Unit 7: The American Dream

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **English 10 Honors**
Time Period: **Marking Period 4**
Length: **10 Blocks**
Status: **Published**

Course Description

Credits: 5

Prerequisite: 85 in English 9 Honors OR 91 in English 9 CP with teacher recommendation

Grade: 10 This course is designed for the student who has developed an exceptional proficiency in critical reading and thinking as well as advanced writing skills. The literary content of this course is predominantly derived from American literature and connected non-fiction. Quantity and sophistication of selections surpasses that which is called for in the English 10 CP course. Students will study authors such as Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Kate Chopin, David Grann, and Herman Melville. Students will do a significant amount of reading independently; in addition, the writing is extensive and more sophisticated. Several research papers and/or problem-based research projects using The BIG6 information literacy model and MLA format is required.

Unit Description

Stage 1-- Desired Results

Unit Purpose: The purpose of Unit 7: The American Dream is for students to critically explore and analyze various authors' perspectives of the American dream. Students will navigate through multicultural literature to evaluate the determining factors of success in America. Students will recognize patterns and archetypes that contribute to American literature. Following the whole-class novel, the NJSLS Reading Literature skills will spiral through students' self-selected American Dream book club texts. By the end of the unit, students will demonstrate application of the standards through a project and a final on-demand unit assessment.

Established Goals: New Jersey Student Learning Standards: English Language Arts Grades 9 and 10

Explicit:

RL.9-10.1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.9-10.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details and provide an objective summary of the text.

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.

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 specific effects (e.g. mystery, tension, or surprise).

RL.9-10.9. Analyze and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).

SL.9-10.1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

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.

Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g. informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g. student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.

Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

Implicit:

RL.9-10.10. By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.

W.9-10.10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

L.9-10.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

A.Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

B.Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).

C.Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.

D.Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

L.9-10.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

A.Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.

B.Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

Essential Questions:

-What is the American Dream and to what extent is it achievable for all Americans?

-In what ways does the American Dream mean different things for different Americans?

-How has the American Dream changed over time?

-What is the perspective of a given nature, culture, or region in regard to the American Dream and what factors create those perceptions?

-What are the responsibilities and consequences of being a "world superpower"?

-Are independence and dependence separable or inseparable?

Understandings:

Students will understand that…

-American authors create characters and relationships that cross time periods and places in order to represent timeless themes or universal messages.

-Figurative language and word choice influences a reader's relationship to the text.

-Societal norms and systems may influence personal beliefs and values that inform the understanding and appreciation of a given text.

Students will know…

-The characteristics of American literature

-How to use literary theory to critique an author's message.

-How to recognize patters and their significance to a work.

-America is melting pot.

Students will be able to…

-Apply New Hisotricism literary theory.

- Analyze and evaulate archetypes.

-Determine the significance of allusions and how the deepen a text.

Stage 2 -- Assessment Evidence

Summative Assessments:

Reading On Demand Skills Assessment

Book Club Assessment

Formative Assessments:

Quizzes (3 "Minor" Assessments)- Demonstration of explicitly-taught skills through quizzes

Reader's Notebook (5 "Homework" student-selected entries) - Five entries over the course of the unit in which reading skills are explored.

Stage 3 -- Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

-Introduce the standards, essential questions, assessment evidence and corresponding rubrics, and calendar of lessons to students.
-Execute standards-based mini-lessons to develop skills and strategies.
-Collaborate with assigned partners.
-Experience activities where speaking and listening skills are used during Book Talks.
-Confer individually with teacher and peers.

Mini-Lessons

-Introduce the American dream

-Study archetypes and connect to New Historicism literary theory

-View Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*

-Set up reader's notebook

-Real-world connections

Resources

All student selected choices available through classroom library, school or public library, or bought buy student.

Whole Class Novel:

The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald

Potential Works of Study:

Invisible Man- Ralph Ellison

Tortilla Curtain- T.C. Boyle

Middlesex- Jeffrey Eugenides

The Bell Jar- Sylvia Plath

A Raisin in the Sun- Lorainne Hansberry

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents- Julia Alvarez

Little Women- Louisa May Alcott

American Street- Ibi Zoboi

The Hate U Give-Angie Thomas

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian-Sherman Alexie

A Room Of One's Own - Virginia Wolf

SAT Connection:

Reading Rhetoric, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 81

The SAT Essay, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 173-221

Command of Evidence, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 55

Words in Context, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 61

Reading Information, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 73

Reading Synthesis, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 87

Writing & Language, The Official SAT Study Guide, p. 135-154

Vocabulary:

Students will generate a list of self-selected words in their readers' notebooks.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Accommodations and Modifications:

Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners,

Students at Risk of Failure, Students with 504s, Gifted & Talented Students

Strategies and Practices that Support Students with Disabilities:

- Use of visual and multisensory formats
- Use of assisted technology
- Use of prompts
- Modification of content and student products
- Testing accommodations
- Authentic assessments
- Small group/One to one
- Additional time
- Review of directions
- Student restates information
- Space for movement or breaks
- Extra visual and verbal cues and prompts
- Preferential seating
- Follow a routine/schedule
- Rest breaks
- Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task
- Checklists
- Immediate feedback

Strategies and Practices that Support Gifted & Talented Students:

- Adjusting the pace of lessons
- Curriculum compacting

- Inquiry-based instruction
- Independent study
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Interest-based content
- Student-driven instruction
- Real-world problems and scenarios
- Problem-based learning
- Interest-based research
- Authentic problem-solving

Strategies and Practices that Support English Language Learners:

- Pre-teaching of vocabulary and concepts
- Personal vocabulary
- Text-to-speech
- Simplified instructions
- Visual learning, including graphic organizers
- Use of cognates to increase comprehension
- Teacher modeling
- Pairing students with beginning English language skills with students who have more advanced English language skills
- Scaffolding
- Word walls
- Sentence frames
- Think-pair-share
- Cooperative learning groups

Strategies and Practices that Support At-Risk Students:

- Guided notes and/or scaffold outline for written assignments
- Guided reading
- Introduce key vocabulary before the lesson
- Work in a small group
- The lesson taught again using a differentiated approach
- Allow answers to be given orally or dictated
- Use visuals / Anchor Charts
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Choice Boards
- Literature circles
- Project-based learning
- Graphic organizers
- Choice books
- Mini-Workshops to reteach or extend
- Jigsaw
- Goal-setting with students
- Use of a reading buddy
- Exploration based on interest

Strategies and Practices that Support Students with 504 Plans:

- Follow all the 504 plan modifications
- Text-to-speech/audio-recorded selections
- Amplification system as needed
- Leveled texts according to ability
- Fine motor skill stations embedded in rotation as needed
- Modified or constrained spelling word lists
- Provide anchor charts with high-frequency words and phonemic patterns

Standards

LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.9-10.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details and provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.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.
LA.RL.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).
LA.RL.9-10.7	Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each work (e.g., Auden's "Musée des Beaux Arts" and Breughel's Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).
LA.RL.9-10.8	(Not applicable to literature)
LA.RL.9-10.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).
LA.RL.9-10.10a	By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
LA.RL.9-10.10b	By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.
LA.W.9-10.1.C	Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
LA.W.9-10.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.9-10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.W.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.9-10.9	Draw evidence from literary or nonfiction informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.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.
LA.SL.9-10.1.B	Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g., student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.

LA.SL.9-10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
LA.SL.9-10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
LA.SL.9-10.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
LA.SL.9-10.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.SL.9-10.5	Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.
LA.SL.9-10.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English.
LA.L.9-10.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.9-10.1.A	Use parallel structure.
LA.L.9-10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
LA.L.9-10.2.A	Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses.
LA.L.9-10.2.B	Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
LA.L.9-10.2.C	Spell correctly.
LA.L.9-10.3	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
LA.L.9-10.3.A	Vary word choice and sentence structure to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of language.
LA.L.9-10.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.9-10.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.9-10.4.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
LA.L.9-10.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
LA.L.9-10.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.9-10.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
LA.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.

Anchor Standards

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4	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.K-12.NJSLSA.R5	Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R6	Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R9	Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R10	Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently with scaffolding as needed.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects, utilizing an inquiry-based research process, based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Interdisciplinary Standards

RH.9-10.1. Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

RH.9-10.2. Determine the theme, central ideas, key information and/or perspective(s) presented in a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

RH.9-10.3. Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; draw connections between the events, to determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

RH.9-10.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history and the social sciences; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.

RH.9-10.5. Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis. New Jersey Student Learning Standards for English Language Arts Companion

RH.9-10.6. Compare the point of view of two or more authors in regards to how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

RH.9-10.7. Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text, to analyze information presented via different mediums.

RH.9-10.8. Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claims.

RH.9-10.9. Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic, or of various perspectives, in several primary and secondary sources; analyze how they relate in terms of themes and significant historical concepts.

Holocaust & Amistad Connections

SOC.6.1.12.A.3.h	Examine multiple perspectives on slavery and evaluate the claims used to justify the arguments.
SOC.6.1.12.A.3.i	Examine the origins of the antislavery movement and the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision, on the movement.
SOC.6.1.12.A.5.b	Analyze the effectiveness of governmental policies and of actions by groups and individuals to address discrimination against new immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans.
SOC.6.1.12.A.11.e	Assess the responses of the United States and other nations to the violation of human rights that occurred during the Holocaust and other genocides.
SOC.6.1.12.D.5.d	Relate varying immigrants' experiences to gender, race, ethnicity, or occupation.
SOC.6.3.12.D.1	Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/privacy.

Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills (CLKS):

9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas

9.4.12.CT.2: Explain the potential benefits of collaborating to enhance critical thinking and problem solving

9.4.12.CT.4: Participate in online strategy and planning sessions for course-based, school-based, or other projects and determine the strategies that contribute to effective outcomes.

9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources.

Computer Science & Design Thinking (CS & DT):

8.1.8.E.1 - Effectively use a variety of search tools and filters in professional public databases to find information to solve a real world problem.

8.1.8.D.4 - Assess the credibility and accuracy of digital content

LGBTQ & Persons With Disabilities

Persons With Disabilities

The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath

Middlesex Jeffrey Eugenides

LGBTQ

Virginia Woolf

The iconic feminist writer was married to Leonard Woolf while having an affair with fellow writer Vita Sackville-West, who was openly bisexual. When writing about her affair and marriage, Woolf said in her journal, "The truth is one has room for a good many relationships." Her novel, *Orlando*, is thought to be a love letter to her relationship with Sackville-West. Sackville-West's son described the novel as "the longest and most charming love letter in literature."