Unit 2: Day Shift: King of Short Stories

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s):
Time Period: **October**
Length: **10 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

The everyday object and occurance can prove itself to be horrifying yet liberating when revisioned by the pen of King (who presents both common and obscure fears).

Enduring Understandings

- Although physical horror is more readily the precursor to psychological horror the inverse can often be found in the works of King.
- Modern Horror presents themes of psychological alienation; the human is alone in an absurd universe.
- Fear is a complex emotion that can take on many forms and the reaction/processing of each is unique depending on the individual.
- King explores a variety of human vices (i.e. alcoholism, addiction) and presents them in a way that is unique to the genres of horror and science fiction.
- The setting of a work of horror can add tremendous depth to the tension and mood of the story.

Essential Questions

- What aspects of Stephen King's life shaped the short stories he created?
- What periods of horror are present in works from *Night Shift* and how can the works be compared to classic voices like Poe, Faulkner, and Dickinson?
- What classic elements of the short story are present in these works and how do they vary in accordance with the genre of horror?
- What types of fear and/or concerns does King present in *Night Shift* and how do the characters respond to them?
- How is King able to make everyday objects, interactions, and subject matter more horrifying in his works of short fiction?
- How can a reader overcome the horrors/fears mentioned in the previous bullet through a close study of these tales?

Content

Works of Study

- *Night Shift* - Potential Stories - "Graveyard Shift", "The Mangler", "The Boogeyman", "Gray Matter",

"Battleground", "Trucks", "The Ledge", "The Lawnmower Man", "Quitters Inc.", "Children of the Corn", "One for the Road".
- Film versions of the tales "Graveyard Shift", "Children of the Corn", "Trucks", "The Ledge", "The Lawnmower Man", "Quitters Inc.". Excerpts from *Creepshow* I and II where applicable.
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*
- *Stephen King: The Art of Darkness*
- *The Stephen King Companion: Four Decades of Fear from the Master of Horror*

Skills

- Classify the short works of Stephen King via the subgenres of horror studied in the previous unit
- Identify the different types of fear / concerns that Stephen King presents in each short story
- Analyze/Critique the surface level (as it pertains to the story) and grand scale of each fear/concern that Stephen King presents
- Justify arguments and support opinions with specific references to text that include proper parenthetical citations
- Cite details from the text to justify a given inference or conclusion about ideas discussed in the text.
- Summarize the text by identifying central ideas/topics or key events in chronological order, and by citing relevant supporting details without extraneous information.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.