

English Unit Overview

Subject: English

Year: 10

Term: 3

Weeks: 1 - 10

Unit Title:

Playing with the Past: Historical Fiction

Aim:

In this unit, classes will explore the genre of historical fiction through close study of an historical fiction novel, supplemented by other texts (e.g. film, poetry, short story). Students will consider the power of representation and examine the texts from a range of perspectives in order to develop an appreciation for the power of the pen in shaping how the past is perceived.

What students will do:

Unit Outline

- Explore the genre of historical fiction by reading a novel and engaging with several other historical fiction texts.
- Learn about the way a composer can represent an event/issue to favour a group/set of values.
- Examine the way language is used to shape meaning in imaginative writing.
- Critically evaluate the perspectives valued within the texts through discussion, debate and written analysis.
- Collect and annotate several historical fiction texts, identifying meaning as well as context.
- Learn about the influence of a composer's context.

What students will learn:

Key Learning Outcomes

Students will learn to:

- Identify, describe and explain the conventions of the historical fiction genre.
- Appreciate the use of imagery and literary elements in imaginative texts.
- Analyse texts to explore the way a group/individual/event is represented.
- Consider the contextual influences on a composer in their reading/viewing of texts.
- Compile an annotated portfolio to examine the way an historical period has been portrayed in historical fiction texts.

What students will be assessed on:

Evidence of Learning

- ***In class learning activities*** will vary between classes, however all students will be informally assessed on their ability to: demonstrate understanding of the genre of historical fiction, engage with historical fiction texts, identify and explain the perspectives portrayed and positioned within texts.
- Students will complete four comprehension quizzes and four writing tasks in the course of study for this unit.
- **Formal assessment task:** Student compiled **portfolio** which examines the features of several historical fiction texts.
- The **yearly examination** will require students to read and examine an historical fiction text and analyse the perspectives represented in the text.

Essential Words:

History
Values

Text
Criticism

Composer
Imagery

Context
Characterisation

Perspective
Fact

Voice
Fiction

Represent
Agency

Homework:

Homework will be assigned on a class-by-class basis, however all English students are encouraged to read widely at home and practice creative and persuasive writing, as well as revising knowledge and skills learned in class.

Grade Descriptors

Students will be graded on an A to E scale, as shown on formal assessment tasks and semester reports.

Work Samples

Formal assessment task – Historical fiction portfolio.