Unit 8: Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **English 9 Honors**
Time Period: **Marking Period 2**
Length: **15 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Course Description

Credits: 5

Prerequisite:Placement

Grade: 9

This course is designed for the student who has developed an exceptional proficiency in critical reading and thinking as well as advanced writing skills. Students are challenged with numerous fictional literary readings from several genres and related non-fiction. In addition, students complete many writing assignments and extensive outside readings. Students explore the modes of writing on a more sophisticated level; journal writing will address students' creative talents while other assignments will be analytical in nature. Students use MLA and The BIG6 information literacy model to conduct problem-based research projects.

Unit Description

Stage 1-- Desired Results

Unit Purpose: In Honors English 9, students will read global literature and encounter multiple perspectives through a yearlong endeavor in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The purpose of this unit is to apply the NJSLS Reading Literature skills while also considering the individual's role in a community, the individual's reaction to adversity, and the power of language. Students will read Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* as a whole-class and perform higher-order thinking expressed through daily writing and speaking tasks. By the end of the unit, students will demonstrate application of the standards through various assessments.

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.9-10.4. 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).

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.

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).

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.

Implicit:

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.9-10.10. 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.

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.

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.

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).

Understandings:

Students will understand that…

A culture is defined by both internal and external forces.

Choosing an appropriate writing style is critical for the message to succeed.

Individual choices affect the larger community.

Response to tragedy helps us understand human nature.

Essential Questions:

What does it mean to be an insider or an outsider?

What is the relevance of studying multicultural texts? How can global literature act as "mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors?"

In the face of adversity, what causes some individuals to prevail while others fail?

What is community and what are the individual's responsibilities to the community as well as the community's responsibilities to the individual?

How can language be powerful? In what ways are language and power inseparable?

What are the political implications of a genre? What is the purpose of literature (political vs. art for art's sake)?

Students will know…

Text evidence can be interpreted both literally and figuratively. Text evidence

Central ideas and themes emerge, shift, and can be tracked over the course of a text.

Character complexity is influeced by numerous literary features.

Authors draw on source material.

Reading world literature provides American students with windows, mirrors, and sliding doors to various perspectives.

Academic Terminology

colonialism, language, style, parable, allusion, literary lenses

Students will be able to...

Read texts at grade-level complexity or beyond.

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and inferentially, and where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Think critically about a text and express thoughts through annotations and extended writing, using textual evidence for support.

Determine and analyze central ideas/ themes in texts, specifically in world literature.

Analyze complex characters.

Determine and analyze diction and the impact of language.

Analyze how an author draws on source material.

Stage 2 -- Assessment Evidence

Summative Assessments:

Reading On-Demand Skills Unit Assessment

Student Choice Project

Formative Assessments:

Quizzes (3 "Minor" Assessments)

Reader's Notebook (5 "Homework" student-selected entries/ Individual Conference Performance) - Five entries / collections of annotations over the course of the unit in which reading skills are explored. Or, assessment based on individual conference rubric.

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 reading literature through a relatable hook (story, survey, posing question, debate etc.) and through individual conferences.
- Engage in whole-class reading of a novel and select appropriate text choices for self.
- Read Aloud from mentor texts.
- Think Alouds as part of mini-lessons in which teacher demonstrates the application of standards.
- Execute standards-based mini-lessons to develop skills and strategies.
- Identify and employ the key skills of reading novels at grade-level complexity.
- Engage in protected time for independent reading, conferring individually with teacher.
- Engage in small-group reading-skills-based instruction.
- Share and collaborate with assigned reading partners.
- Experience group activities where critical reading skills are discussed.
- Demonstrate understanding through various assessments.

Mini-Lessons

Make reading and annotation plans

Conduct historical background research

Consider the impact of setting on characters & mood

Track developments/ shifts in dynamic characters and moral dilemmas

Look for symbols & motifs

Consider the language choices of the text

Post-Colonial Literary Theory & Themes

Resources

Core Text

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Potential Works of Study:

- Rudyard Kipling's "The White Man's Burden"
- William Butler Yeats "The Second Coming"
- Silko's "The Man to Send Rain Clouds"
- "Oral Interpretation of Literature, " Pearson Literature, p. 414
- Julia Alvarez's "My English," Pearson Literature, p. 146
- Historical documents on decolonization: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook51.asp
- Historical documents on Africa since 1945: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook53.asp

Resources:

A Novel Approach by Kate Roberts

Book Love by Penny Kittle

180 Days by Penny Kittle & Kelly Gallagher

Readicide by Kelly Gallagher

The Common Core Companion by Jim Burke

No More Fake Reading by Berit Gordon

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

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.9-10.6	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.
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.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.9-10.10	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.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.
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.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.
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).

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

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.RST.9-10.8	Determine if the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claim or a recommendation for solving a scientific or technical problem.
LA.RST.9-10.9	Compare and contrast findings presented in a text to those from other sources (including their own experiments), noting when the findings support or contradict previous explanations or accounts.

Holocaust & Amistad Connections

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.

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

Chinua Achebe's personal life: https://www.biography.com/writer/chinua-achebe

LGBTQ

Purdue OWL "Literary Theory and Schools of Criticism" Allen Brizee, J. Case Tompkins, Libby Chernouski, Elizabeth Boyle, https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/722/01/

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/literary_theory_and_schools_of_criticism/gender_studies_and_queer_theory.html