

Syllabus

English 6A

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In English 6A, you will explore literary elements in both nonfiction and fiction texts. You will examine point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir. In the latter part of this course, you will study character in different genres of literature. You will explore the topic of change in nonfiction texts and evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts. Finally, you will study the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet these goals:

- Examine main idea through the use of informational texts about identity.
- Analyze the literary elements of plot structure, character, setting, point of view, conflict, and theme in fiction.
- Explore the characteristics of personal narratives.
- Explore point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir.
- Study different aspects of character such as types of characters, characterization, and character development.
- Explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change.
- Examine a speech about social change.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts.
- Explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs Presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

English 6A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

The following course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: How Do We Decide Who We Are?

Summary

This unit focuses on literary elements found in fiction and nonfiction texts. In the opening lesson, you will examine the main idea in an informational text about identity. Then you will explore “The Story of the Three Bears” and “The Four Clever Brothers,” as well as “A Water Melody” by the Brothers Grimm. Through these tales, you will identify the basic plot elements of a story and learn about plot structure. Next, you will identify character and setting in the fairy tale “The Frog-Prince.” You will also study point of view in “Briar Rose” by the Brothers Grimm. Finally, you will explore the characteristics of personal narratives.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Course Syllabus and the Plato Student Orientation at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
4 days: 2–5	Defining Identity <i>Examine main idea through the use of informational texts about identity.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 6–9	The Elements that Create a Story <i>Identify the basic elements of a story and explore plot structure using Grimm’s Fairy Tales.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 10–13	Describing a Story <i>Identify characters and setting in a story using Grimm’s Fairy Tales.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 14–17	The Importance of Point of View <i>Investigate the impact point of view has on a story.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 18–20	Writing Personal Narratives <i>Explore the characteristics of personal narratives.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 21–23	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 24	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: How Does Society Shape Who We Are?

Summary

This unit focuses on literary elements in nonfiction and fictional texts. First, you will explore point of view in the following memoirs: *Behind the Scenes* by Elizabeth Keckley and *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* by Ulysses S. Grant. You will also practice writing a short memoir. Later, you will analyze the literary elements of character, setting, point of view, conflict, theme, and plot in one of the following novels: *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, or *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 25–28	How Society Shapes Your Point of View <i>Explore point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 29–32	Characters and Setting in Novels <i>Identify characters and setting in a novel.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 33–37	Point of View and Conflict in Novels <i>Examine point of view and word choice and how they affect conflict in a novel.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 38–41	Theme and Resolution in Novels <i>Examine how theme and plot develop over the course of a novel.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 42–44	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 45	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: How Does a Person Change over Time?

Summary

This unit focuses on the literary element of character across different genres. First, you will identify the types of characters found in literature by reading the short story “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry. Next, you will define and examine methods of characterization in the short story “The Snow-Image: A Childish Miracle” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. You will explore character development in drama through Alice Gerstenberg’s play *Alice in Wonderland*. In the same play, you will also explore how plot affects characters.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 46–49	Types of Characters <i>Identify the types of characters found in literature.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 50–54	Exploring Characterization <i>Define and examine methods of characterization.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 55–59	Observing Characters: Drama <i>Explore character development in drama.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 60–64	Observing Change in Characters: Drama <i>Explore how plot affects character development in a drama.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 65–67	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 68	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: How Does a Society Change over Time?

Summary

This unit focuses exclusively on nonfiction texts. In the first lesson, you will read Helen Keller’s autobiography *The Story of My Life* to explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change. In the next lesson, you will examine Malala Yousafzai’s Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech. Then you will evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts. Finally, you will explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 69–72	Reading about Change <i>Explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 73–76	Speaking about Change <i>Examine a speech about social change.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 77–80	Analyzing Differences in Opinion <i>Examine the main idea in informational texts and evaluate arguments in persuasive texts.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 81–85	Writing a Persuasive Essay <i>Explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
3 days: 86–88	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 89	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment