

DOWNEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Middle School Course Outline

Course Title: American Literature (One Semester)
Grade Level: 7,8
Prerequisites: Students reading at or above grade level

Course Description:

Students enrolled in American Literature will demonstrate familiarity with a variety of selected works by American authors to include contemporary and traditional works. The approach may vary to incorporate use of literary terms (i.e., characterization, plot development, author's attitude, etc.), writing styles and background of the author, and contemporary life experience in the presentation of the works. The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills in these areas through written expression and class discussion.

Student Performance Objectives for this Course:

Students will

1. identify the major theme, conflict, and setting of a variety of selected works by American authors to include poetry, prose, and drama.
2. define selected literary terms, such as characterization, setting, author's attitude, plot, theme, etc.
3. infer certain outcomes in the plot development based on foreshadowing clues.
4. write a brief biographical sketch of the main characters of the story.
5. list the main conflicts in the plot development.
6. describe the setting of the story and explain its importance to the development of the plot.
7. identify parallels between the author's personal life and elements in his writing.
8. recognize relationships between their own experiences and text materials.

American Literature – continued

Instructional Strategies

1. Large and small group discussion incorporating Bloom's Taxonomy
 - a. Knowledge – recalling previously learned information
 - b. Comprehension – grasping the meaning of the material
 - c. Application – applying the learned material to new and concrete situations
 - d. Analysis – breaking down the material into its component parts
 - e. Synthesis – putting the parts together to form a new whole
 - f. Evaluation – judging the value of the material for a given purpose
2. Group and independent instruction
3. Lecture
4. Written and oral assignments
5. Group and individual projects
6. Audio-visual aids
7. Teacher and student critique

Suggested Instructional Unit

Unit

- I. Literary terms
- II. Short Stories*
- III. Poetry
- IV. Drama*
- V. Contemporary Novel*
- VI. Contemporary Novel*
- VII. Contemporary Novel*

*Drama, short stories, and novels are discussed as they relate to setting, characterization, plot development, etc.

American Literature – continued

Evaluation

Student progress will be measured by:

- Completion and quality of assignments
- Attendance
- Class participation
- Tests/Quizzes
- Homework
- Teacher observation
- Teacher evaluation
- Student performance
- Portfolio assessment
- Authentic assessment
- Rubrics

Materials and Resources

- I. Extended Literature: Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The; Twain; HRW Lit
Canyons; Paulsen
Johnny Tremain; Forbes
Legend of Sleepy Hollow, The; Irving
Miracle Worker, The; Gibson
Ransom of Red Chief, The; O’Henry
Red Badge of Courage, The; Crane
Red Pony, The; Steinbeck
Slave Dancer; Fox
Witch of Blackbird Pond, The; Speare