:** Gregory Walzer	**Grade Level(s):** 11-12	**Time/Duration:** Year

Course Summary: (optional) This course offers an immersive journey through the rich tapestry of British literature, spanning from the heroic epic of Beowulf to the tragic drama of Macbeth. Students will delve into timeless tales that have shaped English literature and culture, exploring themes of heroism, chivalry, morality, and the human condition.

Course Summary:

1. Beowulf:
    - Introduction to the Old English epic poem Beowulf, focusing on its historical context, themes, and literary techniques.
    - Analysis of the heroic code and the portrayal of heroism in Anglo-Saxon society.

- Exploration of the epic's characters, including Beowulf, Grendel, and the dragon.
- Discussion of the poem's relevance and influence on later literature and popular culture.

2. The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer:
   - Examination of Chaucer's masterpiece, The Canterbury Tales, within the context of medieval England.
   - Study of the frame narrative and the diverse cast of characters on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.
   - Analysis of themes such as social satire, religion, love, and human nature.
   - Exploration of Chaucer's use of language, humor, and irony in portraying medieval society.
3. The Legend of King Arthur:
   - Survey of the Arthurian legend, focusing on its evolution over time and its significance in British folklore.
   - Study of key Arthurian texts, including Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory and selected medieval romances.
   - Analysis of themes such as chivalry, honor, fate, and the quest for the Holy Grail.
   - Examination of the enduring appeal of the Arthurian legend in literature, art, and popular culture.
4. Macbeth by William Shakespeare:
   - Exploration of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth, examining its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.
   - Analysis of Macbeth's tragic flaw and the moral consequences of ambition and power.
   - Examination of the supernatural elements, including the witches and the theme of fate vs. free will.
   - Discussion of the play's portrayal of gender roles, guilt, and the nature of evil.

Throughout the course, students will engage in close reading, critical analysis, and discussion of primary texts, secondary sources, and relevant cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the development of British literature and its enduring impact on contemporary society.

Unit Name: Beowulf	**Unit Number:** 1	**Created:** 2023-2024	**Revised:** TBD

Standards Addressed:

Studying "Beowulf" in a high school English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum addresses several Pennsylvania state standards. These standards encompass reading comprehension, critical analysis, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Here are specific standards addressed through the study of "Beowulf":

Reading Literature (CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.A:
   - Key Ideas and Details: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on the text.

        - *Analyzing "Beowulf" involves close reading to understand themes, character development, and plot, requiring students to support their analyses with textual evidence.*
2. CC.1.3.11-12.B:
    - Analyze Themes and Central Ideas: Determine and analyze themes and/or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
        - *Themes such as heroism, the struggle between good and evil, and the importance of reputation are central to "Beowulf" and students must track their development throughout the epic.*
3. CC.1.3.11-12.C:
    - Analyze Complex Characters: Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.
        - *Students explore how the poet develops complex characters like Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Grendel, and how their actions and motivations drive the narrative.*
4. CC.1.3.11-12.D:
    - Analyze Structure: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning.
        - *Examining the structure of "Beowulf," such as its use of episodic adventures and digressions, helps students understand how narrative techniques contribute to the overall meaning.*
5. CC.1.3.11-12.E:
    - Analyze Point of View: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
        - *Exploring different perspectives within the poem, including the heroic code and the influence of fate, helps students understand the complexity and depth of the narrative.*

Writing (CC.1.4)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.M:
    - Write Literary Analyses: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
        - *Students may write essays analyzing key themes, character arcs, and motifs in "Beowulf," demonstrating their understanding through structured and evidence-based writing.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.S:
    - Draw Evidence from Texts: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
        - *Analytical writing assignments require students to support their arguments with direct evidence from "Beowulf."*

Speaking and Listening (CC.1.5)

1. CC.1.5.11-12.A:
    - Collaborative Discussions: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
        - *Class discussions on "Beowulf" help students articulate their interpretations and respond to the perspectives of their peers, fostering collaborative learning.*
2. CC.1.5.11-12.D:
    - Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective.
        - *Students might present their analyses of key characters, themes, or the historical context of "Beowulf" to the class, demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of the texts.*

Language (CC.1.4 and CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.F:
    - Analyze Figurative Language: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
        - *"Beowulf" is rich in figurative language, including kennings, alliteration, and metaphor. Students analyze these elements to understand their impact on the poem's meaning and tone.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.R:
    - Develop a Style Appropriate to Task and Audience: Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.
        - *Writing assignments on "Beowulf" require students to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling, ensuring their analyses are clear and professionally presented.*

Research (CC.1.4.11-12.V and CC.1.4.11-12.W)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.V:
    - Conduct Short Research Projects: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
        - *Students may conduct research projects on the historical context of "Beowulf," examining how the epic reflects the culture and values of the Anglo-Saxon period.*

2. CC.1.4.11-12.W:
    - Gather Relevant Information from Multiple Sources: Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience.
        - *Research assignments involve gathering information from various sources about the historical background, literary significance, and cultural impact of "Beowulf."*

By engaging with "Beowulf," students meet these standards through activities that involve critical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion, and in-depth examination of literary elements, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of this foundational work of English literature.

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?

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Big Ideas:

1. Heroism and Bravery: The poem celebrates the virtues of heroism, courage, and bravery, embodied by the protagonist Beowulf. It explores what it means to be a hero and the sacrifices one must make for the greater good.
2. Good vs. Evil: Central to "Beowulf" is the timeless struggle between good and evil. Beowulf confronts various monsters like Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon, representing the forces of darkness and chaos that threaten civilization.
3. Fate and Destiny: The concept of fate is prevalent throughout the poem. Beowulf accepts his destiny and faces his challenges with resolve, reflecting the belief that one's fate is predetermined, and courage lies in facing it head-on.
4. Leadership and Kingship: The poem explores the qualities of effective leadership and the responsibilities of kingship. Beowulf's leadership qualities, such as bravery, loyalty, and generosity, set him apart as a heroic figure and potential king.
5. Identity and Reputation: Characters in "Beowulf" often define themselves and others based on their deeds and reputation. Beowulf's reputation precedes him, influencing how others perceive and interact with him.
6. Loyalty and Kinship: Loyalty to one's lord, tribe, and kin is a recurring theme in the poem. Beowulf and his men exemplify the bonds

of loyalty and kinship through their unwavering support for each other in the face of danger.

7. Mortality and Immortality: The poem grapples with the human condition, mortality, and the desire for immortality through fame and legacy. Beowulf seeks to establish his legacy through his heroic deeds, but ultimately, death comes for everyone.
8. Power and Glory: "Beowulf" explores the pursuit of power and glory, both as personal motivations and societal values. Beowulf's quest for fame and glory drives much of his actions, but the poem also warns of the dangers of hubris and excessive pride.
9. Cultural Values and Norms: The poem provides insights into the cultural values and norms of the Anglo-Saxon society it portrays. These include concepts of honor, hospitality, vengeance, and the importance of oral tradition in preserving history and culture.
10. Christianity vs. Paganism: "Beowulf" exists at the intersection of Christian and pagan worldviews. While the poem incorporates Christian themes and references, it also reflects the pagan beliefs and traditions of its time, offering a complex portrayal of religious syncretism.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

Through the study of "Beowulf," students will be able to independently use their learning to develop and apply a range of analytical, interpretive, and reflective skills. Here are the key abilities students will gain and be able to use independently:

1. Literary Analysis

- Textual Analysis: Students will be able to closely read and analyze texts, identifying key themes, motifs, and literary devices used in "Beowulf."
- Character Analysis: Students will independently analyze complex characters, such as Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Grendel, understanding their motivations, development, and symbolic meanings.
- Theme Exploration: Students will explore and articulate major themes, such as heroism, good vs. evil, and fate, and understand how these themes are developed throughout the narrative.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Contextual Analysis: Students will contextualize "Beowulf" within its historical and cultural background, understanding the values, beliefs, and societal structures of the Anglo-Saxon period.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the themes and values presented in "Beowulf" compare to those of contemporary society, providing insights into both historical and modern cultural dynamics.

3. Comparative Literature Skills

- Genre and Tradition: Students will compare "Beowulf" with other epic narratives and literary traditions, understanding its place within the

broader context of epic literature.
- Influence and Legacy: Students will explore how "Beowulf" has influenced subsequent literature and culture, identifying connections and references in modern works.

4. Critical Thinking and Interpretation

- Interpretive Skills: Students will interpret various elements of the poem, such as symbolism, allegory, and myth, developing their own interpretations supported by textual evidence.
- Critical Perspectives: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations, developing their ability to critically assess and articulate their own viewpoints.

5. Writing and Communication

- Analytical Writing: Students will produce analytical essays that present clear, well-supported arguments about the text, demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of "Beowulf."
- Discussion and Debate: Students will engage in discussions and debates about the text, articulating their ideas and responding to the perspectives of others with reasoned arguments.

6. Moral and Ethical Reflection

- Ethical Analysis: Students will analyze the ethical and moral dilemmas presented in "Beowulf," such as the nature of heroism, the consequences of vengeance, and the complexities of leadership.
- Personal Reflection: Students will reflect on how the moral lessons and ethical questions in "Beowulf" relate to their own lives and contemporary ethical issues.

7. Language and Translation Appreciation

- Understanding Language Evolution: Students will appreciate the linguistic features of Old English and understand the challenges of translating "Beowulf" into modern English.
- Translation Analysis: Students will compare different translations of "Beowulf," understanding how language choices can affect the interpretation and meaning of the text.

8. Creativity and Imagination

- Creative Projects: Students will undertake creative projects inspired by "Beowulf," such as writing their own epic poems, creating artwork, or developing multimedia presentations.

- Adaptation and Performance: Students will adapt scenes from "Beowulf" for performance, exploring how the story can be brought to life through various media and artistic expressions.

9. Research Skills

- Independent Research: Students will conduct independent research on topics related to "Beowulf," such as its historical context, literary influences, and cultural impact.
- Synthesis of Information: Students will synthesize information from various sources to enhance their understanding and analysis of the text.

10. Lifelong Learning

- Appreciation for Classic Literature: Students will develop a lasting appreciation for classic literature and its relevance to modern life and human experiences.
- Ongoing Inquiry: Students will cultivate a habit of ongoing inquiry and critical thinking, applying the analytical skills they developed through the study of "Beowulf" to other literary works and disciplines.

By mastering these skills and abilities, students will not only gain a deep understanding of "Beowulf" but also enhance their overall literary competence, critical thinking, and capacity for reflective and independent learning.

Meaning

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand that…

Studying "Beowulf" allows students to gain a deep and multifaceted understanding of various aspects of literature, history, and culture. Here are key understandings that students will achieve through the study of this epic poem:

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Epic Conventions: Students will understand the characteristics of epic poetry, including its structure, themes, and stylistic elements. They will learn about the use of extended similes, kennings, alliteration, and caesura.
- Heroic Narrative: Students will explore how "Beowulf" fits into the tradition of heroic literature, including the hero's journey and the archetypal qualities of epic heroes.
- Storytelling and Oral Tradition: Students will appreciate the significance of oral tradition in preserving and transmitting stories and how this is

reflected in the repetitive and formulaic style of the poem.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Good vs. Evil: Students will understand the central theme of the struggle between good and evil as embodied in Beowulf's battles with Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon.
- Heroism and Valor: Students will explore the concept of heroism as portrayed in Beowulf's bravery, strength, and leadership, and how these qualities are valued in the context of the story.
- Fate and Providence: Students will examine the tension between fate (wyrd) and human agency, and how characters in the poem perceive and react to their destinies.
- Mortality and Legacy: Students will discuss the theme of mortality and the desire for lasting fame, as characters seek to achieve a legacy that will outlive them.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Anglo-Saxon Society: Students will gain insights into the social structure, values, and customs of the Anglo-Saxon period, including the importance of kinship, loyalty, and the warrior code.
- Historical Context: Students will understand the historical backdrop of the poem, including the migration of Germanic tribes, the spread of Christianity, and the blending of pagan and Christian elements.
- Cultural Values: Students will learn about the cultural significance of treasure, feasting, and the mead hall as central elements of community life and social order.

4. Language and Translation

- Old English: Students will be introduced to the basics of Old English language and its evolution, helping them appreciate the linguistic roots of modern English.
- Translation Challenges: Students will understand the complexities involved in translating ancient texts and how different translations can influence the interpretation of the poem.

5. Literary Influence and Legacy

- Impact on Literature: Students will explore how "Beowulf" has influenced later literature and culture, serving as a foundational text for the fantasy genre and inspiring countless adaptations and retellings.
- Comparative Literature: Students will compare "Beowulf" to other epic tales from different cultures, such as Homer's "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," and understand the universal aspects of the epic tradition.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the complex characters in the poem, including Beowulf, Hrothgar, and the antagonists, exploring their motivations, strengths, and flaws.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the poem and how they are developed through the narrative, characters, and symbolism.
- Interpretative Skills: Students will learn to interpret and discuss various scholarly perspectives on the poem, engaging with different critical approaches and theories.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will consider what the poem suggests about the nature of virtue and vice, and how characters embody or challenge these concepts.
- Leadership and Responsibility: Students will reflect on the qualities of effective leadership and the responsibilities that come with power, as illustrated by the actions of Beowulf and other leaders in the poem.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the themes and experiences in "Beowulf" to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the enduring relevance of the poem's insights into human nature and community.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the poem's depiction of cultural values and social structures provides insights into the ways in which societies are shaped by their historical and cultural contexts.

By engaging with "Beowulf," students will develop a comprehensive understanding of this epic poem and its significance, enhancing their literary skills, historical knowledge, and cultural awareness. This study will also foster critical thinking and encourage students to make connections between the ancient text and modern world.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Studying "Beowulf" presents an opportunity to explore a range of essential questions that delve into the text's themes, characters, and cultural significance. These questions encourage students to think critically about the epic and its relevance to both its historical context and contemporary issues. Here are some essential questions to consider in the study of "Beowulf":

1. What defines a hero?

- How does Beowulf embody the characteristics of an epic hero?
- In what ways do Beowulf's actions and traits reflect the values of the Anglo-Saxon culture?
- How do the qualities of a hero in "Beowulf" compare to modern definitions of heroism?

2. How does the concept of good versus evil play out in "Beowulf"?

- How are the antagonists (Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon) portrayed as embodiments of evil?
- What moral and ethical values are highlighted in Beowulf's battles against these creatures?
- How does the epic explore the nature of good and evil through its characters and plot?

3. What is the role of fate and providence in "Beowulf"?

- How does Beowulf's belief in fate influence his actions and decisions?
- What is the significance of fate in the context of Anglo-Saxon culture and literature?
- How does the tension between fate and free will manifest in the narrative?

4. How does "Beowulf" reflect the social and cultural values of the Anglo-Saxon period?

- In what ways does the epic illustrate the importance of loyalty, bravery, and honor in Anglo-Saxon society?
- How are social hierarchies and the relationship between kings and warriors depicted in the poem?
- What can we learn about Anglo-Saxon attitudes toward warfare, kinship, and community from "Beowulf"?

5. How does the theme of mortality and legacy shape the narrative?

- How do the characters in "Beowulf" confront the inevitability of death?
- What does Beowulf's desire for lasting fame and glory say about his character and the culture he represents?
- How does the poem address the idea of legacy and the ways in which individuals are remembered?

6. What is the significance of supernatural elements in "Beowulf"?

- How do the supernatural elements (monsters, magic, and mythical settings) contribute to the overall narrative?
- What do these elements reveal about the beliefs and fears of the Anglo-Saxon people?
- How do the supernatural aspects enhance the epic's themes and characterizations?

7. How do gender roles and relations manifest in "Beowulf"?

- What roles do female characters, such as Wealhtheow and Grendel's mother, play in the narrative?
- How do these characters challenge or conform to the expectations of women in Anglo-Saxon society?
- What does the depiction of women in "Beowulf" suggest about the culture's views on gender?

8. How does the structure of "Beowulf" contribute to its meaning and impact?

- How does the use of a non-linear narrative structure affect the reader's understanding of the story?
- What is the significance of the poem's digressions and flashbacks?
- How do the poem's structural elements enhance its themes and character development?

9. What is the role of loyalty and kinship in "Beowulf"?

- How are loyalty and kinship depicted in the relationships between characters, such as Beowulf and Hrothgar, or Beowulf and his own men?
- How do acts of loyalty and betrayal influence the plot and character motivations?
- What can we infer about the societal importance of these values in the context of the epic?

10. How does "Beowulf" explore the tension between pagan and Christian elements?

- What evidence is there of pagan beliefs and practices in the text?
- How are Christian themes and references integrated into the narrative?
- How do the pagan and Christian elements coexist and conflict within the story?

These essential questions can guide students in their exploration of "Beowulf," prompting them to consider the deeper meanings and implications of the text while connecting it to broader literary, historical, and cultural contexts.

Stage 1: Essential Content, Concepts & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition

KNOWLEDGE

Students will know…

Studying "Beowulf" provides students with a deep understanding of various literary, historical, and cultural elements. This epic poem offers a window into the world of the early medieval period and the values and beliefs of the Anglo-Saxons. Here are the key things students will know through the study of "Beowulf":

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Epic Poetry: Students will understand the characteristics of epic poetry, including its elevated style, grand scope, and focus on heroic deeds.
- Literary Devices: Students will recognize and analyze the use of literary devices such as kennings (compound metaphors), alliteration, and caesura (a pause in a line of poetry).
- Oral Tradition: Students will appreciate the role of oral tradition in the composition and transmission of "Beowulf," understanding how repetition and formulaic expressions aid in memorization and storytelling.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Heroism: Students will explore the concept of heroism as exemplified by Beowulf, including qualities like bravery, strength, honor, and loyalty.
- Good vs. Evil: Students will understand the central theme of the struggle between good and evil, as represented by Beowulf's battles with Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon.
- Fate and Providence: Students will examine the interplay between fate (wyrd) and divine providence, considering how characters perceive and respond to their destinies.
- Loyalty and Kinship: Students will analyze the importance of loyalty and kinship ties in the poem, and how these relationships underpin the social structure and individual actions.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Anglo-Saxon Society: Students will gain insights into the social hierarchy, values, and customs of the Anglo-Saxon period, including the roles of kings, warriors, and women.
- Historical Background: Students will learn about the historical context of "Beowulf," including the migration of Germanic tribes, the blending of pagan

and Christian elements, and the significance of the mead hall as a center of community life.
- Cultural Values: Students will understand the cultural significance of concepts like honor, fame, and the warrior ethos, as well as the rituals surrounding gift-giving and feasting.

4. Language and Translation

- Old English: Students will be introduced to Old English, the language in which "Beowulf" was written, and learn about its structure and vocabulary.
- Translation Challenges: Students will understand the complexities involved in translating Old English texts and how different translations can affect the interpretation of the poem.

5. Literary Influence and Legacy

- Influence on Literature: Students will explore the impact of "Beowulf" on later literature, particularly within the fantasy genre, and its role as a foundational text in English literature.
- Comparative Literature: Students will compare "Beowulf" to other epic narratives from different cultures, such as "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," to understand its place within the broader epic tradition.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will engage in detailed analysis of the characters, particularly Beowulf, Hrothgar, and the antagonists, exploring their motivations, strengths, and flaws.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the poem and how they are developed through the narrative, characters, and symbolism.
- Interpretative Skills: Students will learn to interpret and discuss various scholarly perspectives on the poem, developing their own analyses and arguments.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore the poem's presentation of virtues and vices, and how characters embody or challenge these concepts.
- Leadership and Responsibility: Students will reflect on the qualities of effective leadership and the responsibilities that come with power, as illustrated by Beowulf and other leaders in the poem.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the themes and experiences in "Beowulf" to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of the poem’s insights into human nature and community.

- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how "Beowulf" provides insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of its time, and how these compare to those of today.

9. The Role of Myth and Legend

- Symbolism and Allegory: Students will understand the symbolic and allegorical dimensions of "Beowulf," exploring how the poem conveys deeper meanings and reflects societal values.
- Myth-Making and Storytelling: Students will learn about the process of myth-making and the importance of storytelling in preserving cultural heritage and values.

10. Gender Roles and Relations

- Women in "Beowulf": Students will explore the roles and representations of women in the poem, such as Wealhtheow and Grendel's mother, and discuss the social commentary on gender roles and relations.
- Power Dynamics: Students will analyze the power dynamics between male and female characters and how these reflect or challenge contemporary gender norms.

By studying "Beowulf," students will gain a comprehensive understanding of this seminal work and its significance. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of the poem in exploring themes of heroism, morality, and the human condition.

SKILLS

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...
Studying "Beowulf," the Old English epic poem, equips students with a variety of skills that are applicable to both academic pursuits and broader life contexts.

Here's an overview of what students will be skilled at doing as a result of studying "Beowulf":

1. Literary Analysis

- Textual Analysis: Students will develop the ability to closely read and analyze complex texts, identifying key elements such as themes, symbols, and motifs.
- Interpretation of Themes: Students will be able to identify and discuss major themes in "Beowulf," such as heroism, the struggle between good and evil, fate and providence, and the importance of kinship and loyalty.
- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the characteristics and development of key figures like Beowulf, Grendel, and Hrothgar, understanding their

motivations and significance within the narrative.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Contextual Analysis: Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural context of the Anglo-Saxon period, including its social structures, values, and beliefs.
- Historical Relevance: Students will understand how historical context influences literary works and how "Beowulf" reflects the culture and concerns of its time.

3. Language Skills

- Old English Appreciation: Students will become familiar with the Old English language, understanding its structure and evolution into modern English.
- Translation Skills: Students will develop skills in analyzing translations, comparing different versions of "Beowulf" to understand how language choices affect interpretation and meaning.

4. Critical Thinking

- Analytical Thinking: Students will enhance their ability to think critically about texts, questioning and evaluating different aspects of the narrative and its construction.
- Comparative Analysis: Students will compare "Beowulf" with other epic tales and literary works, identifying similarities and differences in themes, structures, and cultural contexts.

5. Writing and Communication

- Essay Writing: Students will improve their ability to write analytical essays, presenting coherent arguments supported by evidence from the text.
- Discussion and Debate: Students will enhance their skills in articulating ideas and arguments during class discussions, learning to listen to and build on the ideas of others.

6. Ethical and Moral Reflection

- Moral Reasoning: Students will engage with the ethical dilemmas and moral questions posed by the poem, such as the nature of heroism, the responsibilities of leadership, and the complexities of vengeance and justice.
- Personal Reflection: Students will reflect on how the values and conflicts in "Beowulf" relate to their own lives and contemporary issues, fostering a deeper understanding of human nature and society.

7. Research Skills

- Independent Research: Students will develop the ability to conduct independent research on topics related to "Beowulf," such as its historical background, literary influences, and critical interpretations.
- Synthesis of Information: Students will learn to synthesize information from various sources, integrating research findings into their analyses and arguments.

8. Creative Thinking

- Creative Projects: Students will engage in creative projects that may include rewriting scenes, creating modern adaptations, or producing artwork inspired by the poem.
- Adaptation and Performance: Students will explore how "Beowulf" can be adapted for different media and audiences, enhancing their understanding of storytelling and interpretation.

Conclusion

Studying "Beowulf" not only provides students with a deep understanding of one of the oldest and most significant works in English literature but also hones a wide range of skills. These include literary analysis, critical thinking, historical understanding, language proficiency, and both written and oral communication. Through the exploration of this epic poem, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and communicators, equipped to apply these skills across various disciplines and in their personal lives.

Stage 2: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth?
How will you know that they did it?

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Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence
1. Quiz 2. Annotation Journal	PERFORMANCE TASK(S)/Think GRASPS:

3. Project 4. Day of Discussion 5. Movie Activity	

Stage 3: Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students?
This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction

Teachers may summarize the topics within lessons or may utilize Laurel UbD Lesson Plan Template

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Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

1. Introduction
2. Introduction Quiz
3. Reading Material
4. Reading Activity/Assessment
5. Day of Discussion
6. Movie
7. Movie Activity

Unit 2 The Canterbury Tales

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Course Title: British Literature	**Course Author:** Gregory Walzer	**Grade Level(s):** 11-12	**Time/Duration:** Year

Course Summary: (optional) This course offers an immersive journey through the rich tapestry of British literature, spanning from the heroic epic of Beowulf to the tragic drama of Macbeth. Students will delve into timeless tales that have shaped English literature and culture, exploring themes of heroism, chivalry, morality, and the human condition.

Course Summary:

1. Beowulf:
    - Introduction to the Old English epic poem Beowulf, focusing on its historical context, themes, and literary techniques.
    - Analysis of the heroic code and the portrayal of heroism in Anglo-Saxon society.
    - Exploration of the epic's characters, including Beowulf, Grendel, and the dragon.
    - Discussion of the poem's relevance and influence on later literature and popular culture.
2. The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer:
    - Examination of Chaucer's masterpiece, The Canterbury Tales, within the context of medieval England.
    - Study of the frame narrative and the diverse cast of characters on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.
    - Analysis of themes such as social satire, religion, love, and human nature.
    - Exploration of Chaucer's use of language, humor, and irony in portraying medieval society.
3. The Legend of King Arthur:
    - Survey of the Arthurian legend, focusing on its evolution over time and its significance in British folklore.
    - Study of key Arthurian texts, including Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory and selected medieval romances.
    - Analysis of themes such as chivalry, honor, fate, and the quest for the Holy Grail.
    - Examination of the enduring appeal of the Arthurian legend in literature, art, and popular culture.
4. Macbeth by William Shakespeare:
    - Exploration of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth, examining its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.
    - Analysis of Macbeth's tragic flaw and the moral consequences of ambition and power.
    - Examination of the supernatural elements, including the witches and the theme of fate vs. free will.
    - Discussion of the play's portrayal of gender roles, guilt, and the nature of evil.

Throughout the course, students will engage in close reading, critical analysis, and discussion of primary texts, secondary sources, and relevant cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the development of British literature and its enduring impact on contemporary society.			
Unit Name: The Canterbury Tales	**Unit Number:** 2	**Created:** 2023-2024	**Revised:** TBD

Standards Addressed:
The study of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" in a high school English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum addresses several Pennsylvania state standards. These standards encompass reading comprehension, critical analysis, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Here are some specific standards that are addressed through the study of "The Canterbury Tales":

Reading Literature (CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.A:
    - Key Ideas and Details: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on the text.
        - *Analyzing the various tales and prologues involves close reading to understand themes, character development, and plot, requiring students to support their analyses with textual evidence.*
2. CC.1.3.11-12.B:
    - Analyze Themes and Central Ideas: Determine and analyze themes and/or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
        - *Themes such as social class, corruption, religion, and human nature are central to "The Canterbury Tales" and students must track their development throughout the different stories.*
3. CC.1.3.11-12.C:
    - Analyze Complex Characters: Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.
        - *Students explore how Chaucer develops complex characters through their tales and prologues, and how these characters reflect the social and cultural context of the time.*
4. CC.1.3.11-12.D:
    - Analyze Structure: Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning.
        - *Examining the structure of "The Canterbury Tales," such as the use of a frame narrative and the distinct voices of the*

pilgrims, helps students understand how narrative techniques contribute to the overall meaning.

5. CC.1.3.11-12.E:
    - Analyze Point of View: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
        - *Exploring the different perspectives within the tales, such as those of the Knight, the Wife of Bath, and the Miller, helps students understand the complexity and depth of the narratives.*

Writing (CC.1.4)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.M:
    - Write Literary Analyses: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
        - *Students may write essays analyzing key themes, character arcs, and motifs in "The Canterbury Tales," demonstrating their understanding through structured and evidence-based writing.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.S:
    - Draw Evidence from Texts: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
        - *Analytical writing assignments require students to support their arguments with direct evidence from "The Canterbury Tales."*

Speaking and Listening (CC.1.5)

1. CC.1.5.11-12.A:
    - Collaborative Discussions: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
        - *Class discussions on "The Canterbury Tales" help students articulate their interpretations and respond to the perspectives of their peers, fostering collaborative learning.*
2. CC.1.5.11-12.D:
    - Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective.
        - *Students might present their analyses of key characters, themes, or the historical context of "The Canterbury Tales" to the*

class, demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of the texts.

Language (CC.1.4 and CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.F:
    - Analyze Figurative Language: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
        - *Chaucer's use of language, including metaphors, similes, irony, and satire, provides ample material for analysis of his stylistic choices and their effects on the text's meaning and tone.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.R:
    - Develop a Style Appropriate to Task and Audience: Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.
        - *Writing assignments on "The Canterbury Tales" require students to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling, ensuring their analyses are clear and professionally presented.*

Research (CC.1.4.11-12.V and CC.1.4.11-12.W)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.V:
    - Conduct Short Research Projects: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
        - *Students may conduct research projects on the historical context of "The Canterbury Tales," examining how the tales reflect medieval society and its values.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.W:
    - Gather Relevant Information from Multiple Sources: Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience.
        - *Research assignments involve gathering information from various sources about the historical background, Chaucer's life,*

and the social and cultural milieu of medieval England.

By engaging with "The Canterbury Tales," students meet these standards through activities that involve critical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion, and in-depth examination of literary elements, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of this seminal work of literature.

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?

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Big Ideas:

1. Social Commentary: Chaucer provides a vivid portrayal of medieval English society, highlighting its hierarchical structure, social classes, and the tensions between them. Through the diverse characters and their tales, he critiques various aspects of society, including corruption in the church, the role of women, and the pursuit of wealth.
2. Human Nature and Morality: The tales explore universal themes of human nature, morality, and ethics. Characters grapple with questions of virtue, vice, love, betrayal, and redemption, offering a timeless reflection on the complexities of the human condition.
3. Power Dynamics: Power dynamics play a significant role in many of the tales, whether it's the power struggle between men and women, the authority of the church, or the influence of wealth and social status. Chaucer exposes the abuses of power and the consequences they entail.
4. Satire and Irony: Chaucer employs satire and irony to lampoon various aspects of society, including the hypocrisy of the clergy, the folly of courtly love, and the absurdity of certain social norms. Through humor and wit, he challenges conventional beliefs and exposes the flaws and absurdities of his time.
5. Identity and Self-Discovery: Many characters embark on journeys of self-discovery and transformation throughout the tales. Whether through pilgrimage or storytelling, they confront their own biases, prejudices, and shortcomings, ultimately gaining a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.
6. Unity in Diversity: Despite the differences among the pilgrims, they come together on a shared journey, bound by their common

humanity. The diversity of voices and perspectives enriches the storytelling experience, underscoring the idea that despite our differences, we are all interconnected in the tapestry of life.

7. Literary Innovation: "The Canterbury Tales" is a landmark work in English literature, representing a pivotal moment in the development of the English language and literary tradition. Chaucer's use of vernacular Middle English helped to democratize literature and paved the way for future generations of writers.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

Through the study of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales," students will develop a variety of skills and knowledge that they can independently apply to multiple areas of learning and life. Here are the key abilities students will gain and be able to use independently:

1. Literary Analysis

- Textual Analysis: Students will be able to perform close readings of texts, identifying key themes, motifs, and literary devices used by Chaucer.
- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the diverse characters in "The Canterbury Tales," understanding their motivations, personalities, and roles in the narrative.
- Theme Exploration: Students will explore and articulate major themes such as social class, hypocrisy, and human nature, understanding how Chaucer develops these themes throughout the tales.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Contextual Analysis: Students will contextualize "The Canterbury Tales" within its historical and cultural background, gaining insights into 14th-century English society, including its social hierarchies, religious beliefs, and cultural practices.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the themes and values presented in the tales compare to those of contemporary society, providing insights into both historical and modern cultural dynamics.

3. Comparative Literature Skills

- Genre and Tradition: Students will compare "The Canterbury Tales" with other works of medieval literature and beyond, understanding its place within the broader context of literary traditions.
- Influence and Legacy: Students will explore how "The Canterbury Tales" has influenced subsequent literature and culture, identifying connections and references in modern works.

4. Critical Thinking and Interpretation

- Interpretive Skills: Students will interpret various elements of the tales, such as symbolism, allegory, and irony, developing their own interpretations supported by textual evidence.
- Critical Perspectives: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations, enhancing their ability to critically assess and articulate their own viewpoints.

5. Writing and Communication

- Analytical Writing: Students will produce analytical essays that present clear, well-supported arguments about the text, demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of "The Canterbury Tales."
- Discussion and Debate: Students will participate in discussions and debates about the tales, articulating their ideas and responding to the perspectives of others with reasoned arguments.

6. Moral and Ethical Reflection

- Ethical Analysis: Students will analyze the ethical and moral questions presented in the tales, such as justice, virtue, and the complexities of human behavior.
- Personal Reflection: Students will reflect on how the moral lessons and ethical questions in the tales relate to their own lives and contemporary ethical issues.

7. Language and Translation Appreciation

- Understanding Middle English: Students will gain an appreciation for Middle English and understand the linguistic features and evolution of the English language.
- Translation Analysis: Students will compare different translations of "The Canterbury Tales," understanding how language choices can affect the interpretation and meaning of the text.

8. Creativity and Imagination

- Creative Projects: Students will undertake creative projects inspired by "The Canterbury Tales," such as writing their own tales, creating artwork, or developing multimedia presentations.
- Adaptation and Performance: Students will adapt scenes from the tales for performance, exploring how the stories can be brought to life through various media and artistic expressions.

9. Research Skills

- Independent Research: Students will conduct independent research on topics related to "The Canterbury Tales," such as its historical context, literary influences, and cultural impact.
- Synthesis of Information: Students will synthesize information from various sources to enhance their understanding and analysis of the text.

10. Lifelong Learning

- Appreciation for Classic Literature: Students will develop a lasting appreciation for classic literature and its relevance to modern life and human experiences.
- Ongoing Inquiry: Students will cultivate a habit of ongoing inquiry and critical thinking, applying the analytical skills they developed through the study of "The Canterbury Tales" to other literary works and disciplines.

By mastering these skills and abilities, students will not only gain a deep understanding of "The Canterbury Tales" but also enhance their overall literary competence, critical thinking, and capacity for reflective and independent learning. These skills will be valuable in their academic pursuits and personal growth, fostering a deeper appreciation for literature and its role in shaping human thought and culture.

Meaning

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand that…

Studying Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" provides students with an in-depth understanding of various literary, historical, and cultural aspects.

Through this study, students will gain insights into narrative techniques, social commentary, and the complexities of human nature as reflected in

medieval literature. Here are the key understandings that students will achieve through the study of "The Canterbury Tales":

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Frame Narrative: Students will understand the concept of a frame narrative, where the main story of the pilgrimage encompasses the individual tales told by the pilgrims.
- Characterization: Students will explore how Chaucer uses detailed character sketches, especially in the "General Prologue," to reveal the personalities, social positions, and moral values of each pilgrim.
- Varied Genres and Styles: Students will learn about the different literary genres and styles Chaucer employs, such as romance, fabliau, allegory,

and sermon, demonstrating his versatility as a writer.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Social Commentary: Students will gain insights into Chaucer's critique of various social classes and institutions, including the Church, through satire and irony.
- Human Nature: Students will explore the themes of love, greed, hypocrisy, and virtue, understanding how Chaucer portrays the complexities and contradictions of human behavior.
- Morality and Ethics: Students will discuss the moral lessons embedded in many of the tales, examining the ethical dilemmas faced by the characters.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Medieval Society: Students will understand the social hierarchy and cultural norms of 14th-century England, including the roles and expectations of different social classes.
- Religious Context: Students will explore the religious landscape of the time, including the pervasive influence of the Church and the growing critiques of its practices.
- Historical Events: Students will gain awareness of significant historical events and trends, such as the Black Death, the rise of the middle class, and the early stirrings of the Reformation, and how these are reflected in the text.

4. Language and Translation

- Middle English: Students will be introduced to Middle English, learning to read and understand Chaucer's language, and appreciating the linguistic evolution from Old English to Modern English.
- Translation and Interpretation: Students will understand the challenges of translating Chaucer’s work and how different translations can affect the interpretation of the text.

5. Literary Influence and Legacy

- Chaucer’s Impact: Students will explore how Chaucer’s work has influenced English literature and the development of the English language.
- Comparative Literature: Students will compare "The Canterbury Tales" to other works of medieval literature, such as Dante's "Divine Comedy" or Boccaccio's "Decameron," understanding its place in the broader literary tradition.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the motivations, behaviors, and development of the pilgrims, understanding how Chaucer uses them to

convey broader social critiques.

- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the tales, such as corruption, social mobility, and gender roles, and how these themes are developed through narrative and dialogue.
- Interpretative Skills: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations of the text, developing their own analyses and arguments.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore how the tales illustrate virtues and vices, and the consequences of moral and immoral behavior.
- Justice and Injustice: Students will discuss the notions of justice and retribution in the tales, examining how characters seek to right wrongs or suffer the consequences of their actions.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the tales to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of Chaucer's observations on human nature.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the tales provide insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of medieval England, and how these compare to those of today.

9. The Role of Storytelling

- Purpose of Stories: Students will understand the various purposes of the tales within the pilgrimage context, such as entertainment, moral instruction, and social critique.
- Diverse Perspectives: Students will appreciate the diversity of voices and perspectives in "The Canterbury Tales," recognizing how Chaucer gives voice to a wide range of social classes and types of people.

10. Gender Roles and Relations

- Women in Medieval Society: Students will explore the roles and representations of women in the tales, particularly through characters like the Wife of Bath, and discuss the social commentary on gender roles and relations.
- Power Dynamics: Students will analyze the power dynamics between male and female characters, and how these reflect or challenge contemporary gender norms.

By engaging with "The Canterbury Tales," students will develop a comprehensive understanding of Chaucer's work and its significance. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of this seminal text in understanding

human nature and societal issues.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Studying Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" provides a rich opportunity to explore a variety of essential questions that delve into the text's themes, characters, and social commentary. These questions encourage students to think critically about the tales and their relevance to both medieval society and contemporary issues. Here are some essential questions to consider in the study of "The Canterbury Tales":

1. How does Chaucer portray the social hierarchy and class structure of medieval society?

- How do the characters in "The Canterbury Tales" represent different social classes and occupations?
- In what ways does Chaucer critique or reinforce the social hierarchy of his time?
- How do the interactions between characters from different social classes reflect the tensions and dynamics of medieval society?

2. What role does storytelling play in "The Canterbury Tales"?

- How do the different tales reflect the personalities and values of the tellers?
- What purposes do the tales serve within the context of the pilgrimage?
- How does Chaucer use storytelling to explore broader themes and issues?

3. How does "The Canterbury Tales" address issues of gender and power?

- How are women portrayed in the various tales, and what do these portrayals reveal about gender roles in medieval society?
- What insights do characters like the Wife of Bath provide into the experiences and perspectives of women?
- How do power dynamics between men and women play out in the tales?

4. What is the significance of religious themes and characters in "The Canterbury Tales"?

- How does Chaucer portray religious figures such as the Pardoner, the Friar, and the Parson?
- What critiques of the Church and its practices are evident in the tales?
- How do the tales reflect the religious beliefs and concerns of Chaucer's time?

5. How does Chaucer use satire to convey his messages?

- In what ways does Chaucer use humor, irony, and exaggeration to critique social norms and institutions?
- Which characters or tales are most clearly satirical, and what are they critiquing?

- How effective is Chaucer's use of satire in communicating his viewpoints?

6. How do themes of morality and ethics emerge in "The Canterbury Tales"?

- What moral lessons or ethical dilemmas are presented in the various tales?
- How do characters grapple with issues of right and wrong, justice and injustice?
- How do the tales reflect the moral and ethical values of medieval society?

7. What can "The Canterbury Tales" tell us about the nature of human behavior and relationships?

- How do the tales explore human virtues and vices, such as greed, love, jealousy, and generosity?
- What do the interactions between pilgrims reveal about human nature?
- How do the tales illustrate the complexities and contradictions of human behavior?

8. How does Chaucer's use of language and literary techniques enhance the tales?

- What role do literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and allegory play in the tales?
- How does Chaucer's use of vernacular English and diverse narrative voices contribute to the richness of the text?
- In what ways does Chaucer's poetic form influence the meaning and impact of the tales?

9. How does "The Canterbury Tales" reflect the historical and cultural context of the 14th century?

- What historical events or societal changes of Chaucer's time are reflected in the tales?
- How do the tales provide insights into the daily lives, beliefs, and customs of medieval people?
- What can we learn about medieval England from the details and settings of the tales?

10. How do the themes of pilgrimage and journey shape the narrative?

- What significance does the pilgrimage have for the characters and the overall structure of the work?
- How do the physical and metaphorical journeys of the pilgrims parallel each other?
- In what ways do the tales reflect the spiritual and personal journeys of the tellers?

These essential questions guide students in their exploration of "The Canterbury Tales," prompting them to consider the deeper meanings and implications of the text while connecting it to broader literary, historical, and cultural contexts. By engaging with these questions, students can gain a more nuanced understanding of Chaucer's work and its enduring significance.

Stage 1: Essential Content, Concepts & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition

KNOWLEDGE

Students will know…

Through the study of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales," students will acquire a broad and deep understanding of various literary, historical, and cultural aspects. This foundational text of English literature offers insights into medieval society and human nature, as well as the development of English literature. Here are the key things students will know through the study of "The Canterbury Tales":

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Frame Narrative: Students will understand the concept of a frame narrative, where the main story (the pilgrimage) encompasses a series of individual tales told by different characters.
- Characterization: Students will explore Chaucer's detailed characterization, particularly in the "General Prologue," where he provides vivid descriptions and insights into the personalities, social positions, and moral values of each pilgrim.
- Varied Genres and Styles: Students will learn about the different literary genres and styles Chaucer employs, such as romance, fabliau, allegory, and sermon, showcasing his versatility as a writer.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Social Commentary: Students will gain insights into Chaucer's critique of various social classes and institutions, including the Church, through satire and irony.
- Human Nature: Students will explore themes related to human nature, such as greed, lust, hypocrisy, and virtue, understanding how Chaucer portrays the complexities and contradictions of human behavior.
- Morality and Ethics: Students will discuss the moral lessons embedded in many of the tales, examining the ethical dilemmas and virtues presented.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Medieval Society: Students will understand the social hierarchy and cultural norms of 14th-century England, including the roles and expectations of

different social classes.

- Religious Context: Students will explore the religious landscape of the time, including the pervasive influence of the Church and the growing critiques of its practices.
- Historical Events: Students will gain awareness of significant historical events and trends, such as the Black Death, the rise of the middle class, and early stirrings of the Reformation, and how these are reflected in the text.

4. Language and Translation

- Middle English: Students will be introduced to Middle English, learning to read and understand Chaucer's language, and appreciating the linguistic evolution from Old English to Modern English.
- Translation Challenges: Students will understand the complexities involved in translating Middle English texts and how different translations can affect the interpretation of the text.

5. Literary Influence and Legacy

- Chaucer’s Impact: Students will explore how Chaucer’s work has influenced English literature and the development of the English language.
- Comparative Literature: Students will compare "The Canterbury Tales" to other works of medieval literature, such as Dante's "Divine Comedy" or Boccaccio's "Decameron," understanding its place in the broader literary tradition.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will engage in in-depth character analysis, examining the development and traits of the pilgrims and how they reflect various aspects of medieval society.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the tales, considering how they are developed through narrative, dialogue, and symbolism.
- Literary Criticism: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations of the text, developing their own analyses and arguments.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore how the tales illustrate virtues and vices, and the consequences of moral and immoral behavior.
- Justice and Injustice: Students will discuss the notions of justice and retribution in the tales, examining how characters seek to right wrongs or suffer the consequences of their actions.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the tales to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of Chaucer's observations on human nature.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the tales provide insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of medieval England, and how these compare to those of today.

9. The Role of Storytelling

- Purpose of Stories: Students will understand the various purposes of the tales within the pilgrimage context, such as entertainment, moral instruction, and social critique.
- Diverse Perspectives: Students will appreciate the diversity of voices and perspectives in "The Canterbury Tales," recognizing how Chaucer gives voice to a wide range of social classes and types of people.

10. Gender Roles and Relations

- Women in Medieval Society: Students will explore the roles and representations of women in the tales, particularly through characters like the Wife of Bath, and discuss the social commentary on gender roles and relations.
- Power Dynamics: Students will analyze the power dynamics between male and female characters, and how these reflect or challenge contemporary gender norms.

By engaging with "The Canterbury Tales," students will develop a comprehensive understanding of Chaucer's work and its significance. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of this seminal text in understanding human nature and societal issues.

SKILLS

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...
Studying "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer equips students with a variety of skills that are beneficial for both academic growth and personal development. Here's a comprehensive overview of what students will be skilled at doing as a result of studying this seminal work of literature:

1. Literary Analysis

- Understanding Narrative Structure: Students will learn to analyze the unique frame narrative structure of "The Canterbury Tales," where individual stories are told within the context of a larger pilgrimage.

- Identifying Themes: Students will identify and explore central themes such as social class, human nature, corruption within the Church, and the complexities of love and marriage.
- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the diverse array of characters, understanding how Chaucer uses characterization to satirize different segments of medieval society.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Medieval Context: Students will gain insights into the social, political, and religious context of 14th-century England, understanding how these elements influence the tales and characters.
- Cultural Relevance: Students will learn how Chaucer's work reflects and critiques the culture and values of his time, providing a window into medieval life and thought.

3. Language Skills

- Middle English Proficiency: Students will become familiar with Middle English, learning to read and interpret Chaucer's original text. This includes understanding archaic vocabulary and syntax.
- Translation Skills: Students will practice translating Middle English passages into modern English, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of the text's nuances.

4. Critical Thinking

- Satire and Irony: Students will develop the ability to recognize and analyze Chaucer's use of satire and irony, understanding how these literary techniques are used to critique society.
- Evaluative Thinking: Students will evaluate different perspectives and moral viewpoints presented in the tales, fostering critical thinking about ethical and philosophical issues.

5. Writing and Communication

- Analytical Essays: Students will improve their essay-writing skills, constructing well-organized arguments supported by textual evidence.
- Creative Writing: Students may engage in creative writing exercises such as composing their own tales or modern adaptations, which helps to deepen their understanding of narrative techniques and character development.
- Class Discussions: Students will enhance their oral communication skills through class discussions and presentations, learning to articulate their ideas clearly and respond thoughtfully to others.

6. Ethical and Moral Reflection

- Moral Reasoning: Students will engage with the moral and ethical questions raised in the tales, such as the nature of justice, the use of power, and the consequences of greed and deceit.
- Personal Connections: Students will reflect on how the themes and issues in "The Canterbury Tales" relate to contemporary society and their own lives, fostering a deeper understanding of human behavior and social dynamics.

7. Research Skills

- Historical Research: Students will develop skills in conducting research on medieval history, culture, and literature, integrating their findings into their analyses.
- Literary Criticism: Students will explore various critical interpretations of "The Canterbury Tales," learning to engage with scholarly debates and perspectives.

8. Comparative Analysis

- Intertextual Connections: Students will compare "The Canterbury Tales" with other literary works from different periods and genres, identifying influences, similarities, and differences.
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Students will explore how Chaucer's work resonates with or contrasts against literature from other cultures and time periods, enhancing their global literary perspective.

9. Creative and Analytical Projects

- Adaptations and Performances: Students may create modern adaptations or perform scenes from the tales, allowing them to engage creatively with the text and develop their interpretive skills.
- Multimedia Projects: Students can work on multimedia projects such as creating visual representations of the tales or developing digital presentations, combining literary analysis with creative expression.

Conclusion

Studying "The Canterbury Tales" provides students with a multifaceted educational experience, enhancing their skills in literary analysis, historical understanding, critical thinking, writing, and communication. By engaging with Chaucer's rich and complex text, students become more adept readers and thinkers, equipped to apply these skills across various academic disciplines and in their everyday lives.

Stage 2: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth?
How will you know that they did it?

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Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence
1. Quiz 2. Annotation Journal 3. Project 4. Day of Discussion 5. Movie Activity	PERFORMANCE TASK(S)/Think GRASPS:

Stage 3: Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students?
This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction

Teachers may summarize the topics within lessons or may utilize Laurel UbD Lesson Plan Template

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Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

1. Introduction
2. Introduction Quiz
3. Reading Material
4. Reading Activity/Assessment
5. Day of Discussion
6. Movie

7. Movie Activity

Unit 3 The Legend of King Arthur

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Course Title: British Literature	**Course Author:** Gregory Walzer	**Grade Level(s):** 11-12	**Time/Duration:** Year

Course Summary: This course offers an immersive journey through the rich tapestry of British literature, spanning from the heroic epic of Beowulf to the tragic drama of Macbeth. Students will delve into timeless tales that have shaped English literature and culture, exploring themes of heroism, chivalry, morality, and the human condition.

Course Summary:

1. Beowulf:
   - Introduction to the Old English epic poem Beowulf, focusing on its historical context, themes, and literary techniques.
   - Analysis of the heroic code and the portrayal of heroism in Anglo-Saxon society.
   - Exploration of the epic's characters, including Beowulf, Grendel, and the dragon.
   - Discussion of the poem's relevance and influence on later literature and popular culture.
2. The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer:
   - Examination of Chaucer's masterpiece, The Canterbury Tales, within the context of medieval England.
   - Study of the frame narrative and the diverse cast of characters on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.
   - Analysis of themes such as social satire, religion, love, and human nature.
   - Exploration of Chaucer's use of language, humor, and irony in portraying medieval society.
3. The Legend of King Arthur:
   - Survey of the Arthurian legend, focusing on its evolution over time and its significance in British folklore.
   - Study of key Arthurian texts, including Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory and selected medieval romances.
   - Analysis of themes such as chivalry, honor, fate, and the quest for the Holy Grail.
   - Examination of the enduring appeal of the Arthurian legend in literature, art, and popular culture.

4. Macbeth by William Shakespeare:
    - Exploration of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth, examining its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.
    - Analysis of Macbeth's tragic flaw and the moral consequences of ambition and power.
    - Examination of the supernatural elements, including the witches and the theme of fate vs. free will.
    - Discussion of the play's portrayal of gender roles, guilt, and the nature of evil.

Throughout the course, students will engage in close reading, critical analysis, and discussion of primary texts, secondary sources, and relevant cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the development of British literature and its enduring impact on contemporary society.

Unit Name: The Legend of King Arthur	**Unit Number:** 3	**Created:** 2023-2024	**Revised:** TBD

Standards Addressed:

The study of the legend of King Arthur in a high school English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum addresses several Pennsylvania state standards. These standards encompass reading comprehension, critical analysis, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Here are some specific standards that can be addressed through the study of the legend of King Arthur:

Reading Literature (CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.A:
    - Key Ideas and Details: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on the text.
        - *Analyzing texts like Sir Thomas Malory's "Le Morte d'Arthur" or T.H. White's "The Once and Future King" involves close reading to understand themes, character development, and plot, requiring students to support their analyses with textual evidence.*
2. CC.1.3.11-12.B:
    - Analyze Themes and Central Ideas: Determine and analyze themes and/or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
        - *Themes such as chivalry, honor, betrayal, and the quest for the Holy Grail are central to Arthurian legends and students must track their development throughout various stories.*
3. CC.1.3.11-12.C:
    - Analyze Complex Characters: Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.
        - *Students explore how different authors portray characters like King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, and Merlin, and how their relationships and individual arcs drive the narratives.*

4. CC.1.3.11-12.D:
    - Analyze Structure: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning.
        - *Examining the structure of Arthurian tales, such as the use of episodic adventures or the framing of quests, helps students understand how narrative techniques contribute to the overall meaning.*
5. CC.1.3.11-12.E:
    - Analyze Point of View: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
        - *Exploring different perspectives within the legends, such as those of Arthur, the knights, and the narrators, helps students understand the complexity and depth of the narratives.*

Writing (CC.1.4)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.M:
    - Write Literary Analyses: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
        - *Students may write essays analyzing key themes, character arcs, and motifs in Arthurian legends, demonstrating their understanding through structured and evidence-based writing.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.S:
    - Draw Evidence from Texts: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
        - *Analytical writing assignments require students to support their arguments with direct evidence from various Arthurian texts.*

Speaking and Listening (CC.1.5)

1. CC.1.5.11-12.A:
    - Collaborative Discussions: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
        - *Class discussions on the legends of King Arthur help students articulate their interpretations and respond to the perspectives of their peers, fostering collaborative learning.*
2. CC.1.5.11-12.D:
    - Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective.
        - *Students might present their analyses of key characters, themes, or the historical context of Arthurian legends to the class,*

demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of the texts.

Language (CC.1.4 and CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.F:
    - Analyze Figurative Language: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
        - *Arthurian literature is rich in figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and symbolic imagery. Students analyze these elements to understand their impact on the text's meaning and tone.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.R:
    - Develop a Style Appropriate to Task and Audience: Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.
        - *Writing assignments on Arthurian legends require students to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling, ensuring their analyses are clear and professionally presented.*

Research (CC.1.4.11-12.V and CC.1.4.11-12.W)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.V:
    - Conduct Short Research Projects: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
        - *Students may conduct research projects on the historical context of the Arthurian legends, examining how these stories have evolved over time and their cultural significance.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.W:
    - Gather Relevant Information from Multiple Sources: Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience.
        - *Research assignments involve gathering information from various sources about the origins, adaptations, and interpretations of Arthurian legends.*

By engaging with the legend of King Arthur, students meet these standards through activities that involve critical reading, analytical writing, collaborative

discussion, and in-depth examination of literary elements, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of this rich and enduring body of literature.

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?

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Big Ideas:

The legend of King Arthur is rich with themes and big ideas that have resonated through centuries of storytelling. Some of the most prominent include:

1. Chivalry and Honor: The legend of King Arthur is deeply entwined with the concept of chivalry, a code of conduct associated with knighthood. Knights of the Round Table, like Lancelot and Gawain, are often depicted striving to uphold values such as bravery, courtesy, honor, and great respect for women. This idealized code of behavior serves as a moral framework within the stories.
2. The Quest for the Holy Grail: The search for the Holy Grail is one of the central quests in Arthurian legend. It represents the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment and divine grace. The Grail quest symbolizes the struggle for purity and the ultimate spiritual achievement, reflecting the characters' inner journeys towards redemption and self-discovery.
3. The Rise and Fall of Camelot: Camelot, King Arthur's kingdom, stands as a symbol of an ideal society where justice and equality prevail. The eventual downfall of Camelot often reflects themes of betrayal, moral failure, and the fragility of human endeavors. This narrative arc illustrates the impermanence of even the most glorious civilizations and the consequences of personal and collective failings.
4. Leadership and Kingship: Arthur himself is a figure representing the complexities of leadership. His journey from a young, inexperienced boy to a wise and just king serves as a template for ideal governance. The stories explore the qualities that make a good leader, such as wisdom, fairness, and the ability to inspire and unite people.
5. Love and Betrayal: The love triangle between Arthur, Queen Guinevere, and Sir Lancelot is a central theme in many versions of the legend. This storyline highlights the conflict between personal desires and public duty, the pain of betrayal, and the complexities of human relationships. It underscores the tragic consequences of love and infidelity in the context of noble ideals.
6. Magic and Supernatural Elements: The presence of magical and supernatural elements, such as the wizard Merlin, the enchanted sword Excalibur, and the Lady of the Lake, adds a mystical dimension to the Arthurian tales. These elements often serve as catalysts

for the plot and symbolize the mysterious and uncontrollable forces in life.

7. Destiny and Fate: The legend often grapples with the themes of destiny and fate, particularly in how Arthur is destined to become king and lead his people. This predetermined path raises questions about free will and the extent to which individuals can shape their own destinies.
8. The Hero's Journey: Arthurian legend is a classic example of the hero's journey, a narrative framework identified by Joseph Campbell. Arthur's rise from humble beginnings, his trials and tribulations, and his ultimate legacy fit the archetypal pattern of the hero who overcomes great challenges to achieve greatness.

These big ideas contribute to the enduring appeal of the King Arthur legend, allowing it to be continuously reinterpreted and retold across different cultures and eras.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

Through the study of The Legend of King Arthur, students will gain a broad range of skills and knowledge that they can apply independently in various academic and real-world contexts. Here are some of the key abilities students will develop:

1. Analyze and Interpret Literature

- Theme and Symbolism: Students will be able to identify and analyze central themes such as heroism, chivalry, and the quest for identity. They will understand how symbols, such as Excalibur and the Round Table, contribute to the narrative's deeper meanings.
- Character Development: They will examine the complexities of characters like King Arthur, Merlin, and Lancelot, exploring their motivations, conflicts, and growth throughout the stories.

2. Engage in Critical Thinking

- Evaluate Sources: Students will critically evaluate different versions of the Arthurian legends, comparing how various authors and time periods reinterpret the stories.
- Textual Analysis: They will independently analyze passages for literary devices, narrative techniques, and stylistic elements, enhancing their ability to deconstruct complex texts.

3. Conduct Research

- Historical Context: Students will research the historical and cultural context of the Arthurian legends, understanding the blend of myth and history. They will explore how the legends reflect and influence medieval and modern societies.

- Source Evaluation: They will develop skills in finding, evaluating, and synthesizing sources related to Arthurian literature, improving their overall research capabilities.

4. Develop Writing and Communication Skills

- Essay Writing: Students will write analytical essays that argue a thesis about the Arthurian legends, using textual evidence to support their points. They will learn to organize their arguments coherently and persuasively.
- Creative Expression: They might engage in creative projects, such as writing their own Arthurian tales or modern adaptations, which allows them to apply their understanding of narrative structure and character development.

5. Connect Literature to Broader Themes and Disciplines

- Interdisciplinary Connections: Students will connect the themes of the Arthurian legends to broader historical, cultural, and ethical issues. They might explore how concepts of leadership, honor, and justice in the legends relate to contemporary discussions in history, ethics, and political science.
- Personal Reflection: They will reflect on how the themes of the Arthurian legends resonate with their own experiences and values, fostering personal growth and self-awareness.

6. Enhance Vocabulary and Language Skills

- Advanced Vocabulary: By studying the language of the Arthurian legends, students will enhance their vocabulary and understanding of literary and archaic terms, improving their reading and comprehension skills.
- Language Patterns: They will recognize and analyze the use of literary devices such as allegory, metaphor, and alliteration, gaining a deeper appreciation for the art of storytelling.

7. Engage in Collaborative Learning

- Group Discussions: Students will participate in discussions and debates about the interpretations and meanings of the Arthurian legends, enhancing their ability to articulate ideas and listen to diverse perspectives.
- Projects and Presentations: They might collaborate on group projects or presentations, developing their teamwork and communication skills.

8. Apply Ethical and Philosophical Reasoning

- Moral Dilemmas: Students will explore ethical and philosophical questions posed by the Arthurian legends, such as the nature of leadership, the meaning of honor, and the conflict between personal desire and duty.
- Critical Reflection: They will critically reflect on the decisions and actions of the characters, drawing parallels to modern ethical dilemmas and

enhancing their moral reasoning skills.

9. Foster a Lifelong Appreciation for Literature

- Cultural Literacy: By studying a seminal work of Western literature, students will gain cultural literacy, understanding the influence of the Arthurian legends on later literature, art, and popular culture.
- Love of Reading: Engaging with the captivating stories and rich mythology of King Arthur can foster a lifelong love of reading and an appreciation for the power of storytelling.

Conclusion

Through the study of The Legend of King Arthur, students will develop a comprehensive set of skills that extend beyond literary analysis. They will be equipped to critically engage with texts, conduct thorough research, express themselves clearly and creatively, and connect literature to broader societal and ethical issues. These abilities will serve them well in academic pursuits and in their personal and professional lives, fostering a deeper understanding of the human experience and the enduring power of myth and legend.

Meaning

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand that…
Studying the legend of King Arthur provides students with a rich and comprehensive understanding of various literary, historical, and cultural aspects.

Through this study, students will delve into the themes, narrative techniques, and cultural significance of Arthurian tales, gaining insights into the

medieval world and its enduring legacy. Here are the key understandings that students will achieve through the study of the legend of King Arthur:

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Epic and Romance Traditions: Students will understand the characteristics of epic and romance literature, including their structures, themes, and stylistic elements.
- Storytelling and Myth: Students will explore the narrative techniques used in Arthurian legends, including the use of myth, legend, and folklore to convey complex themes and cultural values.
- Characterization: Students will analyze the development of key characters such as King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Merlin, and Mordred, understanding their roles and symbolic meanings within the tales.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Chivalry and Knighthood: Students will explore the theme of chivalry, examining the code of conduct for knights, including ideals of bravery, loyalty, honor, and courtly love.
- Heroism and Leadership: Students will discuss what makes a hero and a good leader through the character of King Arthur and his knights, exploring their virtues and flaws.
- Betrayal and Loyalty: Students will understand the impact of betrayal and loyalty in the tales, particularly in the relationships between Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, and Mordred.
- Quest and Adventure: Students will explore the motif of the quest, such as the search for the Holy Grail, and its symbolic meanings related to personal growth, spirituality, and the pursuit of ideals.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Medieval Society: Students will gain insights into the social structure, values, and customs of medieval society, including the feudal system and the roles of kings, knights, and commoners.
- Historical Basis and Evolution: Students will learn about the historical origins and evolution of the Arthurian legends, from early Welsh and Celtic traditions to their medieval literary forms.
- Cultural Significance: Students will understand the cultural significance of the Arthurian legends in the medieval period and their enduring impact on literature, art, and popular culture.

4. Language and Literary Influence

- Middle English Literature: Students will be introduced to Middle English language and literature, appreciating the linguistic evolution and the rich literary tradition of the medieval period.
- Literary Influence: Students will explore how the Arthurian legends have influenced subsequent literature and art, recognizing their lasting legacy and adaptations in various cultural contexts.

5. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will analyze the motivations, behaviors, and development of key characters, understanding how they embody or challenge the ideals of their time.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the Arthurian legends, such as the nature of power, the conflict between love and duty, and the quest for identity and meaning.
- Interpretative Skills: Students will engage with different interpretations and adaptations of the Arthurian tales, developing their analytical skills and ability to articulate informed perspectives.

6. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore the moral lessons embedded in the Arthurian legends, discussing the virtues and vices of the characters and the consequences of their actions.
- Justice and Fairness: Students will consider the themes of justice and fairness as depicted in the tales, examining how characters seek to uphold or subvert these principles.

7. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the Arthurian legends to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of the stories.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the Arthurian legends provide insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of medieval society, and how these compare to those of today.

8. The Role of Myth and Legend

- Symbolism and Allegory: Students will understand the symbolic and allegorical dimensions of the Arthurian legends, exploring how they convey deeper meanings and reflect societal values.
- Creation and Transmission of Myths: Students will learn about the process of myth-making and the transmission of legends, understanding how stories evolve over time and across cultures.

9. Gender Roles and Relations

- Women in Arthurian Legends: Students will explore the roles and representations of women in the Arthurian tales, such as Guinevere, Morgan le Fay, and the Lady of the Lake, discussing the social commentary on gender roles and relations.
- Power Dynamics: Students will analyze the power dynamics between male and female characters, and how these reflect or challenge contemporary gender norms.

10. Historical and Contemporary Relevance

- Relevance to Modern Issues: Students will discuss the relevance of the themes and lessons of the Arthurian legends to modern issues, such as leadership, honor, and ethical dilemmas.
- Cultural Impact: Students will explore the enduring cultural impact of the Arthurian legends, including their adaptations in literature, film, and other media, and their influence on contemporary storytelling.

By engaging with the legend of King Arthur, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of these timeless tales and their significance. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of the Arthurian legends in understanding human nature and societal issues.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Studying the legend of King Arthur presents an opportunity to explore a variety of essential questions that delve into the themes, characters, and cultural significance of the Arthurian tales. These questions encourage students to think critically about the legend and its relevance to both historical and contemporary issues. Here are some essential questions to consider in the study of the legend of King Arthur:

1. What qualities define a good leader or king?

- How is King Arthur portrayed as an ideal king in the various Arthurian legends?
- What leadership qualities and values does Arthur embody, and how do these compare to modern notions of leadership?
- How do the actions and decisions of Arthur and his knights reflect their leadership qualities?

2. How do the themes of chivalry and knightly conduct manifest in the Arthurian legends?

- What is the code of chivalry, and how is it exemplified by characters like Sir Lancelot, Sir Gawain, and others?
- In what ways do the knights' actions uphold or challenge the ideals of chivalry?
- How does the concept of chivalry influence the behavior and values of the characters?

3. How do the Arthurian legends explore the conflict between love and duty?

- How are romantic relationships, such as those between Arthur and Guinevere or Lancelot and Guinevere, depicted in the tales?
- What conflicts arise between personal desires and social responsibilities?
- How do these conflicts impact the characters and the overall narrative?

4. What role does magic and the supernatural play in the Arthurian legends?

- How do magical elements, such as Merlin’s powers, the Lady of the Lake, and Excalibur, influence the plot and themes of the stories?
- What do these supernatural elements reveal about the beliefs and imagination of medieval society?

- How do characters respond to and interact with the magical and mystical aspects of their world?

5. How do the legends address the theme of heroism?

- What actions and qualities make Arthur and his knights heroes in the context of the legends?
- How do the stories of individual knights, such as those in the quests for the Holy Grail, illustrate different aspects of heroism?
- How does the definition of heroism in the Arthurian legends compare to modern definitions?

6. What is the significance of the quest motif in the Arthurian legends?

- How do quests, such as the quest for the Holy Grail, serve as central elements of the Arthurian tales?
- What do these quests symbolize, and what lessons do they impart to the characters and readers?
- How do the challenges faced during these quests test and reveal the true nature of the characters?

7. How do the legends reflect the social and political structures of medieval society?

- In what ways do the Arthurian tales portray the roles and expectations of kings, knights, and commoners?
- How are issues of loyalty, fealty, and justice addressed in the legends?
- What can the stories tell us about the values and organization of medieval society?

8. How do themes of betrayal and loyalty play out in the Arthurian legends?

- How do instances of betrayal, such as Mordred's rebellion or Lancelot's affair with Guinevere, affect the narrative and the fate of Camelot?
- What do these betrayals reveal about the characters and their relationships?
- How is loyalty portrayed and valued in the legends, and how does it influence the actions of the characters?

9. What is the role of prophecy and destiny in the Arthurian tales?

- How do prophecies, such as those made by Merlin, shape the events and outcomes of the stories?
- How do characters respond to and interpret their destinies?
- What is the significance of destiny in the context of the legends, and how does it impact the characters' sense of agency?

10. How have the Arthurian legends evolved over time and across cultures?

- How have different authors and cultures adapted and reinterpreted the Arthurian tales?
- What changes can be observed in the portrayal of key characters and themes in various adaptations?

- How do contemporary versions of the Arthurian legends reflect modern values and concerns?

These essential questions guide students in their exploration of the legend of King Arthur, prompting them to consider the deeper meanings and implications of the tales while connecting them to broader literary, historical, and cultural contexts. By engaging with these questions, students can gain a more nuanced understanding of the enduring significance and adaptability of the Arthurian legends.

Stage 1: Essential Content, Concepts & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition

KNOWLEDGE

Students will know…

Through the study of the legend of King Arthur, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of a wide range of literary, historical, and cultural elements. This legendary narrative provides a rich tapestry of themes, characters, and motifs that have influenced Western literature and culture. Here are the key things students will know through the study of the legend of King Arthur:

1. Literary and Narrative Techniques

- Arthurian Romance and Epic: Students will understand the characteristics of Arthurian romance and epic literature, including their narrative structures,

themes, and stylistic elements.

- Storytelling and Myth: Students will explore how the legends were transmitted through oral tradition and later through written texts, appreciating the evolution of these stories over time.
- Characterization: Students will analyze the development of key characters such as King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Merlin, and Mordred, understanding their symbolic meanings and roles within the tales.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Chivalry and Knighthood: Students will delve into the ideals of chivalry and knighthood, including bravery, loyalty, honor, and courtly love, as depicted in the Arthurian legends.
- Heroism and Leadership: Students will discuss the qualities of heroism and effective leadership through the character of King Arthur and his knights, exploring their virtues and flaws.
- Betrayal and Loyalty: Students will understand the impact of betrayal and loyalty, particularly in the relationships between Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, and Mordred.
- The Quest: Students will explore the motif of the quest, such as the search for the Holy Grail, and its symbolic meanings related to personal growth, spirituality, and the pursuit of ideals.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Medieval Society: Students will gain insights into the social hierarchy, values, and customs of medieval society, including the feudal system and the roles of kings, knights, and commoners.
- Historical Basis and Evolution: Students will learn about the historical origins and evolution of the Arthurian legends, from early Welsh and Celtic traditions to their medieval literary forms.
- Cultural Significance: Students will understand the cultural significance of the Arthurian legends in the medieval period and their enduring impact on literature, art, and popular culture.

4. Language and Literary Influence

- Middle English Literature: Students will be introduced to Middle English language and literature, appreciating the linguistic evolution and the rich literary tradition of the medieval period.
- Literary Influence: Students will explore how the Arthurian legends have influenced subsequent literature and art, recognizing their lasting legacy and adaptations in various cultural contexts.

5. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will engage in detailed analysis of the characters, particularly examining their motivations, strengths, and flaws.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the legends and how they are developed through the narrative, characters, and

symbolism.
- Interpretative Skills: Students will learn to interpret and discuss various scholarly perspectives on the legends, developing their own analyses and arguments.

6. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore the moral lessons embedded in the Arthurian legends, discussing the virtues and vices of the characters and the consequences of their actions.
- Justice and Fairness: Students will consider the themes of justice and fairness as depicted in the tales, examining how characters seek to uphold or subvert these principles.

7. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the Arthurian legends to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of the stories.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the legends provide insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of medieval society, and how these compare to those of today.

8. The Role of Myth and Legend

- Symbolism and Allegory: Students will understand the symbolic and allegorical dimensions of the Arthurian legends, exploring how they convey deeper meanings and reflect societal values.
- Creation and Transmission of Myths: Students will learn about the process of myth-making and the transmission of legends, understanding how stories evolve over time and across cultures.

9. Gender Roles and Relations

- Women in Arthurian Legends: Students will explore the roles and representations of women in the legends, such as Guinevere, Morgan le Fay, and the Lady of the Lake, discussing the social commentary on gender roles and relations.
- Power Dynamics: Students will analyze the power dynamics between male and female characters, and how these reflect or challenge contemporary gender norms.

10. Historical and Contemporary Relevance

- Relevance to Modern Issues: Students will discuss the relevance of the themes and lessons of the Arthurian legends to modern issues, such as leadership, honor, and ethical dilemmas.

- Cultural Impact: Students will explore the enduring cultural impact of the Arthurian legends, including their adaptations in literature, film, and other media, and their influence on contemporary storytelling.

By engaging with the legend of King Arthur, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of these timeless tales and their significance. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of the Arthurian legends in exploring themes of heroism, morality, and the human condition.

SKILLS

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...
Studying "The Legend of King Arthur" offers students a rich tapestry of literary, historical, and cultural material that enhances a wide range of skills. Here's a detailed look at what students will be skilled at doing as a result of engaging with Arthurian legend:

1. Literary Analysis

- Understanding Literary Archetypes: Students will become familiar with archetypal characters and motifs, such as the hero's journey, the noble knight, and the quest, which are prevalent in Arthurian tales.
- Theme Identification: Students will identify and analyze central themes such as chivalry, honor, loyalty, betrayal, and the quest for justice.
- Character Analysis: Students will analyze complex characters like King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, and Merlin, exploring their development, motivations, and the roles they play in the narrative.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Medieval Context: Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural context of medieval Britain, including the social structure, values, and norms of the time.
- Myth vs. History: Students will explore the interplay between myth and historical fact, understanding how the legend of King Arthur has evolved and been interpreted over time.

3. Comparative Literature Skills

- Intertextual Analysis: Students will compare different versions of the Arthurian legend, from Geoffrey of Monmouth's "Historia Regum Britanniae" to Sir Thomas Malory's "Le Morte d'Arthur," analyzing how each version reflects its own time and place.
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Students will examine how the legend of King Arthur has been adapted and reinterpreted in various cultures and

mediums, from literature and film to art and popular culture.

4. Language Skills

- Middle English Proficiency: Students will engage with Middle English texts, improving their ability to read and interpret older forms of English, particularly if they study texts like Malory's "Le Morte d'Arthur."
- Translation Skills: Students will practice translating Middle English or Old French passages into modern English, enhancing their understanding of language evolution and literary translation.

5. Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Symbolism: Students will analyze the rich symbolism in Arthurian literature, such as Excalibur, the Round Table, and the Holy Grail, and discuss their deeper meanings.
- Evaluative Thinking: Students will critically evaluate the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by characters, such as the conflict between duty and desire or the costs of honor and loyalty.

6. Writing and Communication

- Analytical Essays: Students will develop their ability to write analytical essays that articulate clear arguments supported by textual evidence.
- Creative Writing: Students might engage in creative writing exercises, such as composing their own Arthurian tales or modern adaptations, fostering creativity and narrative skills.
- Class Discussions: Students will improve their oral communication skills through class discussions, learning to articulate their ideas and engage with different viewpoints.

7. Ethical and Moral Reflection

- Moral Reasoning: Students will reflect on the ethical dimensions of the Arthurian legend, discussing topics like the nature of leadership, the responsibilities of power, and the consequences of betrayal.
- Personal Connections: Students will consider how the themes and moral questions in Arthurian legend relate to contemporary issues and their own lives, fostering a deeper understanding of human nature and ethical conduct.

8. Research Skills

- Historical Research: Students will conduct research on the historical origins of the Arthurian legend, learning to distinguish between historical fact and literary embellishment.

- Literary Criticism: Students will explore various critical perspectives on Arthurian literature, engaging with scholarly debates and interpretations.

9. Interdisciplinary Connections

- Art and History Integration: Students will explore how Arthurian themes have influenced visual arts, music, and film, understanding the interdisciplinary nature of cultural studies.
- Comparative Mythology: Students will compare Arthurian legend to other mythological traditions, identifying common themes and unique cultural expressions.

10. Creative and Analytical Projects

- Adaptations and Performances: Students might create modern adaptations of Arthurian tales or perform scenes, allowing them to engage creatively with the text and develop their interpretive skills.
- Multimedia Projects: Students can work on multimedia projects such as creating visual representations of the tales, developing digital presentations, or producing short films, combining literary analysis with creative expression.

Conclusion

Studying "The Legend of King Arthur" equips students with a robust set of skills in literary analysis, historical understanding, critical thinking, writing, and communication. Through the exploration of this enduring legend, students become more adept at interpreting complex texts, understanding cultural and historical contexts, and engaging in thoughtful analysis and discussion. These skills are not only valuable in an academic setting but also in their broader intellectual and personal development.

Stage 2: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth?
How will you know that they did it?

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Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence
1. Quiz 2. Annotation Journal 3. Project	PERFORMANCE TASK(S)/Think GRASPS:

4. Day of Discussion 5. Movie Activity	

Stage 3: Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students?
This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction

Teachers may summarize the topics within lessons or may utilize Laurel UbD Lesson Plan Template

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Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

1. Introduction
2. Introduction Quiz
3. Reading Material
4. Reading Activity/Assessment
5. Day of Discussion
6. Movie
7. Movie Activity

Unit 4 The Tragedy of Macbeth

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Course Title: British Literature	**Course Author:** Gregory Walzer	**Grade Level(s):** 11-12	**Time/Duration:** Year
Course Summary: This course offers an immersive journey through the rich tapestry of British literature, spanning from the heroic epic of Beowulf to the tragic drama of Macbeth. Students will delve into timeless tales that have			

shaped English literature and culture, exploring themes of heroism, chivalry, morality, and the human condition.

Course Summary:

1. Beowulf:
    - Introduction to the Old English epic poem Beowulf, focusing on its historical context, themes, and literary techniques.
    - Analysis of the heroic code and the portrayal of heroism in Anglo-Saxon society.
    - Exploration of the epic's characters, including Beowulf, Grendel, and the dragon.
    - Discussion of the poem's relevance and influence on later literature and popular culture.
2. The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer:
    - Examination of Chaucer's masterpiece, The Canterbury Tales, within the context of medieval England.
    - Study of the frame narrative and the diverse cast of characters on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.
    - Analysis of themes such as social satire, religion, love, and human nature.
    - Exploration of Chaucer's use of language, humor, and irony in portraying medieval society.
3. The Legend of King Arthur:
    - Survey of the Arthurian legend, focusing on its evolution over time and its significance in British folklore.
    - Study of key Arthurian texts, including Le Morte d'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory and selected medieval romances.
    - Analysis of themes such as chivalry, honor, fate, and the quest for the Holy Grail.
    - Examination of the enduring appeal of the Arthurian legend in literature, art, and popular culture.
5. Macbeth by William Shakespeare:
    - Exploration of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth, examining its themes, characters, and dramatic techniques.
    - Analysis of Macbeth's tragic flaw and the moral consequences of ambition and power.
    - Examination of the supernatural elements, including the witches and the theme of fate vs. free will.
    - Discussion of the play's portrayal of gender roles, guilt, and the nature of evil.

Throughout the course, students will engage in close reading, critical analysis, and discussion of primary texts, secondary sources, and relevant cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the development of British literature and its enduring impact on contemporary society.

Unit Name: The Tragedy of Macbeth	**Unit Number:** 4	**Created:** 2023-2024	**Revised:** TBD

Standards Addressed:
Studying "The Tragedy of Macbeth" by William Shakespeare aligns with several Pennsylvania state standards for English Language Arts (ELA) at the high school level. These standards encompass various skills and knowledge areas, including reading comprehension, critical analysis, writing, speaking, and listening. Here are some specific standards that are addressed through the study of this play:

Reading Literature (CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.A:
    - Key Ideas and Details: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences and conclusions based on the text.
        - *Studying "Macbeth" involves close reading to understand character motivations, plot developments, and thematic elements, requiring students to cite textual evidence to support their interpretations and analyses.*
2. CC.1.3.11-12.B:
    - Analyze Themes and Central Ideas: Determine and analyze themes and/or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.
        - *Themes such as ambition, guilt, and the supernatural are central to "Macbeth" and students must track their development throughout the play.*
3. CC.1.3.11-12.C:
    - Analyze Complex Characters: Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.
        - *Students explore how Shakespeare develops complex characters like Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, and how their actions drive the plot forward.*
4. CC.1.3.11-12.D:
    - Analyze Structure: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning.
        - *Students examine Shakespeare's use of soliloquies, acts, and scenes to understand how these choices affect the play's pacing and thematic emphasis.*
5. CC.1.3.11-12.E:
    - Analyze Point of View: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
        - *Exploring different perspectives within the play, such as the viewpoints of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, and the witches, helps students understand the narrative's complexity.*

Writing (CC.1.4)

1. CC.1.4.11-12.M:
    - Write Literary Analyses: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and

well-structured event sequences.
    - *Students may write essays analyzing key scenes, character arcs, and themes in "Macbeth," demonstrating their understanding through structured and evidence-based writing.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.S:
    - Draw Evidence from Texts: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
        - *Analytical writing assignments require students to support their arguments with direct evidence from the play.*

Speaking and Listening (CC.1.5)

1. CC.1.5.11-12.A:
    - Collaborative Discussions: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
        - *Class discussions on "Macbeth" help students articulate their interpretations and respond to the perspectives of their peers, fostering collaborative learning.*
2. CC.1.5.11-12.D:
    - Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective.
        - *Students might present their analyses of key scenes or characters to the class, demonstrating their understanding and interpretation of the play.*

Language (CC.1.4 and CC.1.3)

1. CC.1.3.11-12.F:
    - Analyze Figurative Language: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.
        - *Shakespeare's rich use of language, including metaphor, simile, and irony, provides ample material for analysis of his stylistic choices and their effects on the play's meaning and tone.*
2. CC.1.4.11-12.R:
    - Develop a Style Appropriate to Task and Audience: Demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage.
        - *Writing assignments on "Macbeth" require students to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling, ensuring their analyses are*

clear and professionally presented.

By engaging with "The Tragedy of Macbeth," students meet these standards through activities that involve critical reading, analytical writing, collaborative discussion, and in-depth examination of literary elements, enhancing their comprehension and appreciation of complex literary works.

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?

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Big Ideas:

"The Tragedy of Macbeth" by William Shakespeare is a profound exploration of various themes and big ideas that delve into the darker aspects of human nature and societal dynamics. Some of the most significant themes include:

1. Ambition and Power: One of the central themes in "Macbeth" is the corrupting power of unchecked ambition. Macbeth's desire to become king drives him to commit regicide and a series of subsequent atrocities. His initial valor and loyalty give way to ruthless ambition, showcasing how the thirst for power can lead to moral degradation and personal destruction.
2. Fate and Free Will: The play grapples with the tension between fate and free will. The witches' prophecies suggest a predetermined fate for Macbeth, but it is his own actions, spurred by ambition and manipulation, that bring about his downfall. This raises questions about the extent to which characters are controlled by destiny versus their own choices.
3. Guilt and Conscience: Guilt is a pervasive theme in "Macbeth." Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are haunted by their actions. Macbeth's hallucinations, such as the vision of the blood-stained dagger and Banquo's ghost, and Lady Macbeth's obsessive hand-washing, symbolize their deep-seated remorse and the psychological torment resulting from their crimes.
4. The Nature of Evil: The play examines the nature of evil and its manifestations within individuals. Macbeth's transformation from a brave warrior to a tyrannical murderer illustrates the potential for evil within everyone. The witches, often seen as embodiments of supernatural evil, also play a crucial role in influencing Macbeth's actions, blurring the lines between external evil forces and internal moral weaknesses.

5. The Supernatural: The supernatural elements in "Macbeth"—the witches, apparitions, and ghostly visions—serve to heighten the sense of fear and foreboding. These elements also underscore the themes of fate and destiny, suggesting that there are forces beyond human control influencing the course of events.
6. The Natural vs. the Unnatural: The play contrasts natural order with the unnatural acts committed by Macbeth. The regicide is portrayed as a violation of the natural order, leading to chaos and disorder in Scotland. Nature itself seems to react to the evil deeds, with ominous weather and disturbances reflecting the moral corruption and societal upheaval.
7. Gender Roles and Masculinity: Gender roles and the concept of masculinity are examined through characters like Lady Macbeth and Macbeth. Lady Macbeth's challenge to Macbeth's masculinity spurs him to commit murder, and her own invocation of masculine traits to pursue her ambitions reveals the play's complex exploration of gender and power dynamics.
8. Appearance vs. Reality: Deception and the difference between appearance and reality are recurring motifs. Characters frequently disguise their true intentions, and things are not what they seem. Macbeth's castle appears welcoming even as it harbors murderous plots, and Macbeth himself hides his treachery under a veneer of loyalty.
9. Moral Corruption and the Cycle of Violence: The play portrays the cyclical nature of violence and its ability to perpetuate further bloodshed and moral corruption. Macbeth's initial murder of Duncan leads to a series of subsequent killings, each one increasing his paranoia and tyranny, ultimately leading to his own violent demise.
10. The Psychological Effects of Guilt and Fear: The psychological torment experienced by both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth highlights the destructive effects of guilt and fear. Their mental unraveling illustrates the heavy toll that their actions take on their psyches, leading to insomnia, hallucinations, and madness.

These big ideas combine to create a rich and complex tragedy that explores the dark depths of human ambition, the consequences of moral corruption, and the intricate interplay between destiny and personal choice.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

Through the study of The Tragedy of Macbeth, students will develop a wide array of skills and knowledge that they can independently apply in various academic and real-life contexts. Here are the key abilities students will gain:

1. Analyze and Interpret Literature

- **Theme Exploration**: Students will be able to identify and analyze major themes such as ambition, power, guilt, and fate. They will understand how these themes are developed throughout the play.
- **Character Analysis**: They will analyze complex characters, particularly Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, exploring their motivations, psychological depth, and transformations over the course of the play.
- **Literary Devices**: Students will recognize and interpret Shakespeare's use of literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, irony, and

foreshadowing, enhancing their understanding of how these elements contribute to the play's meaning and impact.

2. Engage in Critical Thinking

- **Evaluate Motives and Actions**: Students will critically evaluate the motives and actions of characters, considering ethical implications and the consequences of their choices.
- **Textual Analysis**: They will independently analyze key passages for meaning, literary techniques, and thematic significance, developing skills in close reading and critical interpretation.

3. Conduct Research

- **Historical Context**: Students will research the historical, social, and political context of Shakespeare's time, understanding how these factors influence the play's themes and characters.
- **Literary Criticism**: They will engage with various critical perspectives on Macbeth, learning to evaluate and synthesize scholarly interpretations.

4. Develop Writing and Communication Skills

- **Analytical Essays**: Students will write well-organized analytical essays that argue a clear thesis about the play, using textual evidence to support their arguments. They will develop their ability to construct coherent, persuasive arguments.
- **Creative Projects**: They might engage in creative projects such as modern adaptations, character diaries, or alternate endings, which allow them to apply their understanding of the play in imaginative ways.

5. Connect Literature to Broader Themes and Disciplines

- **Interdisciplinary Connections**: Students will connect the themes of Macbeth to broader historical, philosophical, and psychological issues. They might explore topics such as the nature of ambition, the psychology of guilt, and the exercise of power.
- **Personal Reflection**: They will reflect on how the themes of the play relate to their own lives and contemporary society, fostering personal growth and ethical awareness.

6. Enhance Vocabulary and Language Skills

- **Advanced Vocabulary**: By studying Shakespeare's rich language, students will enhance their vocabulary and understanding of Elizabethan English, improving their overall language skills.
- **Figurative Language**: They will recognize and analyze the use of figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, and personification, gaining a deeper appreciation for Shakespeare's poetic techniques.

7. Engage in Collaborative Learning

- **Group Discussions**: Students will participate in discussions and debates about the play's themes, characters, and moral questions, enhancing

their ability to articulate ideas and listen to diverse perspectives.
- **Group Projects**: They might collaborate on group projects or presentations, developing teamwork and communication skills.

8. Apply Ethical and Philosophical Reasoning

- **Moral Dilemmas**: Students will explore ethical questions posed by the play, such as the consequences of unchecked ambition and the nature of moral responsibility.
- **Critical Reflection**: They will critically reflect on the decisions and actions of the characters, drawing parallels to modern ethical dilemmas and enhancing their moral reasoning skills.

9. Foster a Lifelong Appreciation for Literature

- **Cultural Literacy**: By studying a seminal work of Western literature, students will gain cultural literacy, understanding the influence of Shakespeare on later literature, drama, and popular culture.
- **Love of Reading**: Engaging with the captivating and dramatic elements of Macbeth can foster a lifelong love of reading and an appreciation for the power of literature to explore the human condition.

10. Prepare for Future Academic and Professional Success

- **Standardized Tests and College Preparation**: The analytical and critical thinking skills developed through studying Macbeth will help students perform well on standardized tests and prepare for college-level coursework.
- **Professional Communication**: The ability to analyze complex texts and articulate insights clearly will benefit students in a wide range of professional fields, from law and business to education and the arts.

Conclusion

Through the study of **The Tragedy of Macbeth**, students will develop a comprehensive set of skills that extend beyond literary analysis. They will be equipped to critically engage with texts, conduct thorough research, express themselves clearly and creatively, and connect literature to broader societal and ethical issues. These abilities will serve them well in academic pursuits and in their personal and professional lives, fostering a deeper understanding of human nature and the complexities of moral and ethical decision-making.

Meaning

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand that…
Studying William Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Macbeth" offers students a profound exploration of complex themes, character development, and the

interplay between personal ambition and moral integrity. Through this study, students will gain insights into the literary, historical, and psychological dimensions of the play. Here are the key understandings that students will achieve:

1. Literary and Dramatic Techniques

- Tragic Structure: Students will understand the structure of a Shakespearean tragedy, including elements such as the tragic hero, hamartia (tragic flaw), peripeteia (reversal of fortune), anagnorisis (recognition), and catharsis.
- Characterization: Students will explore how Shakespeare develops complex characters, particularly Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, through dialogue, soliloquies, and actions.
- Language and Imagery: Students will analyze Shakespeare's use of language, including his use of metaphor, simile, personification, and symbolic imagery, to convey themes and emotions.
- Dramatic Irony and Foreshadowing: Students will examine how Shakespeare uses dramatic irony and foreshadowing to build tension and enhance the tragic impact of the play.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Ambition and Power: Students will explore the theme of ambition and its corrupting influence, understanding how Macbeth's unchecked ambition leads to his downfall.
- Fate vs. Free Will: Students will discuss the tension between fate and free will, analyzing how the characters' actions are influenced by the witches' prophecies and their own choices.
- Guilt and Conscience: Students will understand the psychological effects of guilt on Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, examining how their consciences torment them and lead to their unraveling.
- The Supernatural: Students will analyze the role of the supernatural, including the witches and apparitions, in shaping the events of the play and influencing the characters' actions.
- Appearance vs. Reality: Students will explore the theme of appearance versus reality, considering how characters deceive others and themselves, and how this deception contributes to the tragic outcome.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Elizabethan and Jacobean Context: Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural context of the play, including the political and social concerns of the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras.
- The Divine Right of Kings: Students will understand the concept of the divine right of kings and its significance in the play, particularly in relation to Macbeth's usurpation of the throne.
- Witchcraft and Superstition: Students will explore contemporary beliefs about witchcraft and the supernatural, and how these are reflected in the play.

4. Psychological and Moral Complexity

- Character Motivation: Students will analyze the motivations and internal conflicts of characters, particularly Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, understanding how their desires and fears drive their actions.
- Moral Ambiguity: Students will explore the moral ambiguity of the characters, considering how Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embody both good and evil traits, and how their moral decline is portrayed.
- Consequences of Actions: Students will understand the consequences of the characters' actions, both for themselves and for others, examining how their choices lead to inevitable tragedy.

5. Language and Interpretation

- Close Reading: Students will develop skills in close reading and textual analysis, interpreting Shakespeare's language and its nuanced meanings.
- Interpretation and Performance: Students will explore different interpretations and performances of the play, considering how various actors and directors bring different perspectives to the text.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will engage in in-depth character analysis, examining the development and transformation of key characters throughout the play.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the play, considering how they are developed through the plot, characters, and language.
- Literary Criticism: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations of the play, developing their own analyses and arguments.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore the moral lessons embedded in the play, discussing the virtues and vices of the characters and the consequences of their actions.
- Justice and Retribution: Students will consider the themes of justice and retribution, examining how the play addresses the idea of moral and legal justice.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the play to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of Shakespeare's observations on human nature.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the play provides insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of its time, and how these

compare to those of today.

By engaging with "The Tragedy of Macbeth," students will develop a comprehensive understanding of this complex and multifaceted work. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of Shakespeare's exploration of ambition, power, guilt, and the human condition.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Studying William Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Macbeth" offers a wealth of opportunities to explore complex themes, character motivations, and the play's historical and cultural context. Essential questions in the study of "Macbeth" encourage deep analysis and critical thinking about the text. Here are some key essential questions to consider:

1. What is the nature of ambition and its effects on individuals and relationships?

- How does Macbeth's ambition drive the plot of the play?
- What are the consequences of unchecked ambition for Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?
- How do other characters, such as Banquo and Macduff, respond to ambition, and what do their responses reveal about their values?

2. How does Shakespeare explore the theme of power and its corrupting influence?

- How does the pursuit of power change Macbeth and Lady Macbeth throughout the play?
- In what ways does power corrupt other characters in the play?
- How does Shakespeare illustrate the moral and psychological consequences of the characters' quest for power?

3. What role do fate and free will play in the tragedy of Macbeth?

- To what extent are Macbeth's actions determined by fate versus his own choices?
- How do the witches' prophecies influence Macbeth's behavior and decisions?
- How does the play balance the concepts of destiny and personal responsibility?

4. How does the theme of guilt and conscience manifest in the play?

- How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth each experience and react to guilt?
- What role does conscience play in the downfall of the main characters?
- How does Shakespeare use imagery and symbolism to convey the theme of guilt?

5. How does Shakespeare use supernatural elements to advance the plot and develop themes?

- What is the significance of the witches and their prophecies in the play?
- How do supernatural occurrences, such as Banquo's ghost and the apparitions, affect the characters and the audience?
- How does the supernatural contribute to the overall atmosphere and themes of the play?

6. What is the significance of gender roles and expectations in "Macbeth"?

- How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth challenge or conform to traditional gender roles?
- In what ways does Lady Macbeth's manipulation of gender expectations influence the events of the play?
- How does the play address the relationship between masculinity, power, and violence?

7. How does the play explore the theme of appearance versus reality?

- How do characters in the play deceive others or themselves about their true intentions and feelings?
- What role does the motif of "fair is foul, and foul is fair" play in the development of the plot and themes?
- How does Shakespeare use language, imagery, and dramatic irony to highlight the discrepancy between appearance and reality?

8. What is the role of loyalty and betrayal in "Macbeth"?

- How are themes of loyalty and betrayal depicted through the relationships between characters, such as Macbeth and Duncan, or Macbeth and Banquo?
- How do acts of betrayal impact the trajectory of the plot and the fate of the characters?
- What does the play suggest about the nature and consequences of betrayal?

9. How does the historical and cultural context influence the play's themes and characters?

- In what ways does "Macbeth" reflect the political and social concerns of Shakespeare's time, such as the divine right of kings or the anxieties about succession?
- How do historical events, such as the Gunpowder Plot, inform the themes and tone of the play?
- What relevance do the play's themes have to contemporary issues and concerns?

10. How does Shakespeare use language and literary devices to enhance the play's impact?

- How does Shakespeare's use of soliloquies reveal the inner thoughts and conflicts of characters like Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?
- What is the effect of Shakespeare's use of motifs, such as blood, darkness, and sleep, throughout the play?

- How does Shakespeare's use of dramatic irony and foreshadowing contribute to the tension and overall tragedy of the play?

By engaging with these essential questions, students can gain a deeper understanding of "Macbeth," exploring the layers of meaning within the text and connecting its themes to broader human experiences and societal issues. These questions promote critical thinking and encourage students to analyze the play from multiple perspectives.

Stage 1: Essential Content, Concepts & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition

KNOWLEDGE

Students will know…

Through the study of William Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Macbeth," students will gain a deep understanding of various literary, historical, and thematic aspects. This iconic play provides a rich exploration of human nature, power, ambition, and moral integrity. Here are the key things students will know through the study of "Macbeth":

1. Literary and Dramatic Techniques

- Tragic Structure: Students will understand the structure of a Shakespearean tragedy, including elements such as the tragic hero, hamartia (tragic flaw), peripeteia (reversal of fortune), anagnorisis (recognition), and catharsis.
- Characterization: Students will explore how Shakespeare develops complex characters, particularly Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, through dialogue, soliloquies, and actions.
- Language and Imagery: Students will analyze Shakespeare's use of language, including his use of metaphor, simile, personification, and symbolic

imagery, to convey themes and emotions.
- Dramatic Irony and Foreshadowing: Students will examine how Shakespeare uses dramatic irony and foreshadowing to build tension and enhance the tragic impact of the play.

2. Themes and Motifs

- Ambition and Power: Students will explore the theme of ambition and its corrupting influence, understanding how Macbeth's unchecked ambition leads to his downfall.
- Fate vs. Free Will: Students will discuss the tension between fate and free will, analyzing how the characters' actions are influenced by the witches' prophecies and their own choices.
- Guilt and Conscience: Students will understand the psychological effects of guilt on Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, examining how their consciences torment them and lead to their unraveling.
- The Supernatural: Students will analyze the role of the supernatural, including the witches and apparitions, in shaping the events of the play and influencing the characters' actions.
- Appearance vs. Reality: Students will explore the theme of appearance versus reality, considering how characters deceive others and themselves, and how this deception contributes to the tragic outcome.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- Elizabethan and Jacobean Context: Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural context of the play, including the political and social concerns of the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras.
- The Divine Right of Kings: Students will understand the concept of the divine right of kings and its significance in the play, particularly in relation to Macbeth's usurpation of the throne.
- Witchcraft and Superstition: Students will explore contemporary beliefs about witchcraft and the supernatural, and how these are reflected in the play.

4. Psychological and Moral Complexity

- Character Motivation: Students will analyze the motivations and internal conflicts of characters, particularly Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, understanding how their desires and fears drive their actions.
- Moral Ambiguity: Students will explore the moral ambiguity of the characters, considering how Macbeth and Lady Macbeth embody both good and evil traits, and how their moral decline is portrayed.
- Consequences of Actions: Students will understand the consequences of the characters' actions, both for themselves and for others, examining how their choices lead to inevitable tragedy.

5. Language and Interpretation

- Close Reading: Students will develop skills in close reading and textual analysis, interpreting Shakespeare's language and its nuanced meanings.

- Interpretation and Performance: Students will explore different interpretations and performances of the play, considering how various actors and directors bring different perspectives to the text.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Character Analysis: Students will engage in in-depth character analysis, examining the development and transformation of key characters throughout the play.
- Thematic Analysis: Students will critically examine the major themes of the play, considering how they are developed through the plot, characters, and language.
- Literary Criticism: Students will engage with different critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations of the play, developing their own analyses and arguments.

7. Moral and Ethical Questions

- Virtue and Vice: Students will explore the moral lessons embedded in the play, discussing the virtues and vices of the characters and the consequences of their actions.
- Justice and Retribution: Students will consider the themes of justice and retribution, examining how the play addresses the idea of moral and legal justice.

8. Personal and Societal Reflection

- Human Experience: Students will relate the experiences and themes in the play to their own lives and contemporary society, considering the universal aspects of Shakespeare's observations on human nature.
- Cultural Reflection: Students will reflect on how the play provides insights into the cultural values and social dynamics of its time, and how these compare to those of today.

By engaging with "The Tragedy of Macbeth," students will develop a comprehensive understanding of this complex and multifaceted work. They will enhance their literary analysis skills, deepen their historical and cultural knowledge, and appreciate the enduring relevance of Shakespeare's exploration of ambition, power, guilt, and the human condition.

SKILLS

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...
Studying "The Tragedy of Macbeth" by William Shakespeare provides students with a wealth of opportunities to develop various academic and personal skills. Here is an overview of what students will be skilled at doing as a result of engaging with this complex and influential play:

1. Literary Analysis

- Understanding Tragic Structure: Students will learn about the structure of tragedy, including elements such as the tragic hero, hamartia (tragic flaw), and catharsis.
- Theme Identification: Students will identify and analyze central themes such as ambition, power, guilt, fate versus free will, and the corrupting influence of unchecked ambition.
- Character Analysis: Students will delve into the complexities of characters like Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo, and the witches, exploring their motivations, development, and roles in the narrative.

2. Historical and Cultural Understanding

- Elizabethan Context: Students will gain insights into the historical and cultural context of Shakespeare's time, including the political environment, societal norms, and beliefs about witchcraft and the supernatural.
- Shakespearean Language: Students will become familiar with the language of the Elizabethan era, understanding its syntax, vocabulary, and rhetorical devices.

3. Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Symbolism: Students will analyze the rich symbolism in "Macbeth," such as the motifs of blood, darkness, and hallucinations, and discuss their deeper meanings.
- Evaluative Thinking: Students will critically evaluate the moral and ethical dilemmas faced by the characters, such as the consequences of ambition and the nature of guilt and redemption.

4. Writing and Communication

- Analytical Essays: Students will develop their ability to write analytical essays that articulate clear arguments supported by textual evidence.
- Creative Writing: Students might engage in creative writing exercises, such as composing monologues or modern adaptations of scenes, fostering creativity and narrative skills.
- Class Discussions: Students will improve their oral communication skills through class discussions, learning to articulate their ideas and engage with different viewpoints.

5. Ethical and Moral Reflection

- Moral Reasoning: Students will reflect on the ethical dimensions of the play, discussing topics like the nature of ambition, the use of power, and the consequences of moral corruption.
- Personal Connections: Students will consider how the themes and moral questions in "Macbeth" relate to contemporary issues and their own lives,

fostering a deeper understanding of human nature and ethical conduct.

6. Performance and Interpretation

- Dramatic Interpretation: Students will explore how "Macbeth" can be brought to life on stage, understanding the importance of tone, pacing, and body language in conveying meaning.
- Scene Performance: Students might perform scenes from the play, which helps them develop public speaking skills and a deeper appreciation for the dramatic arts.

7. Research Skills

- Historical Research: Students will conduct research on the historical background of "Macbeth," including the real King Macbeth of Scotland and the political context of Shakespeare's England.
- Literary Criticism: Students will explore various critical perspectives on "Macbeth," engaging with scholarly debates and interpretations.

8. Comparative Analysis

- Intertextual Connections: Students will compare "Macbeth" with other Shakespearean tragedies, such as "Hamlet" or "Othello," analyzing similarities and differences in themes and character arcs.
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Students will examine how "Macbeth" has been adapted and reinterpreted in various cultures and mediums, from literature and film to art and popular culture.

9. Language Skills

- Close Reading: Students will practice close reading of Shakespearean text, enhancing their ability to analyze and interpret complex literary language.
- Rhetorical Devices: Students will identify and analyze rhetorical devices used by Shakespeare, such as metaphor, simile, and irony, understanding how these contribute to the play's impact.

10. Creative and Analytical Projects

- Adaptations and Performances: Students might create modern adaptations of "Macbeth" or perform scenes, allowing them to engage creatively with the text and develop their interpretive skills.
- Multimedia Projects: Students can work on multimedia projects such as creating visual representations of the themes, developing digital presentations, or producing short films, combining literary analysis with creative expression.

Conclusion

Studying "The Tragedy of Macbeth" equips students with a diverse set of skills in literary analysis, historical understanding, critical thinking, writing, and communication. Through the exploration of this profound and multifaceted play, students become more adept at interpreting complex texts, understanding cultural and historical contexts, and engaging in thoughtful analysis and discussion. These skills are not only valuable in an academic setting but also in their broader intellectual and personal development.

Stage 2: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth?
How will you know that they did it?

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Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence
1. Quiz 2. Annotation Journal 3. Project 4. Day of Discussion 5. Movie Activity	PERFORMANCE TASK(S)/Think GRASPS:

Stage 3: Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students?
This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction

Teachers may summarize the topics within lessons or may utilize Laurel UbD Lesson Plan Template

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Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

1. Introduction
2. Introduction Quiz
3. Reading Material
4. Reading Activity/Assessment
5. Day of Discussion
6. Movie
7. Movie Activity

Unit 5 Vocabulary Development

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Course Title: Vocabulary Development	**Course Author:** Gregory Walzer	**Grade Level(s):** 11-12	**Time/Duration:** Year
Course Summary: (optional) [Type Here]			
Unit Name: Vocabulary Development	**Unit Number:** 5	**Created:** 2023-2024	**Revised:** TBD

Standards Addressed:

The Pennsylvania State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) outline specific goals for vocabulary acquisition and use for grades 11-12. These standards are designed to ensure that students develop a robust vocabulary that enables them to comprehend complex texts and communicate effectively. Here's a discussion of how these standards are addressed in the study of vocabulary for high school juniors and seniors:

1. Determining Meaning of Words and Phrases (CC.1.2.11-12.K & CC.1.3.11-12.I)

- Context Clues: Students will be able to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings. They will use context clues to infer meaning and understand how word choice affects tone and meaning.
- Word Parts: Students will analyze the structure of words, including prefixes, suffixes, and root words, to determine their meaning and usage.

2. Analyzing and Interpreting Figurative Language and Word Relationships (CC.1.2.11-12.J & CC.1.3.11-12.J)

- Figurative Language: Students will interpret figurative language, including metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole, and analyze how it contributes to the meaning of a text.
- Word Relationships: Students will analyze nuances in the meanings of words with similar denotations and understand the relationships between words, such as synonyms, antonyms, and analogies.

3. Academic and Domain-Specific Vocabulary (CC.1.2.11-12.L)

- Tiered Vocabulary: Students will acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., however, nevertheless, moreover, in addition).
- Research and Presentation: Students will use domain-specific vocabulary in their research and presentations, enhancing their ability to communicate effectively in various academic disciplines.

4. Vocabulary in Writing and Speaking (CC.1.4.11-12.F & CC.1.5.11-12.F)

- Writing Skills: Students will demonstrate command of vocabulary in their writing, using precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of experiences, events, settings, and characters.
- Speaking Skills: Students will use vocabulary effectively in discussions and presentations, adjusting their use of language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

5. Strategies for Understanding New Vocabulary (CC.1.1.11-12.E)

- Independent Strategies: Students will use a variety of strategies to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases, including using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials.
- Reading Comprehension: Students will apply their understanding of vocabulary to enhance their reading comprehension of complex literary and informational texts.

6. Language Standards (CC.1.4.11-12.Q)

- Language Conventions: Students will demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. This includes understanding how language functions in different contexts and making effective choices for meaning or style.
- Vocabulary Acquisition: Students will acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Classroom Application: Vocabulary Instruction Techniques

- Direct Instruction: Teachers will provide explicit instruction on key vocabulary terms, including definitions, usage, and contextual examples.
- Interactive Activities: Students will engage in interactive vocabulary activities, such as word maps, semantic feature analysis, and vocabulary games, to reinforce their understanding and retention of new words.
- Contextual Learning: Students will encounter new vocabulary in the context of reading assignments and discussions, helping them understand how words are used in real-world situations.
- Technology Integration: Digital tools and resources, such as online dictionaries, thesauruses, and vocabulary apps, will be used to support vocabulary learning and provide additional practice.

Conclusion

Addressing the Pennsylvania State Standards for vocabulary in grades 11-12 involves a comprehensive approach that includes direct instruction, contextual learning, and the application of vocabulary in reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. By meeting these standards, students will be equipped with the vocabulary skills necessary for academic success and effective communication in various contexts.

Stage 1 Desired Results: Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

What are the overarching takeaways and big ideas for students?

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Big Ideas:
The study of vocabulary for grades 11-12 is critical for preparing students for college-level reading and writing, as well as for effective communication in professional and personal contexts. Here are the big ideas in the study of vocabulary for these grade levels:

1. Enhanced Reading Comprehension

- Deep Understanding: Advanced vocabulary knowledge enables students to comprehend and analyze complex texts, including classic literature,

contemporary works, academic articles, and technical documents.
- Critical Analysis: A robust vocabulary helps students identify and understand nuanced arguments, themes, and rhetorical strategies in their reading, leading to deeper and more critical engagement with texts.

2. Effective Communication

- Precision and Clarity: Students learn to use precise and appropriate words to express their ideas clearly and effectively in both written and oral communication.
- Audience Awareness: Developing a strong vocabulary allows students to adjust their language to suit different audiences and purposes, enhancing their ability to persuade, inform, and entertain.

3. Academic and Professional Readiness

- College Preparation: A strong vocabulary prepares students for the rigorous reading and writing demands of college-level coursework, including the ability to understand and use academic and domain-specific terminology.
- Career Success: Mastery of vocabulary relevant to various fields ensures that students can communicate effectively in professional settings, making them more competitive in the job market.

4. Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills

- Inferencing: Students develop the ability to infer the meaning of unfamiliar words from context, which enhances their overall reading comprehension and analytical skills.
- Comparative Analysis: Analyzing word choices in different texts helps students understand how language shapes meaning, tone, and style, fostering their critical thinking abilities.

5. Lifelong Learning

- Independent Learning: Students acquire strategies for learning new words independently, such as using context clues, understanding word roots, and consulting reference materials. This promotes a habit of lifelong learning and curiosity.
- Cultural Literacy: A broad vocabulary enhances students' cultural literacy, enabling them to engage with a wide range of texts and media from different cultures and historical periods.

6. Contextual Understanding and Usage

- Word Relationships: Students learn about synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and other word relationships, which helps them understand and use words more precisely.

- Nuanced Meanings: Understanding the connotative and denotative meanings of words allows students to appreciate and convey subtle differences in meaning and tone.

7. Mastery of Academic Vocabulary

- Tiered Vocabulary: Students focus on Tier 2 (high-frequency academic words) and Tier 3 (domain-specific words) vocabulary, which are critical for academic success across subjects.
- Discipline-Specific Language: Students become familiar with the specialized vocabulary of various academic disciplines, enhancing their ability to engage with and contribute to scholarly discourse.

8. Application in Writing

- Word Choice in Writing: Students learn to choose words that effectively convey their intended meaning and tone, improving the quality and impact of their writing.
- Vocabulary in Revision: Emphasizing vocabulary during the revision process helps students refine their writing, making it more precise and engaging.

9. Etymology and Word Origins

- Root Words and Affixes: Understanding the origins of words, including Greek and Latin roots and affixes, helps students decode unfamiliar words and enhances their overall vocabulary knowledge.
- Language Evolution: Learning about the history and evolution of words provides students with insights into how language changes over time and how it reflects cultural and social developments.

10. Interdisciplinary Connections

- Cross-Curricular Learning: Vocabulary instruction is integrated across the curriculum, helping students see the relevance of words in different subjects and enhancing their ability to transfer knowledge between contexts.
- Global Perspectives: Exploring vocabulary from different languages and cultures broadens students' global perspectives and fosters an appreciation for linguistic diversity.

Conclusion

The big ideas in the study of vocabulary for grades 11-12 encompass enhanced reading comprehension, effective communication, academic and professional readiness, critical thinking, lifelong learning, contextual understanding, mastery of academic vocabulary, application in writing, etymology, and interdisciplinary connections. By focusing on these areas, students build a strong foundation in vocabulary that supports their overall academic

growth and prepares them for future success.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

In grades 11-12, students develop advanced vocabulary skills that they can independently apply in various contexts. Here are several ways students will be able to independently use their vocabulary learning:

1. Academic Success

- Enhanced Reading Comprehension: Students will independently use their vocabulary knowledge to comprehend and analyze complex texts in literature, science, history, and other subjects, enabling them to understand key concepts and arguments.
- Effective Writing: They will employ sophisticated vocabulary in their essays, research papers, and written assignments, using precise and varied word choices to articulate their ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Class Discussions: In class discussions and presentations, students will use advanced vocabulary to express their thoughts accurately and engage in meaningful dialogue with peers and teachers.

2. Standardized Test Preparation

- SAT/ACT: Students will apply their vocabulary knowledge to excel in standardized tests like the SAT and ACT, particularly in sections that test reading comprehension and writing skills.
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: For students taking AP courses, a strong vocabulary helps in understanding exam questions, comprehending complex texts, and crafting well-argued essays.

3. College Readiness

- College-Level Coursework: Students will independently navigate the demanding reading and writing requirements of college courses, using their vocabulary skills to understand academic texts and communicate effectively in essays and research papers.
- Academic Research: In college, students will use domain-specific vocabulary to conduct and present research, engage with scholarly articles, and contribute to academic discussions.

4. Professional Communication

- Workplace Writing: In professional settings, students will apply their vocabulary knowledge to write clear and effective emails, reports, and

presentations, ensuring their communication is precise and professional.
- Job Interviews: A strong vocabulary enables students to articulate their qualifications and experiences confidently during job interviews and networking opportunities.

5. Lifelong Learning

- Independent Reading: Students will continue to read independently, using their vocabulary skills to tackle a wide range of genres and topics, from classic literature to contemporary non-fiction.
- Continuous Vocabulary Building: They will employ strategies learned in school, such as using context clues, understanding word roots, and consulting dictionaries, to independently expand their vocabulary throughout their lives.

6. Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Interpreting Texts: Students will independently analyze and interpret various texts, using their vocabulary knowledge to understand nuanced meanings, identify themes, and evaluate arguments.
- Evaluating Sources: In both academic and everyday contexts, students will critically evaluate the credibility and reliability of sources, aided by their understanding of specialized and technical vocabulary.

7. Personal Expression and Creativity

- Creative Writing: Students will use an advanced vocabulary to enhance their creative writing, crafting more vivid and engaging stories, poems, and essays.
- Articulation of Ideas: In personal blogs, social media posts, or public speaking engagements, students will express their thoughts and opinions more clearly and effectively.

8. Cultural and Global Awareness

- Understanding Diverse Perspectives: A rich vocabulary helps students appreciate and understand literature and media from different cultures, fostering global awareness and empathy.
- Engaging with Global Issues: Students will use their vocabulary skills to engage with and discuss global issues, making informed arguments and contributions to debates on topics like politics, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

9. Problem-Solving and Innovation

- Technical and Scientific Vocabulary: In fields like science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), students will apply their vocabulary knowledge to understand technical manuals, scientific papers, and industry-specific documents.

- Creative Problem-Solving: A strong vocabulary supports creative thinking and problem-solving, allowing students to articulate innovative ideas and solutions clearly and persuasively.

10. Interpersonal Communication

- Building Relationships: Effective use of vocabulary enhances interpersonal communication, helping students build and maintain relationships through clear and empathetic dialogue.
- Conflict Resolution: In conflict resolution, students can use precise language to articulate their perspectives and mediate discussions, contributing to more effective and amicable outcomes.

Conclusion

By mastering vocabulary in grades 11-12, students develop the ability to independently apply their learning in a variety of contexts. They become more effective readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers, capable of navigating academic, professional, and personal challenges with confidence and clarity. This strong foundation in vocabulary empowers students to continue learning and growing throughout their lives.

Meaning

UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand that…

In grades 11-12, students' vocabulary learning is sophisticated and multifaceted, encompassing a deep understanding of language use, word relationships, and the impact of word choice on communication. Here are key understandings that students will gain:

1. The Nuances of Meaning

- Connotative vs. Denotative Meanings: Students will understand the difference between the literal, dictionary definition of a word (denotation) and its associated meanings or emotions (connotation). For example, the word "home" denotes a place where one lives, but connotes warmth, security, and family.
- Multiple Meanings: They will recognize that many words have multiple meanings and will learn to determine the appropriate meaning based on context.

2. Contextual Usage

- Context Clues: Students will understand how to use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. This includes looking at surrounding words, sentences, and overall text structure.
- Syntax and Grammar: They will learn how the position of a word in a sentence and its grammatical form can affect its meaning.

3. Word Formation and Structure

- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes: Students will understand how words are formed by roots, prefixes, and suffixes, allowing them to decode unfamiliar words and expand their vocabulary. For example, knowing that the prefix "pre-" means "before" can help in understanding words like "predict" and "preview."
- Etymology: They will gain insights into the origins of words and how language evolves over time, enhancing their ability to understand and remember new vocabulary.

4. The Power of Word Choice

- Tone and Style: Students will understand how word choice influences tone and style in writing and speech. They will learn to choose words that convey the desired emotional tone, whether it's formal, informal, persuasive, or descriptive.
- Precision and Clarity: They will appreciate the importance of selecting precise words to convey exact meanings, thus avoiding ambiguity and enhancing communication clarity.

5. Figurative Language and Literary Devices

- Metaphors and Similes: Students will understand how metaphors, similes, and other figures of speech enrich language by adding layers of meaning and creating vivid imagery.
- Symbolism and Allegory: They will recognize how authors use symbols and allegory to convey deeper meanings and themes beyond the literal text.

6. Academic and Domain-Specific Vocabulary

- Discipline-Specific Terms: Students will understand and use vocabulary specific to different academic disciplines, such as scientific terminology, literary terms, and historical jargon.
- General Academic Vocabulary: They will master high-frequency academic words that are crucial for understanding and engaging with complex texts across subjects.

7. Effective Communication

- Audience Awareness: Students will understand how to adjust their vocabulary based on their audience and purpose, whether in writing or

speaking. This includes differentiating between formal and informal language.
- Persuasion and Argumentation: They will learn how to use vocabulary effectively to persuade and construct coherent, compelling arguments.

8. Vocabulary in Real-World Contexts

- Practical Application: Students will understand how vocabulary applies to real-world contexts, such as in job interviews, professional communication, and everyday interactions.
- Lifelong Learning: They will recognize the importance of continually expanding their vocabulary and will develop strategies for doing so, such as reading widely and using new words in context.

9. Cultural and Global Awareness

- Language Diversity: Students will understand that vocabulary varies across cultures and languages, which can influence communication and interpretation. They will appreciate the richness that linguistic diversity brings to understanding global perspectives.
- Literary Analysis: They will analyze how authors from different cultural backgrounds use language uniquely to express their experiences and viewpoints.

10. Critical Thinking and Interpretation

- Analytical Skills: Students will understand how to critically analyze texts, focusing on how authors use vocabulary to develop themes, characters, and settings.
- Inference: They will develop the ability to infer meanings and implications from text, going beyond the surface to understand underlying messages and subtext.

Conclusion

By the end of grades 11-12, students will have a comprehensive understanding of vocabulary that encompasses not just the meanings of words but also their usage, formation, and impact on communication. They will be equipped with the skills to decode unfamiliar words, appreciate the nuances of language, and apply their vocabulary knowledge effectively in academic, professional, and personal contexts. This deep understanding of vocabulary is essential for their success in higher education and beyond, enabling them to read critically, write precisely, and communicate clearly.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Essential questions in the study of vocabulary for grades 11-12 are designed to guide students toward deep, enduring understandings about language and its use. These questions help focus instruction, promote critical thinking, and encourage students to make meaningful connections between vocabulary and broader themes. Here are some essential questions for vocabulary study at this level:

1. How does the meaning of a word change based on its context?

- Importance of Context: How do context clues help us determine the meaning of unfamiliar words?
- Word Nuances: In what ways can the same word convey different meanings in different contexts?

2. How do word choices affect tone, style, and meaning in a text?

- Author's Purpose: How do authors use specific words to influence readers' perceptions and emotions?
- Reader's Interpretation: How can word choice shape a reader's understanding and interpretation of a text?

3. What strategies can we use to understand and remember new vocabulary?

- Learning Techniques: What are the most effective strategies for learning new vocabulary?
- Memory Aids: How do mnemonic devices, word roots, prefixes, and suffixes help us remember new words?

4. How does our vocabulary reflect our identity and culture?

- Cultural Influence: In what ways does the vocabulary we use reflect our cultural backgrounds and personal experiences?
- Language and Identity: How can language shape and express our identity?

5. How can a rich vocabulary improve our communication skills?

- Clarity and Precision: How does having a strong vocabulary help us to communicate more clearly and effectively?
- Persuasive Language: In what ways can a varied vocabulary enhance our ability to persuade and influence others?

6. How do word origins and etymology help us understand the English language?

- Historical Context: What can the history and origin of words tell us about the development of the English language?
- Word Formation: How does understanding Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes help us decode unfamiliar words?

7. Why is it important to adapt our vocabulary to different audiences and purposes?

- Audience Awareness: How do we change our language use depending on our audience (e.g., formal vs. informal settings)?
- Purpose and Context: How does the purpose of our communication (e.g., to inform, entertain, persuade) influence our word choice?

8. How does vocabulary acquisition contribute to lifelong learning?

- Continuous Improvement: Why is it important to continually expand our vocabulary throughout our lives?
- Personal Growth: How can a growing vocabulary enhance our personal and professional lives?

9. How does the use of figurative language and literary devices enrich our understanding of texts?

- Figurative Language: What roles do metaphors, similes, and other figures of speech play in enhancing the meaning and emotional impact of a text?
- Symbolism and Allegory: How do authors use symbols and allegory to convey deeper meanings?

10. How do academic and domain-specific vocabularies enhance our learning across disciplines?

- Cross-Disciplinary Learning: How does understanding vocabulary specific to different academic subjects help us succeed in those areas?
- Professional Language: In what ways does mastering domain-specific vocabulary prepare us for professional and academic success?

11. How does language evolve, and what factors influence changes in vocabulary?

- Language Change: What historical, social, and technological factors contribute to the evolution of language?
- Modern Usage: How do new words enter the language, and how do existing words change in meaning over time?

12. How do word relationships (synonyms, antonyms, analogies) enhance our understanding of language?

- Understanding Relationships: How can studying synonyms, antonyms, and analogies improve our comprehension and use of vocabulary?
- Language Richness: In what ways do word relationships add depth and richness to our communication?

Conclusion

These essential questions drive the study of vocabulary in grades 11-12 by encouraging students to think critically about the role of words in communication, culture, and personal identity. By exploring these questions, students develop a deeper appreciation for language and its power, leading to improved reading, writing, and speaking skills that are crucial for their academic and future professional success.

Stage 1: Essential Content, Concepts & Skills

What do we want students to know and be able to do?

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Acquisition

KNOWLEDGE

Students will know…

As a result of studying vocabulary for grades 11-12, students will acquire a comprehensive set of knowledge that enhances their understanding and use of language in various contexts. Here are the key areas of knowledge students will gain:

1. Meaning and Nuance of Words

- Definitions and Connotations: Students will know the denotative (literal) and connotative (emotional or cultural) meanings of a wide range of words, allowing them to understand and use words with greater precision.
- Multiple Meanings: They will understand that many words have multiple meanings and will be able to determine the appropriate meaning based on context.

2. Contextual Clues

- Inference from Context: Students will know how to use context clues, such as surrounding words and sentences, to infer the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- Types of Context Clues: They will recognize various types of context clues, including definitions, examples, synonyms, antonyms, and explanations provided within the text.

3. Word Structure and Formation

- Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes: Students will know common Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes, which will help them decode and understand unfamiliar words.
- Etymology: They will understand the origins and historical development of words, providing insights into how language evolves.

4. Word Relationships

- Synonyms and Antonyms: Students will know synonyms (words with similar meanings) and antonyms (words with opposite meanings), enhancing their

ability to choose the most precise words.
- Analogies: They will understand how to form and interpret analogies, which helps in understanding relationships between concepts and ideas.

5. Figurative Language and Literary Devices

- Types of Figurative Language: Students will know various forms of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and idioms, and understand how these devices enrich meaning.
- Literary Devices: They will recognize and understand the use of literary devices such as symbolism, irony, and allegory.

6. Academic and Domain-Specific Vocabulary

- General Academic Terms: Students will know high-frequency academic words that are essential for understanding and engaging with complex texts across different subjects.
- Discipline-Specific Vocabulary: They will be familiar with specialized terminology used in various academic disciplines, such as science, literature, history, and mathematics.

7. Effective Communication Skills

- Tone and Style: Students will know how to adjust their vocabulary to suit different tones and styles, whether formal, informal, persuasive, or descriptive.
- Audience Adaptation: They will understand how to choose words appropriate for different audiences and purposes, enhancing clarity and effectiveness in communication.

8. Reading Comprehension Strategies

- Active Reading: Students will know strategies for active reading, including annotating texts, identifying key vocabulary, and summarizing main ideas.
- Text Analysis: They will be skilled at analyzing how authors use word choice to develop themes, create mood, and build characters.

9. Writing and Revision Techniques

- Word Choice in Writing: Students will know how to select precise and varied vocabulary to improve the quality and impact of their writing.
- Editing and Revising: They will understand the importance of revising their work to enhance vocabulary usage, ensuring clarity and coherence.

10. Vocabulary Acquisition Techniques

- Learning Strategies: Students will know effective strategies for learning new vocabulary, such as using flashcards, engaging in word games, and

practicing with context-rich sentences.
- Independent Study: They will be capable of independently expanding their vocabulary through reading, research, and the use of reference materials like dictionaries and thesauruses.

11. Language Evolution and Change

- Language Dynamics: Students will know how languages evolve over time, influenced by cultural, social, and technological changes.
- Neologisms and Borrowings: They will understand how new words are created and how words from other languages are adopted into English.

12. Critical Thinking and Interpretation

- Inferential Skills: Students will be adept at making inferences about word meanings and implications within various contexts.
- Evaluative Skills: They will know how to evaluate the effectiveness of word choices in different texts and understand the impact of specific vocabulary on the reader's interpretation.

Conclusion

Studying vocabulary in grades 11-12 equips students with essential knowledge that goes beyond mere word definitions. They will gain a deep understanding of how words function in different contexts, the nuances of meaning, and the strategies needed to effectively acquire and use new vocabulary. This knowledge enhances their reading comprehension, writing skills, and overall communication abilities, preparing them for academic success and effective participation in the professional world.

SKILLS

Students will be skilled at (be able to do)...

Through the study of vocabulary for grades 11-12, students will develop a range of skills that are crucial for their academic success and effective communication in various contexts. Here are the key skills students will be proficient in:

1. Contextual Analysis

- **Context Clues**: Students will be skilled at using context clues to infer the meanings of unfamiliar words. They will be able to identify and interpret different types of context clues, such as definitions, examples, synonyms, and antonyms provided within the text.
- **Sentence Structure**: They will understand how the position of a word in a sentence and its relationship to other words can help determine its meaning.

2. Advanced Vocabulary Usage

- **Precision in Language**: Students will be able to choose words with precision to convey specific meanings and nuances, enhancing clarity and effectiveness in their writing and speaking.
- **Varied Vocabulary**: They will develop a rich and varied vocabulary, enabling them to avoid repetition and express ideas more eloquently.

3. Word Analysis

- **Morphological Analysis**: Students will be skilled at breaking down words into their roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand their meanings and how they are constructed.
- **Etymology**: They will understand the origins and historical development of words, which can provide insights into their meanings and connections to other words.

4. Critical Reading and Interpretation

- **Textual Analysis**: Students will be proficient at analyzing how authors use vocabulary to develop themes, create tone, and convey characters' emotions and motivations.
- **Inference and Interpretation**: They will be skilled at making inferences and drawing conclusions based on their understanding of vocabulary and context.

5. Effective Communication

- **Audience Adaptation**: Students will be able to adjust their vocabulary based on the audience and purpose, whether in formal academic writing, persuasive speeches, or casual conversations.
- **Tone and Style**: They will be able to select words that create the desired tone and style in their writing and speaking, whether it is formal, informal, persuasive, or descriptive.

6. Research and Academic Writing

- **Discipline-Specific Vocabulary**: Students will be skilled at using and understanding vocabulary specific to various academic disciplines, enhancing their ability to engage with subject-specific texts and discussions.
- **Integration of Vocabulary**: They will be able to integrate advanced vocabulary seamlessly into their essays and research papers, enhancing the sophistication and clarity of their writing.

7. Creative Expression

- **Figurative Language**: Students will be proficient at recognizing and using figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, and personification, to add depth and creativity to their writing.
- **Imagery and Symbolism**: They will understand how to use imagery and symbolism effectively to enhance the emotional and thematic impact of their writing.

8. Lifelong Learning and Vocabulary Acquisition

- **Independent Learning**: Students will develop strategies for independently acquiring new vocabulary, such as using context, consulting dictionaries and thesauruses, and engaging with a variety of texts.
- **Memory Techniques**: They will be skilled at using techniques like mnemonic devices, flashcards, and word maps to retain and recall new vocabulary.

9. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

- **Analytical Skills**: Students will be proficient at analyzing complex texts, identifying key vocabulary, and understanding how word choice influences meaning and interpretation.
- **Problem-Solving**: They will be able to solve problems related to vocabulary comprehension and usage, such as deciphering unfamiliar words or choosing the most appropriate words for different contexts.

10. Collaborative Learning

- **Discussion and Debate**: Students will be skilled at engaging in discussions and debates, using precise vocabulary to articulate their points and respond to others effectively.
- **Peer Feedback**: They will be able to provide and receive constructive feedback on vocabulary use in writing and speaking, contributing to a collaborative learning environment.

Conclusion

By the end of grades 11-12, students will have developed advanced skills in vocabulary acquisition, analysis, and application. These skills will enable them to read and comprehend complex texts, write with clarity and sophistication, and communicate effectively in various contexts. The ability to understand and use vocabulary precisely is essential for academic success and for navigating the complexities of professional and everyday communication.

Stage 2: Assessments/Evidence of Learning

What are the formative (informal) and summative (formal) assessments used to measure learning and growth?
How will you know that they did it?

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Evaluative Criteria	Assessment Evidence

1. Packet Work (spelling, parts of speech, definitions, sentences) 2. Study Guide (self-created) 3. Unit Test 4. Remediation	PERFORMANCE TASK(S)/Think GRASPS:

Stage 3: Learning Plan

What are the differentiated instructional strategies, activities, lesson plans that support the enduring understandings and essential questions for all students?
This section provides a summary of the Key Learning Events and Instruction

Teachers may summarize the topics within lessons or may utilize Laurel UbD Lesson Plan Template

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Summary of Key Learning Events and Instruction

1. Introduction
2. Pronunciation
3. Definitions
4. Packet Work (spelling, parts of speech, definitions, sentences)
5. Study Guide (self-created)
6. Unit Test
7. Remediation