

PROHUMAN CURRICULUM - GRADE 5

OVERVIEW OF UNITS:

Unit 1	September	Optimism
Unit 2	October	Grit
Unit 3	November	Gratitude
Unit 4	December	Curiosity
Unit 5	January	Courage
Unit 6	February	Compassion
Unit 7	March	Fairness
Unit 8	April	Understanding
Unit 9	May	Humanity

UNIT 9: HUMANITY

LESSON 3: WRITING A NARRATIVE ABOUT HUMANITY: CRAFTING A CHARACTER'S HERO'S JOURNEY

SUMMARY:

The Prohuman Grade 5 curriculum is aligned to two sets of standards: [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts](#) and [Character and Social Emotional Development \(CSED\) National Guidelines](#). The full collection of units introduces all nine of the prohuman character strengths: optimism, grit, gratitude, curiosity, courage, compassion, fairness, understanding, and humanity.

In Unit 9, Lesson 3, "Writing a Narrative About Humanity: Crafting a Character's Hero's Journey," students will imagine and create a character from one of the two books we read earlier in this unit: [The Escape of Robert Smalls: A Daring Voyage Out of Slavery](#) by Jehan Jones-Radgowski or [Elizabeth Blackwell: America's First Woman Doctor](#).

SUGGESTED TIME: 45 minutes

RELATED SUBJECT: English Language Arts

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the seven core elements of the Hero's Journey (protagonist, shift, quest, challenge, allies, transformation, legacy).
- Write a Hero's Journey narrative containing all seven elements.
- Demonstrate understanding of the word humanity
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Prohuman Grade 5 Unit 9 Worksheet 3: Writing a Narrative About Humanity: Crafting a Character's Hero's Journey

VOCABULARY:

Humanity: I see that every person is special. People are more alike than unlike. We all need to work together to make our lives better.

ELA COMMON CORE STANDARDS MET

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.A	Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.	✓

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.C	Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.D	Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	✓
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	✓

CHARACTER AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL (CSED) NATIONAL STANDARDS MET

Intellectual Character B4	Demonstrate the ability to analyze data, facts, and information	✓
Social-Awareness A4	Explain a time when you put yourself in “someone else’s shoes” in order to understand their perspective and point of view	✓
Social-Awareness A5	Explain what empathy means (e.g., the ability to sympathetically understand and personally identify with the emotional states, needs and feelings of others)	✓

LESSON PROCEDURE

- 1.) Earlier in this unit, we read two books: 1.) [*The Escape of Robert Smalls: A Daring Voyage Out of Slavery*](#) by Jehan Jones-Radgowski, and 2.) [*Elizabeth Blackwell: America's First Woman Doctor*](#) by Trina Robbins, illustrated by Cynthia Martin and Anne Timmons.
- 2.) Today you will imagine and create a character who is either:
 - a.) One of the enslaved people on the ship commanded by Robert Smalls, or
 - b.) a patient at Elizabeth Blackwell's clinic.
- 3.) You will imagine and write their Hero's Journey.
- 4.) The Hero's Journey is a narrative structure identified by mythologist Joseph Campbell. It is a story arc with a protagonist or main character who faces challenges, overcomes adversity, and is transformed.
- 5.) Show Joseph Campbell's diagram of The Hero's Journey:
<https://www.jcf.org/learn/joseph-campbell-heros-journey>

NOTE: Collect and keep the worksheet on the following page for the next lesson in which students will share their stories with a partner.

GRADE 5 UNIT 9 WORKSHEET 3: WRITING A NARRATIVE ABOUT HUMANITY: CRAFTING A CHARACTER'S HERO'S JOURNEY

Humanity: I see that every person is special. People are more alike than unlike. We all need to work together to make our lives better.

ACTIVITY:

STEP 1: Choose a character to create who is either:

- 1.) One of the enslaved people on the ship commanded by Robert Smalls**
- 2.) A patient at Elizabeth Blackwell's clinic**

STEP 2: Before you begin writing the character's Hero's Journey, identify the seven core elements of their story:

1.) Protagonist: The central character of the story. What are their likes and dislikes, their hopes and dreams?

2.) Shift: A change in setting or life circumstances that initiates the journey

3.) Quest: A clear goal or mission to pursue. What do they want to do when they reach freedom?

4.) Challenge: Obstacles or difficulties that must be overcome

5.) Allies: Friends, mentors, or supporters who aid in the journey

6.) Transformation: Personal growth or change resulting from the journey

7.) Legacy: How the hero's journey positively impacts others

STEP 3: Write the character's Hero's Journey and do the following:

- 1.) Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
- 2.) Use a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events.
- 3.) Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- 4.) Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.