

UNIT OF LEARNING

Unit 1: The Truth of War

Why is it **worth** Learning?

At the core of why we study texts is what truths they reveal about human experience. Humans throughout time have asked about literature and other art forms: how accurately do they reflect reality? what emotional truths are communicated in literature that cannot be found elsewhere?

In texts ranging from the classics of the literary canon to modern day film and news, we often see war represented, though most, if not all, of us have never experienced it ourselves. In this unit, we will ask ourselves, what makes a true war story? and examine the complex relationship between readers, writers, and texts.

CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS¹

1. **Learners understand that** a text involves a variety of perspectives from the author and reader which impact its meaning (perspective).
2. **Learners understand that** the degree to which a text does, and should, represent reality is a subject of long running debate and interpretation (representation).
3. **Learners understand that** a text establishes a relationship between a writer and a reader, one which is rarely straightforward and causes the meaning of the text to constantly evolve (communication).

COMPETENCY STANDARDS²

1. **Learners are able to** know, understand and interpret a range of texts, works and/or performances, and their meanings and implications ([Eng.11.12.LL.1](#)).
2. **Learners are able to** know, understand and interpret features of particular text types and literary forms ([Eng.11.12.LL.4](#)).
3. **Learners are able to** analyze and evaluate ways in which texts may offer perspectives on human concerns ([Eng.11.12.LL.8](#)).

¹ Course concepts defined by the IB's Language A: language and literature guide, first assessment 2021, and adapted by me

² Competency standards defined by the IB's Language A: language and literature guide, first assessment 2021 as "Assessment objectives"

4. **Learners are able to** communicate in a range of styles, registers and for a variety of purposes and situations ([Eng.11.12.LL.10](#)).

CHARACTER GOAL

Learners demonstrate openness by searching to notice details beyond the obvious in various texts.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Guiding³

1. Why and how do we study language and literature? What truth of human experience do we find expressed there? (IB)
2. In what ways is meaning constructed, negotiated, expressed and interpreted? (IB)
3. How does language vary amongst text types and amongst literary forms? (IB)
4. How does the structure or style of a text affect its meaning? (IB)

Provocative

1. If a writer breaks the trust of the reader, how does this impact the meaning of the text?
2. To what extent can any text communicate objective truth?

ASSESSMENTS TIED TO STANDARDS

1. Learners are able to know, understand and interpret a range of texts, works and/or performances, and their meanings and implications (**Reader responses and discussions for *The Things They Carried*, Close reading and annotation of unit non-literary texts**)
2. Learners are able to know, understand and interpret features of particular text types and literary forms (**Analysis of feature articles and photographs; Analysis of "a true war story" in the novel and non-literary texts; Analysis of metafiction in *The Things They Carried***)
3. Learners are able to analyze and evaluate ways in which the use of language

³ Guiding questions defined by the IB's *Language A: language and literature guide, first assessment 2021* as guiding conceptual questions for each course Area of Exploration, and adapted by me

creates meaning (**Analysis and evaluation of language use in *The Things They Carried* and non-literary bodies of work**)

4. Learners are able to communicate ideas in clear, logical and persuasive ways; and in a variety of styles/registers and for a variety of purposes/situations (**Class discussions; Paper 1 mock; IB learner portfolio entries**)

CULMINATING ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 Mock: The paper consists of two non-literary passages, from two different text types, each accompanied by a question. SL students choose one and write an analysis of authorial choices and the text's meaning, while HL students write analyses of both passages.

UNIT RESOURCES

1. IB Language and Literature Course Guide, First Examinations 2021.
2. *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
3. Feature articles by Sebastian Junger for *Vanity Fair*
4. *A Long Story Bit by Bit: Liberia Retold* by Tim Hetherington
5. Speeches and interviews from Leymah Gbowee
6. Determining global issues guide
7. IB guides to formalism and reader response theory
8. Guide to analyzing visual texts
9. Paper 1 Resources