

Grade 9 Literature and Composition (PC)
Salem High School
Lisa Boyd

Unit 1: Travels and Journeys

Essential Questions:

- What inspires individuals to embark on journeys?
- What turning points determine our individual pathways to adulthood?
- How can a physical journey produce psychological change?
- What archetypes are central to journeys as portrayed in literature?

Literary Texts:

- *The Odyssey*
- *The Inferno*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- "The First Day," "To the Dairy Queen and Back," "Imaginary Lines," "Homer's Bones," "A Sound of Thunder"
- Independent Reading Memoir Choices: *The Basketball Diaries*; *Death, Be Not Proud*; *Eat, Pray, Love*; *Girl, Interrupted*; *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*; *Into Thin Air*; *A Long Way Gone*; *Rocket Boys*; *Run with the Horsemen*; *Running with Scissors*; *Three Cups of Tea*; *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

Major Assessments:

- *Odyssey* travel brochure group project
- *Inferno* Redux group project
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* portfolio project
- memoir reading journal
- personal memoir essay

Unit 2: Justice and Equality

Essential Questions:

- Is liberty and justice for all attainable?
- Should people sacrifice freedom in the interest of security?
- How do we balance liberty and equality?
- When does government have the right to restrict the freedoms of people?
- Can literature be a vehicle for social change?
- What are the responsibilities of the individual in regard to issues of social justice?

Literary Texts:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Animal Farm*
- *Trifles*
- Short Stories: "Harrison Bergeron," "The Cask of Amontillado"
- Independent Reading Choices: *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Anthem*, *Never Let Me Go*, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *Lovely Bones*, *Meridian*, *Kaffir Boy*, *The Bluest Eye*

Major Assessments:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* portfolio
- *Animal Farm*: Creating an ideal society
- *Trifles* detective log
- literature circle reading journal

Unit 3: Decisions and Consequences

Essential Questions:

- What is the relationship between decisions and consequences?
- What principles drive our decision making?
- How can a person's decisions and actions change his/her life?
- How do the decisions and actions of characters reveal their personalities?
- How do decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the different perspectives of the people involved?

Literary Texts:

- *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*
- *Inherit the Wind*
- *Frankenstein*
- Short Stories: "The Most Dangerous Game," "Thank You, Ma'am," "The Lady or the Tiger"
- Independent Reading Choices: *The Bean Trees*, *Speak*, *Flowers for Algernon*, *West Side Story*, *Deathwatch*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Killer Angels*

Major Assessments:

- *Romeo and Juliet* portfolio
- *Inherit the Wind*: New title and epigraph
- *Frankenstein* essay
- literature circle reading journal

Unit 4: Dreams and Reality

Essential Questions:

- What is reality, and how is it constructed?
- What tools can the individual use to judge the difference, or draw a line between, illusion and reality?
- To what extent does a culture or society shape an individual's understanding or concept of dreams and reality?
- What are the potential conflicts when one person's reality is another person's illusion?
- How does a person's concept of reality shape his or her identity?

Literary Texts:

- *Great Expectations*
- *Of Mice and Men*
- Short Stories: "The Interlopers," "The Scarlet Ibis"
- Independent Reading Choices: *Run with the Horsemen*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *I am One of You Forever*, *A Member of the Wedding*, *Fallen Angels*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*

Major Assessments:

- *Great Expectations* research project
- Pip's resume
- *Of Mice and Men* persuasive essay
- literature circle reading journal