

Unit Template

Desired Results

Title of Unit

- War & Society

Enduring Understanding

- Students in this unit will use the knowledge built upon their high school careers from English and Social Studies as they review, view, and discuss the role that war plays in our society.

Essential Questions

- Is war a human condition?
- How does war shape national identities?
- Are societies able to prevent conflicts or wars?
- What is the impact of war and conflict on individuals and societies?

Guiding Questions

- How has the nature of war changed throughout history, and what are the implications of those changes?
- What are the long-term psychological and emotional impacts of war on individuals and communities?
- How does war contribute to or hinder social change and progress?
- How does public opinion and support affect the conduct and outcome of war?
- How does war affect gender roles, family structures, and social norms?
- What is the role of propaganda and media in shaping public perception of war?
- What are the responsibilities of societies in relation to war, both in times of peace and during conflict?
- What are the experiences of soldiers, civilians, and other individuals affected by war?
- How do individuals cope with the trauma and aftermath of war?
- What are the ethical dilemmas faced by individuals involved in war, such as soldiers, leaders, and civilians?
- How can societies support the recovery and rehabilitation of those affected by war?

Knowledge

- Students will make connections on a deeper level than just what causes war between societies; they will discuss and establish the ethical connections along with the traditional political and societal connections.

Skills

- Students can analyze the motivations and development of characters impacted by war, understanding how their experiences shape their actions and beliefs.
- Universal themes like loss, trauma, patriotism, courage, and sacrifice, as well as the recurring symbols and imagery used to convey them in war literature will be explored.
- Discussions will center around the impact of events, plot twists, and narrative structures (e.g., chronological, flashbacks) on the reader's understanding of the experience of war.
- Identifying and analyzing literary devices: Recognizing and interpreting the use of metaphors, similes, irony, symbolism, and other literary techniques to enhance meaning and emotional impact.
- Analyze and evaluate the rhetoric and persuasive techniques in war propaganda.
- Discern and identify the accuracy and reliability of information while critically assessing sources for bias, perspective, and evidence, distinguishing fact from opinion, and considering the historical context of the information.
- Identify and challenge underlying assumptions in texts and media related to war.
- Considering different perspectives: Seeking out and evaluating diverse viewpoints on the experience and justifications of war.

Standards

- 11-12R2: Determine two or more themes or central ideas in a text and analyze their development
- 11-12R5: In literary texts, analyze how varied aspects of structure create meaning and affect the reader.
- In informational texts, analyze the impact and evaluate the effect structure has on exposition or argument in terms of clarity, persuasive/rhetorical technique, and audience

appeal.

- 11-12R8: Delineate and evaluate an argument in applicable texts, applying a lens (e.g. constitutional principles, logical fallacy, legal reasoning, belief systems, codes of ethics, philosophies, etc.) to assess the validity or fallacy of key
- 11-12W1b: Develop claim(s) and counterclaim(s) thoroughly and in a balanced manner,
- 11-12W1c: Use precise language, content-specific vocabulary and literary techniques to express
- 11-12SL1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners
- 11-12SL4: Present claims, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective; alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed

Assessment Evidence

- Anticipation Guide
- Close reading summary/analyses
- Multimedia presentations
- Argumentative essay
- Peer Collaboration: Group & Partner Discussions & Self-Assessments

Learning Plan

Learning Activities

- Use anticipation guide to determine ethical questions around war
- Create movie trailers identifying the main themes and motifs of war and conflict
- Write a pro/con essay and engage in a mini-debate on topics that determine societal impacts during and after war
- Invite in guest speakers (live or virtual) to engage students in examining and evaluating real war experiences

Resources

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Vietnam-era music: Credence Clearwater Revival, Buffalo Springfield, Marvin Gaye

Johnny Got His Gun by Dalton Trumbo

One by Metallica

Fearless by Eric Blehm