Unit 4: The Shining and the Struggle With Self

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s):
Time Period: **December**
Length: **18 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer

The horror that pervades a family sojourn may have been traveling with them or lying in wait. In either case the terror is real and open for analysis.

Enduring Understandings

- No family is a perfect family, as evidenced by the countless stressors and uncontrollable events that lie in the way of the human race.
- Stephen King's personal life was being poured into every chapter of *The Shining* and formed the basis for its conflict and resolution.
- Personal vices can be extremely hard to avoid given the social, cultural, and environmental factors that are faced alongside them.
- The elements of the tragic hero and anti-hero are readily present in King's *The Shining*.
- Modern Horror presents themes of psychological alienation; the human is alone in an absurd universe.

Essential Questions

- How did King's life provide inspiration for *The Shining*?
- In what ways does Jack Torrence demonstrate the qualities of an anti-hero?
- In what ways does Dick Hallorann demonstrate the qualities of an Aristotelian tragic hero?
- What period of horror is best represented in *The Shining* or is it more readily classified as a hybrid?
- What classical (and modern) horror archetypes are present in *The Shining* and how do they work together to create a more sinister story?
- How does Stanley Kubrick's film version present aspects of Freud's psychoanalytic theory?

Content

Works of Study

- *The Shining*
- *Doctor Sleep*
- *Reading Stephen King: Issues of Censorship, Student Choice, and Popular Literature*
- *The Shining Explored: A psychoanalytic interpretation of Stanley Kubrick's 1980 film*
- *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*

- *The Stephen King Companion: Four Decades of Fear From the Master of Horror*
- *Stephen King: The Art of Darkness*
- Film versions of the novel from 1980 (Stanley Kubrick) and 1997 (Mick Garris)
- *Room 237* (A documentary on the Kubrick film)

Skills

- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text (in this case, the development of the "shining" power and the relationship between the immediate Torrance family members).
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation (with *The Shining*, students will be researching a variety of social/cultural issues that arise in the novel, creating informative documents, and presenting findings to the class).
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text (as in previous units, teacher will model one theme, and students will select an original one and focus on it for the duration of the work).
- Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
- Analyze multiple interpretations of *The Shining*, evaluating how each version interprets the source text (both the Kubrick film and the "made-for-TV" version).
- Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.