

#170 CREATIVE WRITING

GRADE: 11 AND 12

LEVEL: LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2

CREDITS: 5

PREREQUISITES: NONE

BASIC TEXT: NONE

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS: Selected short stories and poems
Poe's The Poetic Principle

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Notebook, Favorite pen

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Creative writing provides lessons and handouts to engage students in creating original poems and prose. The course balances freedom and creativity with discipline and structure. Creative writing also balances writing for self-expression and writing for an audience.

MISSION RELATED GOALS: Promote academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, respect for others, and self-confidence. Develop communication and problem-solving skills.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING ADDRESSED: Communicate effectively, solve complex problems, work with others toward a common goal, respect the rights of others, exercise life skills that promote personal growth.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

1. To encourage students in diverse forms of verbal self-expression.
2. To emphasize personal experience as a source of creative writing experiences and products.
3. To generate a positive attitude toward the process of creative writing, as well as toward specific writing.
4. To provide a wide variety of pre-writing experiences.
5. To foster an understanding of various literary genres.
6. To suggest techniques to transform initial ideas into literary forms.
7. To provide tools for effective revision
8. To prompt critical examination of what makes a specific piece work well
9. To create a relaxed but respectful learning environment
10. To encourage creative writing as a life-enhancing activity

MASSACHUSETTS FRAMEWORK STRANDS:

Language Strand

Reading and Literature Strand

Composition Strand

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS LEARNING STANDARDS:

Standard 1: Discussion

Students will use agreed-upon rules for informal and formal discussions in small and large groups.

Standard 2: Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.

Standard 3: Oral Presentation

Students will make oral presentations that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and the information to be conveyed.

Standard 4: Vocabulary and Concept Development

Students will understand and acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in reading and writing.

Standard 6: Formal and Informal English

Students will describe, analyze and use appropriately formal and informal English.

Standard 8: Understanding a Text

Students will identify the basic facts and main ideas in a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.

Standard 9: Making Connections

Students will deepen their understanding of a literary or non-literary work by relating it to its contemporary context or historical background.

Standard 10: Genre

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the characteristics of different genres.

Standard 11: Theme

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in a literary work and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 12: Fiction

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 13: Nonfiction

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the purposes, structure and elements of nonfiction or informational materials and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 14: Poetry

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the themes, structure, and elements of poetry and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 15: Style and language

Students will identify and analyze how an author's words appeal to the senses, create imagery, suggest mood, and set tone, and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 16: Myth, Traditional Narrative, and Classical Literature

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the themes, structure, and elements of myth, traditional narratives, and classical literature and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 17: Dramatic Literature

Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of the themes, structure and elements of drama and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding.

Standard 18: Dramatic Reading and Performance

Students will plan and present dramatic readings, recitations, and performances that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience and purpose.

Standard 19: Writing

Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.

Standard 20: Consideration of Audience and Purpose

Students will write for different audiences and purposes.

Standard 21: Revising

Students will demonstrate improvement in organization, content, paragraph development, level of detail, style, tone, and word choice (diction) in their compositions after revising them.

Standard 22: Standard English Conventions

Students will use knowledge of standard English conventions in their writing, revising, and editing.

Standard 23: Organizing Ideas in Writing

Students will organize ideas in writing in a way that makes sense for their purpose.

Standard 24: Research

Students will gather information from a variety of sources, analyze and evaluate the quality of the information they obtain, and use it to answer their own questions.

UNITS AND THEMES:

I. Writing About Yourself (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

II. Reacting to Sensory Stimuli (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 6, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

III. Nature Poetry (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

IV. The Forms of Poetry (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

V. Ancient Literary Form (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

VI. Working with Words (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

VII. Writing for Children (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

VIII. War Poems (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

IX. Spoofs (2 weeks)

Standards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I Writing About Yourself

Objectives

1. To have students gain insights about themselves
2. To have students reflect on details of their lives such as family events, sports activities, vacations, etc.
3. To have students organize these events into a timeline

Part I Who Am I Poetry

- A. Two Tone Poetry
- B. Memory Poem
- C. Auto-biography Poem
- D. Life Metaphor Poem
- E. The Secrets of Color
- F. I Used To/But Now
- G. Vegetable Poem

Part II College Essay

“When Life Hands You Lemons”

Unit II Reacting to Sensory Stimuli

Objectives:

1. To have students see, hear, touch and feel as keenly as a good writer must
2. To provide students with opportunities to improve their powers of observation and their sensory awareness

Part I Sensory Awareness Exercises

- A. Eat It
- B. In Detail
- C. Do Not Touch
- D. What Your Nose Knows
- E. It's Only Natural

Part II Bubble Poetry

A co-curricular design project with the “Design” class

Part III Sound Effects Poetry

Part IV Forest CD

- A. Listen to music
- B. Write impressions of sounds

Part V More Music

- A. Rock Music -- Write for 30 minutes
- B. Silence -- Write for 30 minutes

Unit III Nature Poetry

Objectives

1. To give students the opportunity to create a personal expression about nature
2. To give students the opportunity to describe aspects of nature with words and create images.
3. To make use of the senses in writing
4. To create moods with words
5. To acquaint students with assorted verse models

Part I Nature Poetry

- A. Lie Poems
- B. Sound Poems
- C. Haiku
- D. Tanka
- E. Cinquain
- F. Diamond Poems
- G. Five W's Poems

Part II Personification

Unit IV The Forms of Poetry

Objectives:

1. To introduce students to various poetic forms
2. To have students shape their thoughts to fit the form
3. To familiarize students with the structure and characteristics of the ballad
4. To have students write their own ballads
5. To understand the concept of parody

Part I Simple Forms

- A. Limericks
- B. Clerihews
- C. Originals

Part II Ballads

- A. Barbara Allen
- B. We Are Seven
- C. The Ballad of William Sycamore
- D. Original

Part III Parody

- A. Chicago
- B. To a Locomotive
- C. Parody for each poem

Unit V: Ancient Literary Form

Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with various genre
2. To understand the differences between myths, fairy tales and fables
3. To have students write their own fables

Part I Myths

Part II Fairy Tales

- A. Prince Tales
- B. The Wizard

Part III Fables

- A. Aesop's Fables
- B. Original Fable

Unit VI: Working With Words

Objectives:

1. To acquaint students with various poetic devices
2. To show how effective use of poetic devices may intensify or enhance the overall effectiveness of a work
3. To understand the difference between denotation and connotation
4. To use strong action verbs instead of listless verbs
5. To use descriptive language to show rather than just to tell

Part I Poetic Devices

- A. Simile
- B. Metaphor
- C. Personification

Part II Interpreting Words

- A. Denotation
- B. Connotation
- C. Verbs
- D. Descriptive Language

Unit VII Writing for Children

Objectives:

1. To present children as a special audience for student writing
2. To participate in a co-curricular project with the Child Development Class
3. To write an individualized short story

Part I Interview

- A. Create interview questions
- B. Meet with child development students for interview

Part II Children's Books

- A. The Sparkling River
- B. Rebel
- C. Tuesday
- D. Just a Dream
- E. We Have a Baby
- F. Splodger
- G. Home is the Sailor
- H. Bilbo's Last Song

Part III Original Work

Write a story based on the interests of the pre-school student

Unit VII War Poems

Objectives:

1. To have students become more sensitive to the sacrifices veterans made when going into battle.
2. To provide students with the opportunity to improve their sensory awareness and use of imagery.

Part I War Poems

- A. Vietnam #4
- B. Musical Vietnams
- C. The Barren Fig Tree
- D. Speaking: The Hero

Part II Autobiography
Night

Unit IX Spoofs

Objectives:

1. To alter a central element in a literary work
2. To improve students' awareness of a particular technique

Part I Read a Child's Story or Fairy Tale

- A. Cinderella
- B. Three Little Pigs
- C. The Red Hen
- D. Snow White
- D. Sleeping Beauty
- E. Beauty and the Beast
- G. Jack in the Beanstalk
- H. The Ugly Duckling

Part II Write a spoof of the story: Change the mood, tone, setting, theme, and outcome

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

Group work, peer editing, class discussions

SUGGESTED INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

Work with art department on artwork or their final project.

Integrate music for song project.

USE OF TOOLS/TECHNOLOGY:

Computer (Microsoft Word) for word processing.

ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES:

End-of-term project, weekly writing assignments (school-wide rubric).