Unit 4: Nature vs. Nurture and the Teenage Spirit

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s): **Lost Literature**
Time Period: **November**
Length: **15 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Works of horror and suspense are often criticized in the wake of adolescent or child tragedies yet many are welcomed into the home with little to no apprehension.

Television shows (and other mediums such as video games and music) that are geared towards teenagers are often frowned upon for language or violence but they are also a representation of the fears and frustrations of the society that produces them.

Similar strategies are used on both the governmental and individual level to challenge books, among other questionable media, and the motivation behind these challenges can range from genuine concern to personal dislike.

Essential Questions

Who is responsible for the behavior of children?

How can the nature/nurture debate be a point of argument when discussing teenage literature/media?

Should television shows (as well as movies, comics, music, and video games) be banned for their content?

What are the advantages and dangers of having independent censoring agencies?

Content

Carrie (novel and film versions)

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

South Park (selected episode)

Family Guy (selected episode)

Skills

Document character traits and explore a specific character by writing from his/her perspective about the plot development.

Identify and evaluate how a media product expresses the values of the culture that produced it.

Determine influences on news media based on existing political, historical, economical, and social contexts

Draw comparisons between select television shows, specifically focusing on the subject matter and manner in which it is presented.

Resources

Vocabulary: Bullying, bystander, aggresor, victim, flex, physical horror, psychological horror, parasychology (precognition and telekinesis).