

English Level 3

August/September

Theme: Exploring Narrative and Expository Writing

Focus:

- Expectations for excellence in writing
- Discussion of Speaker/Purpose/Audience/Tone
- Rhetorical Devices: Diction, Connotation-Denotation, syntax, sentence structure, details, ideas, language, brainstorming.
- Narrative Writing/Point of View
- Grammar/vocabulary

Readings:

"The Most Dangerous Game"

"The Lady or the Tiger"

"The Sniper"

"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar"

"Shooting an Elephant"

Assessments & Quizzes:

501 Reading Comprehension Questions by Learning Express - Section 1

Vocabulary & Spelling Success in 20 Min Pretest

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 1 - Capitalization

Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Chapter 2

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 2 - Periods, Question Marks, and Exclamation Points

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 3 - Avoiding Faulty Sentences

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 4 - Commas and Sentence Parts

Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Chapter 3

Composition: Persuasive Essay

Which do you believe came out of the door, the lady or the tiger? Use specific evidence from the story to support your claim.

Composition: Narrative Essay

Write a story that features an inconclusive/ambiguous ending. Include compelling evidence for more than one possible ending.

Composition: Expository/Narrative Essay

Discuss a belief that you have questioned and the reasoning process you used to arrive at your final conclusion. Also discuss the outside influences or expectations you may have encountered as you explored the topic.

October – November

Focus:

- Syntax/sentence structure/style/voice/tone
- Persuasive techniques
- Grammar/vocabulary

Assignments & Readings:

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

The Joy Luck Club Study Guide

501 Reading Comprehension Questions by Learning Express - Section 2

Writing Skills Success in 20 mins a Day by Olson - Lesson 5 - Commas that Separate

Vocabulary & Spelling Success in 20 Min Chapter 4

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 6 - Semicolons and Colons

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 7 - Apostrophes and Dashes

Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Chapter 5-8

501 Reading Comprehension Questions by Learning Express - Section 3

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 8 - Quotation Marks

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 9 - Designer Punctuation
Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Review

Assessments & Quizzes:

- Grammar
- Rhetorical language/vocabulary

Two Timed Writes: Various topics on responses to individual chapters

Composition: Narrative Essays

Discuss an event from your own past in the style of *The Joy Luck Club*. Use metaphors, similes, extended analogy, and symbolism.

Compositions: Persuasive/Critical Analysis Essay

1. Consider the various factors contributing to the rift between each mother and daughter. How much of the miscommunication and misunderstanding is a result of cultural differences, and how much is the result of generational differences? Explain using specific examples from text. Include any other contributing factors as well.
2. Pick at least one mother-daughter pair, and examine to what degree each has fulfilled the American Dream. How does the importance and / or definition of the American Dream change between generations?
3. Although much of the plot of each story revolves around men, *The Joy Luck Club* as a whole centers on the relationships between mothers and daughters. How would the book differ if the Chinese characters were fathers and sons instead? What do the characters find particularly female about their life experiences and points of view?
4. The universal values of family, harmony, humility, and obedience are examined in *The Joy Luck Club*. Which of them are important in your culture? Explain how. Is your understanding of these terms different than how the Chinese define and value them? Explain.

December – January

Focus:

- Propaganda
- Power of language
- Compare and contrast concepts
- Test taking strategies
- Grammar/vocabulary

Assignments & Readings:

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The House on Mango Street Study Guide and Activities Packet

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 10 - Verb Tense
Writing Skills Success - Lesson 11 - Using Verbs to Create Strong Writing

501 Reading Comprehension Questions by Learning Express - Section 4 and 5

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 12 - Subject-Verb Agreement
Writing Skills Success - Lesson 13 - Using Pronouns

Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Chapter 9-12
Writing Skills Success - Lesson 14 - Problem Verbs and Pronouns
Writing Skills Success - Lesson 15 - Modifiers
Writing Skills Success - Lesson 16 - Easily Confused Word Pairs

Write Better Essays - Lesson 1 - Thinking About Audience and Purpose
Write Better Essays - Lesson 2 - Understanding An Assigned Topic
Write Better Essays - Lesson 3 - Brainstorm Techniques (Freewriting and Listing)
Write Better Essays - Lesson 4 - Brainstorm Techniques (Asking Questions and Mapping)

Composition: Narrative Essay

Write an emulation of one of *The House on Mango Street*'s chapters.

Compositions: Critical Analysis Essay

1. From the beginning, Esperanza senses she does not want to end up inheriting her great-grandmother's "place by the window . . . the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow" ["My Name" p. 11]. How does Esperanza emotionally and physically separate herself from the other women: Marin, Sally, Rafaela, Minerva, or Ruthie? Will her solution in "Beautiful & Cruel" ["I am one who leaves the table like a man, without putting back the chair or picking up the plate" p. 89] be an effective one? How is her self-esteem formed, and how does it evolve over the course of the novel? What obstacles will Esperanza have to overcome, and what battles will she have to fight as she carves a future for herself?
2. Can or should *The House on Mango Street* be categorized as a coming-of-age novel, or is it more complex than that?
3. How do the children who inhabit Mango Street become the men and women portrayed in the novel? For instance, what circumstances explain how the Vargas children, Meme Ortiz, the girls Esperanza plays with, and her own sisters grow into the adults of Mango street such as Esperanza's parents, the husbands and fathers in the neighborhood, the young wives, and the older single adults such as Earl and Ruthie? Is the children's fate inevitable? How does Esperanza set an example for how they can shape their own futures?
4. If you have some knowledge of the history of Chicanos in America—how they arrived here and their place in society, how does *The House on Mango Street* reflect this history? How is the Chicanos' treatment in society—i.e., their systematic exclusion—alike or different from that of other minority groups?
5. Given that the narrator is a young female, how does Cisneros make Esperanza and her stories accessible to older and/or male readers? Does Esperanza's youth affect her telling of the story and her reliability as a narrator? Is there a universal message about one's identity that transcends Esperanza's individual experience.
6. Cisneros's prose has been described as "poetic" and "lyrical." What characteristics of the stories made these critics choose these descriptive words? What other words might be used to describe the selections in *The House on Mango Street* and why? Are the selections in *The House on Mango Street* most aptly labeled (a) stories, (b) sketches, (c) vignettes, or (d) poems, and what characteristics make them one or the other? How does Cisneros make the collection of sketches or stories work together as a book structurally and thematically?

In Class Essays: Complete a timed writing assignment using an SBAC/Standardized testing prompt.

February – March

Focus:

- Argumentative techniques
- Contemporary issues debate
- Grammar/vocabulary

Readings:

Common Core Reading: Hurricanes

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451 Study Guide and Activities Packet

Writing Skills - Lesson 17 - More Easily Confused Words

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 18 - Diction

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 19 - More Diction

Vocabulary & Spelling Success in 20 Min Chapter 13-16

501 Reading Comprehension Questions by Learning Express - Section 6 -10

Writing Skills Success - Lesson 20 - Communicating Your Ideas

Writing Skills Success - Post Test

Write Better Essays - Lesson 5 - Choosing a Topic and Developing a Thesis

Barron's EZ Grammar Chapter 1-6

Timed write: Read the article on censorship. Consider the role of government censorship in Fahrenheit 451. Then write a carefully reasoned essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies one of these claims. Support your argument with appropriate evidence.

Composition: Persuasive Essay

In the novel, ex-professor and underground rebel Granger states that he hates a Roman named Status Quo. Defend or argue against the value of the status quo in today's society.

Composition: Critical Analysis Essay

1. Write an essay on the importance of knowledge. In your introduction and conclusion, you should also relate what happened in the novel to what is happening today
2. Using Clarisse, Montag, and/or the war to prove your thesis, write an essay defending the necessity to “ask why.”
3. The novel was a warning to society at the time it was written. Write an essay about how the novel can still be used as a warning to people in America today. Hint – be sure to mention what the novel is warning against and how.
4. Write an essay about what begins the changes in Montag and what the changes in him are.

April - May

Theme: Compassion and Expression

Focus:

- Review of story elements: Character analysis/Plot/Setting/Conflicts
- Intercalary chapters
- Symbolism in literature
- Poetry
- Grammar/vocabulary

Assignments & Readings:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
To Kill a Mockingbird Study Guide and Activities Packet

Barron's EZ Grammar Chapter 7-10
Vocabulary & Spelling Success - Chapter 17-20

English 414 Handbooks & Worksheets by Sommers - Section 3 - The Essay
English 414 Handbooks & Worksheets by Sommers - Section 4 - The Sentence (Advanced Organization and Structure)

Success with Words Vocabulary - Unit 10 - 20

Write Better Essays - Lesson 6 - Outline and Organizational Strategies
Write Better Essays - Lesson 7 - More Organizational Strategies
Write Better Essays - Lesson 8 - Thesis Statement and Drafting Process
Write Better Essays - Lesson 9 - Paragraphs and Topic Sentences
Write Better Essays - Lesson 10 - Providing Support

Assessments/Quizzes: Weekly vocabulary and grammar quizzes

Composition: Expository Analysis of Rhetorical Devices

In a well-developed essay, analyze key symbolic elements, figurative language, imagery, and tone that uses to enhance the theme in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Analyze his choice of certain symbols and figurative language used during the novel.

Composition: Compare and Contrast Essay

Compare the events of the novel to the historical document presented. In what ways does life imitate art or vice versa?

Composition: Critical Analysis Essay Topics

Parenting. What kind of parent is Atticus Finch? Describe the values he seeks to instill in his children through the lessons he teaches Jem and Scout directly and those he teaches by his example.

Big Ideas. What are the big ideas or themes of *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Consider what the novel teaches about justice, prejudice, courage, attitudes towards those who are different from us (e.g. The Riddle Scale), race relations, etc.

Mockingbird Metaphor. Why is this novel entitled *To Kill a Mockingbird* and which character(s) best fits the mockingbird metaphor and why?

Character and Moral Development. Choose either Jem or Scout. In what ways does Jem or Scout change and grow throughout the novel? For example, at the beginning of the novel, Jem and Scout are afraid of the Radley place, but by the end, Scout fearlessly walks Boo up to his front porch. What change has taken place in Scout that allows her to walk with Boo? Additionally, how do Jem's or Scout's morals develop throughout the novel? What stage(s) of Kohlberg's moral development best describes Jem's or Scout's current level?

Jim Crow and Race in the South. Not only does race divide the town of Maycomb, it also dictates the ways in which characters conduct themselves in relationships. For example, Calpurnia speaks "n-talk" at her church but speaks "white folk" talk when she is with the Finch's. What are the hidden rules of conduct the people of Maycomb follow because of race? How does race structure relationships in terms of power, language, and social status? Lastly, is Harper Lee challenging the status quo about race relations through *To Kill a Mockingbird* (is her novel political?) or is she merely describing life as it is in Maycomb?

Ethical Dilemmas. What are the major ethical dilemmas of *To Kill a Mockingbird*? How do different characters resolve these dilemmas? What ethical systems inform their resolutions? Please discuss why these ethical dilemmas are indeed dilemmas (i.e. complex situations that have multiple solutions yielding varying results) and the strengths and weaknesses of characters' resolutions and outcomes.

May - June

Focus:

- Identifying historical context
- Making inferences
- Grammar/vocabulary

Outside/homework Reading - Novel selected from the current AP List of American authors

Write Better Essays - Lesson 11 - Strategies for Convincing

Write Better Essays - Lesson 12 - Introductions

Write Better Essays - Lesson 13 - Conclusions

Write Better Essays - Lesson 14 - Revising the Big Picture

Write Better Essays - Lesson 15 - Revising Paragraphs

Write Better Essays - Lesson 16 - Revising Sentences

Write Better Essays - Lesson 17 - 19 - Drafting, Revising & Editing

Success with Words Vocabulary - Unit 21 - 24

Readings: Current articles and editorials

Composition: Research/Synthesis/Argument Report

Synthesize all of the information and formulate your own opinion about a current issue. Substantiate your beliefs with quotes from at least three outside sources, using proper MLA references. Remember to attribute both direct and indirect citations. Refer to the sources by authors' last names or by titles. Avoid mere paraphrase or summary.

Composition: Narrative Writing

Discuss a personal experience that relates to the issue you have chosen to discuss and how the issue has developed personal relevance. Address possible methods of advocacy and potential growth.

Composition: Narrative or Creative Writing

Compose a compelling fictional narrative with a character who encounters a social issue and his/her attempts to navigate its effects on his/her circumstances and future.