

Course Outline for:

Drama in Literature (online)

Grade Levels:	12		
Assignments:	18 lessons	Credits:	5 units
UC a-g Requirements:	fulfills area b: English		
Instructional Materials:	online		

Course Description

Drama in Literature begins with a look at the origins of drama in the western world; students learn about the theatre of ancient Greece, reading two key tragedies, *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*. Students visit Shakespearean England and learn about the playwright himself, the era in which he wrote and about the Globe Theatre, reading *The Tempest*. Victorian England is the next stop, where Oscar Wilde takes the stage. Students study Wilde's writing in the context of his complicated life. Students visit the Existentialist theatre, again focusing on the social context and philosophical underpinnings of the drama; they learn about the *absurdist* movement. The course culminates with a write-your-own-original play assignment.

Learning Objectives

- Explore the relationship between the expressed purposes and the characteristics of different forms of dramatic literature (e.g., comedy, tragedy, drama, dramatic monologue)
- How the presentation of a theme or topic helps to shape a genre
- Analyze interactions between main and subordinate characters in a literary text (e.g., internal and external conflicts, motivations, relationships, influences) and explain the way those interactions affect the plot
- Determine characters' traits by what the characters say about themselves in narration, dialogue, dramatic monologue, and soliloquy
- Compare works that express a universal theme and provide evidence to support the ideas expressed in each work
- Recognize and understand the significance of various literary devices, including figurative language, imagery, allegory, and symbolism

- Identify and describe the function of dialogue, soliloquies, asides, and character foils in dramatic literature
- Understand the way in which a work of dramatic literature is related to the themes and issues of its historical period
- Students write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and comprehension
- Students demonstrate awareness of the audience and purpose of the works of dramatic literature they study
- Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed during the course

Course Outline

Lesson 1: Introduction to Theatre

- A) What is Drama?: history & forms of drama - reading questions
- B) Greek drama - the chorus - reading questions
- C) Sophocles: biographical sketch - Antigone - reading questions

Lesson 2: Antigone

- A) Theatre of Dionysus: recreation - response questions
- B) Antigone: historical overview - reading - reading questions
- C) Genre & plot analysis questions
- D) Euripides: biographical sketch - questions

Lesson 3: Oedipus

- A) Oedipus: the king - family tree - plot - reading questions
- B) Antigone: continue reading - reading questions
- C) Vocabulary definitions

Lesson 4: The Conclusion of Antigone

- A) Ancient Greece: history & cultural contributions - questions
- B) Complete reading Antigone - reading questions
- C) Essay assignment

Lesson 5: Shakespeare & his Theatre

- A) Shakespeare: biographical sketch - questions
- B) The Globe Theater: history & design - images - questions
- C) Iambic Pentameter - examples - questions

Lesson 6: William Shakespeare

- A) The Tempest - Act I, scene I - reading questions
- B) I, ii - reading questions
- C) Who was Shakespeare? - the Oxfordian case - questions

Lesson 7: William Shakespeare

- A) II, I - reading questions
- B) II, ii - reading questions
- C) III, I - reading questions
- D) III, ii - reading questions
- E) III, iii - reading questions
- F) Christopher Marlowe: biographical sketch - questions

Lesson 8: William Shakespeare

- A) The Tempest: conclusion - IV, I - reading questions
- B) V, I - reading questions
- C) The play as a short story
- D) Hamlet's monologue: III, I - interpretation questions
- E) More authorship controversy: Stratfordians - questions

Lesson 9: William Shakespeare

- A) The essay - topic choice - research links
- B) Complete essay

Lesson 10: The Victorian Era and Oscar Wilde

- A) The Victorian Age - the novel - reading questions
- B) Queen Victoria - historical & political context - questions
- C) Oscar Wilde - biographical sketch - questions
- D) *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* - reading questions

Lesson 11: Oscar Wilde & Comedy of Manners

- A) Comedy: definition & forms - questions
- B) The Importance of Being Earnest: characters - Act I, Part 1 - reading questions
- C) Act I, Part 2 - reading questions

Lesson 12: The Importance of Being Earnest, (Cont.)

- A) II, 1 - reading questions
- B) II, 2 - II, 3 - reading questions
- C) *The Disciple* - *The Master* - *The House of Judgment* - reading questions

Lesson 13: The Conclusion of The Importance of Being Earnest

- A) III, 1 - reading questions
- B) III, 2 - reading questions
- C) III, 3 - reading questions
- D) Essay assignment: research topic on Wilde - write essay

Lesson 14: Existentialism in Theater

- A) The Philosophy of Existentialism - questions
- B) 3 kinds of Existentialism - Sartre - questions
- C) The Existential Lexicon - questions
- D) Biographical sketch of Sartre - questions

Lesson 15: No Exit

- A) Begin reading No Exit (abridged) - reading questions
- B) Nietzsche: biographical sketch - philosophy & contribution to Existentialism - questions

Lesson 16: No Exit, (Conclusion)

- A) Response questions
- B) Finish reading No Exit - reading questions
- C) Absurdist Movement: philosophy - questions
- D) Samuel Beckett - questions

Lesson 17: Existential Theater, Cont.)

- A) Essay assignment: topics - research & write essay
- B) Write outline of story idea for play

Lesson 18: Writing Your Own Play

- A) Links to play writing informational sites
- B) Write 10 page play
- C) survey