

Teacher Notes

Using the Course Materials

This book consists of teacher lesson plans and student handouts for thirty-six lessons. Dealing with literary works from diverse times and places, the lessons take a thematic approach to world literature.

Except where specifically noted, each lesson is designed for a tightly compressed class period, including effective preliminary and follow-up work. The handouts, numbered for quick reference, are intended for distribution to students. They provide material for classroom activities and homework assignments. While poems and excerpts are printed on handouts, stories and generally available longer works are not. Notes to the Teacher include rationale and background information on authors, works, and themes.

The materials are highly flexible, making it easy to adapt them according to available equipment, student needs, and specific educational goals. Many lessons lend themselves to expansion to two or three class days. Some handouts are effectively used as overhead transparencies.

The lessons assume previous instruction in elements of fiction and poetry, as well as in composition. Basic approaches to the genres and to composition, as well as lessons on Classical and English-language literature, are available in a variety of other Center for Learning units. The Advanced Placement units present challenging lessons for highly capable students. Many of these units are listed in the back of the book. In addition, a complete listing of the over three hundred Center for Learning Novel/Drama units is provided. These units can be implemented in the curriculum for more detailed study of specific works in world literature.

Teaching Approaches

Because peer group interaction is key to the learning process, activities in this unit involve students in working with each other to fulfill specific goals. Discussion questions may be used with large or small groups for work with partners or as individual “think sheets.”

Equally important is the teacher’s working with students in a large group, in small groups, and on a one-to-one basis. Frequency and variety of opportunities for interaction facilitate learning and promote a confident educational atmosphere.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignments necessary as background for a specific lesson are described in the Notes to the Teacher. Culminating activities and assignments are listed in the review section at the end of each part.

Evaluation of student achievement can be accomplished in several ways. Individual handouts provide daily tools for checking on students’ progress. Essay assignments, projects, and activities help in gauging long-range development.

Primary Sources

In some instances where the literature to be examined within a particular lesson has not been included in this curriculum unit, authors have mentioned the sources they used when writing and revising each edition. However, these are by no means the only sources where these texts can be found. Your school and/or community librarian can assist you in locating these sources or suggesting alternative ones. In addition, the Internet is a rich resource for literature, containing both copies of primary texts and social and historical criticism. The following three sites are meant to serve as springboards into the vast amount of literary information on the Internet.

- Voice of the Shuttle (University of California, Santa Barbara)
<http://vos.ucsb.edu>
- The Poetry Archives
<http://www.emule.com/poetry>
- Literary Resources on the Net (Rutgers University)
<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit>