

Responding to Literature

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn key literary terms and concepts, and they then learn how to compose essays and articles in response to pieces of literature. Students learn about certain character archetypes found in mythology that permeate modern stories of today, characterization, and types of characters (flat, round, static, dynamic). Students learn to identify and evaluate writing for imagery (sensory language), figurative language, metaphors, similes, and personification. Lesson topics also include theme, conflict, plot, setting, point of view, irony, foreshadowing, flashback, and symbolism. Students practice identifying, analyzing, and evaluating use of literary elements in a variety of literature, and they create projects in response to literature, using their knowledge of literary elements. Projects can include, but are not limited to, essays, articles, artistic expressions, presentations, and more.

Course Competencies

Responding to Literature	
Competency 1	Learn and demonstrate understanding of literary elements and devices, including plot, theme, imagery, setting, characterization and character types, point of view, voice, irony, tone or attitude, and symbolic or figurative language.
Sub-Topics	1. Define and be able to identify key elements of plot, including exposition (or setting the stage), rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. 2. Be able to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of the use of foreshadowing. 3. Define the concept of theme. 4. List common themes found in stories, and compare a theme's representation in two or more stories. 5. Identify conflicting themes. 6. Understand the difference between a theme and a lesson or moral of a story. 7. Define, identify, and evaluate the use of sensory language to create imagery. 8. Identify common character types, including archetypes. 9. Understand techniques for characterization, and identify their use in stories. 10. Define different points of view, and understand how point of view impacts the story. 11. Define and identify examples of irony in stories. 12. Understand the concept of tone or attitude and analyze the ways that tone is established in a story. 13. Explore symbolic or figurative language, identifying and evaluating examples of use.
Competency 2	Evaluate literature for the context in which it was written, including the time, place, and author's life.
Sub-Topics	1. Analyze the circumstances under which a piece of literature was written. 2. Determine how the society and current events of the area in which the story was written impacted the writing. 3. Evaluate how the writer's life and experiences might have impacted the style or content of his or her writing.
Competency 3	Respond to literature in writing and other means.
Sub-Topics	1. Write responses to literature, analyzing one or more literature pieces for literary elements and the context in which they were written. 2. Over the course of several responses, include an analysis that includes all of the literary elements listed in Competency 1.