



Reading for Meaning 7-9 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Critical Reading

Students learn how to read closely and comprehend written work in a variety of genres.

2 Written Analysis

Students analyze the material they read and learn to write critical responses.

Course Topics

1 Reading Comprehension

Students learn how to better comprehend the material they read.

2 Connections

Students learn how to make connections in the material they read and how to compare and contrast elements of the text.

3 Characterization

Students analyze characters in the stories they read.

4 Essay Writing

Students write analytical responses to the material they read.

5 Poetry

Students learn how to analyze poetry and the similes and metaphors it often contains.

6 Symbolism

Students learn how to identify symbolism in written works.

7 Bias

Students identify bias and learn to differentiate subjective and objective writing.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Introductions

Students are introduced to each other and to the instructor.

Around the Room

Students consider the purposes of reading and writing.

Review workbook and pass out folders

Students receive a folder and workbook to use for the rest of the class.

Building Background Knowledge

Students discuss the importance of background knowledge when reading texts and the different ways in which they can activate this knowledge.

Review Frayer Model

Students review the Frayer Model that they completed on a literary genre.

Anticipation Guide

Students complete an anticipation guide for the short story "All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury.

"All Summer in a Day"

Students read "All Summer in a Day" together, completing a think aloud.

Connections: "All Summer in a Day"

Students make connections to "All Summer in a Day."

Writing Task

Students write to demonstrate their understanding of "All Summer in a Day."

Day 2

Making Connections: "Charles"

Students make connections before reading a short story.

Vocabulary in "Charles"

Students identify vocabulary definitions prior to reading.

Independent Reading: "Charles"

Students read "Charles" by Shirley Jackson and complete comprehension questions.

Review and Discuss "Charles"

Students review the comprehension questions and plot of "Charles."

Vocabulary Pictures

Students draw pictures for the vocabulary from "Charles."

Introduction to Characterization

Students learn to define direct and indirect characterization.

Writing Using Characterization

Students practice writing examples that demonstrate direct and indirect characterization.

Characterization in "Charles"

Students make indirect characterizations about Laurie/Charles.

"Charles" Essay

Students write a multi-paragraph composition about "Charles."

Review Essays

Students review the essays they wrote.

Day 3

Warm Up: Rebus Puzzles

Students complete rebus puzzles.

Review Essays

Students look over their essays from the previous day.

Introduction to Similes and Metaphors

Students review similes and metaphors.

Finding Similes and Metaphors in Pop Songs

Students identify similes and metaphors in pop songs.

Simile and Metaphor Analysis in Workbook

Students review examples of similes and metaphors from literature.

Similes and Metaphors- All Summer in a Day

Students find similes and metaphors in "All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury.

Extended Metaphor Poetry Reading

Students read three poems and analyze for the extended metaphor in each.

Writing About Extended Metaphors

Students analyze the metaphor in one of the poems.

Day 4

Warm Up: Rebus Puzzles

Students complete rebus puzzles.

Compare and Contrast Objects

Students compare and contrast objects that are different.

Comparing and Contrasting Story Elements

Students discuss the elements of a story that can be compared and contrasted.

Background: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

Students prepare to read the short story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty."

Read "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

Students read "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" and answer comprehension questions.

Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizers

Students fill in graphic organizers with content from the short story.

Writing: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

Students write a multi-paragraph composition.

Peer Edit Essays

Students review each other's essays.

Review Essays

Students review the essays they wrote.

Day 5

Warm Up: Word Creation

Students get their brains moving for the day with a spelling exercise.

Introduction to Symbolism

Students discuss common symbols.

Writing: Symbols

Students write about a common symbol.

Symbolism: "Fences"

Students read a short passage and determine the symbolism and its meaning.

Building Background: "Lamb to the Slaughter"

Students build background knowledge before reading "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl.

Read Aloud: "Lamb to the Slaughter"

Students practice active reading with "Lamb to the Slaughter."

Symbolism in "Lamb"

Students understand the symbolism in "Lamb to the Slaughter."

Characterization - Mary

Students make indirect characterizations about Mary using textual evidence.

Writing: "Lamb"

Students write a multi-paragraph composition.

Day 6

Warm Up: Rebus Puzzles

Students complete rebus puzzles.

Review Essays

Students review the essays they wrote.

Cause/Effect Practice

Students practice identifying and creating cause-effect relationships.

Vocabulary: A Sound of Thunder

Students understand vocabulary from the short story "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury.

Cognitive Reading Strategies

Students understand the various types of sentence starters one can use when trying to comprehend text.

Reading: "A Sound of Thunder"

Students read "A Sound of Thunder" and answer comprehension questions.

Vocabulary: "The Interlopers"

Students preview vocabulary for upcoming reading.

Reading: "The Interlopers"

Students read "The Interlopers" by Saki, respond to comprehension questions, and discuss cause-effect relationships in the story.

Creative Writing

Students write an alternate ending or extension to one of the two stories they read today.

Day 7

Warm Up: Riddles

Students do riddles as an introduction to class.

Literature Term Search

Students define important literary terms for understanding narrative poetry.

Read "Casey at the Bat"

Students read and analyze the narrative poem "Casey at the Bat."

"The Odyssey" Vocabulary Preview

Students preview vocabulary for the upcoming work they will read.

Read "The Challenge"

Students read "The Challenge."

Read "Odysseus' Revenge"

Students read the excerpt "Odysseus' Revenge."

Review "Odysseus' Revenge"

Students review this section of "The Odyssey" with the teacher.

"The Odyssey" Organizer

Students complete the chronological organizer in the workbook.

Writing- "The Odyssey"

Students write about the climax of these excerpts.

Review Epic Similes

Students review epic similes from "The Odyssey."

Writing: Epic Similes

Students write to demonstrate understanding of epic similes.

Day 8

Warm Up: Word Creation

Students get ready for the day with a spelling exercise.

Review Essays

Students review the essays they wrote.

Introduction to Non-Fiction

Students understand the characteristics of non-fiction and discuss examples.

Vocabulary Review

Students pre-read vocabulary.

Read "Mummies"

Students read a non-fiction article and analyze for the main idea and supporting details.

Fact v. Opinion

Students understand the difference between a fact and an opinion.

Subjective vs. Objective Writing

Students understand the difference between subjective and objective writing.

Reading for Bias: Recycling

Students read a pro/con newspaper article, identifying bias, main idea, and supporting details.

Writing: Recycling

Students write a multi-paragraph composition.

Day 9

Warm Up: Riddle

Students get ready for the day with a riddle.

Review Essays

Students review the essays they wrote.

Introduction to Theme

Students discuss theme and how to determine the theme of a text.

Reading: "The Sniper"

Students read a short story and respond to comprehension questions.

Review Theme: The Sniper

Students discuss topics and themes in "The Sniper" short story.

Exploring Theme in Poetry

Students explore war themes in three different poems.

Writing: Theme

Students write a multi-paragraph composition exploring the similarities and differences between the poems.

Day 10

Review all materials read

Students review stories that they have read over the past 2 weeks.

Creative Writing: Final Project

Students write an original piece.

Revising Writing

Students revise their creative writing.

Share Creative Writing

Students share the pieces they wrote.

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