

# Unit 5: The American Dream Book Club

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**  
Course(s): **English 10 CP**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 3**  
Length: **10 Blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Course Description

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The English 10 CP course is a survey of American Literature from pre-colonial to present day that includes textbook, novel, essay, and online resources that can be utilized via the Google Classroom and other applications. Students will embrace the approach of Workshop while working through the course curriculum. Teachers will present mentor texts to model/enrich alongside student selections of works that coincide with each unit of study.

## Unit Description

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### Stage 1-- Desired Results

**Unit Purpose:** In this unit, students will uncover how American modernists develop characters' motivations during a time of crisis to reveal historical struggles. Students will continue to analyze author's intent and will identify parallels between an author's storyline and autobiographical events his own life.

**Established Goals:** Students will consider what embodies the American Dream today and note parallels / inconsistencies with previous forms of the dream (and consider how technology has played a role in the shifting of this dream).

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

### Implicit:

By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.

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.

W.9-10.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

W.9-10.7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

W.9-10.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).

**Understandings:**

**Students will understand that...**

- Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is a time capsule of the roaring 20's and showcases both the failures and aspirations of Americans in that decade
- The American Dream has changed over time and for various reasons
- While the American Dream may have a different appearance across works of literature the steadfast pursuit and longing to attain it remain paramount throughout
- Literature can offer a reflection and critique of humanity.

**Students will know...**

- Repertoire of reading skills and strategies studied throughout the school year.
- Tenets and key terms of the concept.
- How to communicate effectively about reading experiences.
- How to collaborate productively with peers.

**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?
- How does an analysis of the concept through literary elements and critical lenses demonstrate its uniqueness. How does intertext comparisons reveal similarities and differences in the concept?

**Students will be able to...**

- Read and apply higher-order skills to choice texts.
- Collaborate with peers.
- Speak and listen according to standards.

**Stage 2 -- Assessment Evidence**

**Summative Assessments:**

- Reading On-Demand Skills Unit Assessment
- Student Choice Project

**Formative Assessments:**

- Quizzes (3 "Minor" Assessments)- Demonstration of explicitly-taught skills through quizzes:
- Reading quizzes on *The Great Gatsby*

**HW/CW:**

- 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.
- Establish each student's prior understanding of major theme through a relatable hook (story, survey, posing question, etc.) or through individual conferences.
- Students will self-select texts and collaborate with peers to design a reading schedule.
- Teacher will Read Aloud from mentor texts.
- Execute standards-based mini-lessons to develop skills and strategies.
- Apply reading skills and strategies to book club texts.
- Engage in protected time for independent writing.
- Engage in small-group writing-skills-based instruction.
- Have conversations with Book Clubs.
- Experience activities with Book Clubs where speaking and listening skills are required.
- Confer individually and in small groups with teacher and peers.
- Demonstrate understanding through various assessments.

#### **Mini-Lessons**

- Roaring Twenties background (prohibition, the Black Sox scandal, jazz music, etc.)
- Direct/Indirect Characterization
- The American Dream (and its shift)
- Symbols (the green light, T.J. Eckleburg, the yellow car, etc.)
- Vocabulary / Grammar

#### **Resources**

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

#### **Works of Study:**

*The Great Gatsby*

#### **Book Club Choices :**

*Invisible Man, Tortilla Curtain, A Raisin in the Sun, How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, A*

## **Vocabulary**

### ***Contextual Terms***

- American Dream, Roaring Twenties, Stock Market Crash, Flapper, Dialogue, Dialect, Allegory, Theme, Symbolism, tragic hero, tragic flaw

### ***Terms in Text***

civilian, license, undertaking, canvass, collective, expenditures, estimates, receipts, diligence, literature, unscrupulous, repugnant, discern, endured, transfusion.

\*Students self-select words, keeping a running vocabulary collection in their reader's/writer's notebook.

### **SAT Connection**

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

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS**

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### **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

LA.W.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
LA.W.9-10.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.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.
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.9-10.5	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).
LA.RL.9-10.6	Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

## Anchor Standards

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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.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.R10	Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently with scaffolding as needed.
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**

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LA.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.
LA.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.
LA.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.
LA.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.
LA.RH.9-10.5	Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.

LA.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.
LA.RH.9-10.8	Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claims.
LA.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.
LA.WHST.9-10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant sufficient textual and non-textual evidence.
LA.WHST.9-10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.

## **Holocaust & Amistad Connections**

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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.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):**

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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):**

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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**

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### **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."

*A Room Of One's Own* - Virginia Woolf

American Dream & LGBTQ: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2018/06/06/lgbtq-millennials-financial-survey/659754002/>

#### **Disabilities**

<https://www.ada.gov/> & <https://www.cnn.com/2015/07/25/opinions/rodgers-americans-with-disabilities-act-anniversary/index.html>