

Conflict and Identity - The Kite Runner

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s):
Time Period:
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Overview:

UNIT GOALS, ESSENTIAL INQUIRY

Students will ask, "How does conflict affect cultural identity?" as they explore identity, culture, and meaning in literature. Students will examine how authors from different cultures and eras approach universal questions such as how do war and conflict (political or social) influence our values, attitudes, and behaviors? What does it mean to be a world citizen? How can I be myself? They will consider how literary works can help answer these questions of importance in their own lives.

KEY or ANCHOR STANDARDS:

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Enduring Understandings

1. It is dangerous to oneself and others to remain silent and apathetic when confronting discrimination of any type.
2. Individuals experience emotional, physical, and psychological conflicts which may lead to growth.
3. Choices influence one's relationships with others.
4. Both the choices one makes and the circumstances beyond one's control define character and relationships.
5. Both positive and negative experiences and individual responses to them shape one's character.

LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.RL.1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.RL.2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.RL.3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.RL.4	Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.RL.10	Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1.a	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-10.1.d	Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

Essential Questions

1. How can human beings (or a society) become good again -- rehabilitate after moral failure?
2. Do people have an obligation to tell their stories?
3. What is the importance of contributing to/maintaining a compassionate society that values all human life?
4. What happens when personal morality collides with social and political expectations?
5. How do one's choices impact others?
6. Over which events do individuals exert power?
7. How do environment, race, and gender influence behavior and decisions?
8. How can both positive and negative experiences shape one's character?
9. What influences do socioeconomic class, gender, and family background exert upon character?
10. What historical and/or social issues that play a key role in the text are still important today?

Student Learning Objectives: Students will be able to . . .

1. Identify the function and effect of flashback structure in the novel
2. Identify and trace the development of themes, including discrimination fosters hatred, the power of shame and effects of silence, the power of words/stories, the bonds of friendship
3. Identify key historical events within the context of Afghan history and politics that impact humans living in their times
4. Analyze informational texts, maps, and timelines on Afghan history and politics
5. Discuss and analyze the use of metaphor and irony in creating tone and mood
6. Identify internal and external conflicts and explain why each is resolved or left unresolved
7. Identify and evaluate literary devices such as allusions, figures of speech, and symbols
8. Analyze the pressures of the historical period and its characteristics bring to the lives of the characters
9. Trace the development of a dynamic character.

Students Will Know (Facts and Basic Concepts)

1. Critical reading of the texts allows them to ascertain and examine elements that reveal theme
2. The many forms prejudice can take
3. Historical background relevant to the text
4. The text's point of view is important to the reader's involvement in the story
5. Setting is integrated with theme

Common Core State Standards

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LA.9-10.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1.d	Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1.e	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

21st Century Themes and Skills

CRP.K-12.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Social Studies (Global Issues, Sociology, Psychology, Human Geography): Enduring Understanding 1-9

Learning Activities

Text Analysis

- Students can write an essay that answers one or more of the essential questions or supports and specifically one or more of the enduring understanding through the analysis of evidence in the text(s).
- Whole class and small group discussions, student-led seminars.
- Discussion or writing of meaning and themes

Responding to the text

- Identification and discussion of significance of literary devices, plot structure and impact, characterization, etc.
- Close reading of texts, including class discussions and regular responsive journals/study guide questions to guide discussions.
- Periodic reading checks

Research

- Minor (limited) research given specific resources to uncover some of the historical, social, religious, political and economic information concerning the texts. This could be in the form of a preliminary Webquest or presentation as products to assess understanding of background information necessary to understanding the texts.
- Web-based research on the authors to lead to writing about the decisions to include/ignore autobiographical aspects as they constructed their texts.

Text Specific

- K-W-L (know, want to know, learn) chart to be amended and organized by historical time period or genre (or both) or Read Like a Reader/Read Like a Writer chart.
- Supplemental material to include poetry, essays, primary documents, film
- Critical essays to form student opinion (agree or disagree)

Pacing Guide

Specific pacing guides will be established for each text. Each TCU (Thematic Core Unit) ranges from 9 to 11 weeks.

Summative Assessment

Midterm and Final Exams