

Semester 2 Unit: Sports and Literature

Content Area: **Language Arts**
Course(s): **English 4H**
Time Period: **Semester 2**
Length: **4 - 6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Students will understand the following:

Sport is an essential component of human experience.

Sport reflects and influences our ideas regarding family, culture, and language.

Sport allows us to express our abilities and offers the opportunity to demonstrate our individuality, our ability to work collaboratively with others, and our mental and physical prowess.

Essential Questions

What are the functions of sport in society?

How do sport and physical feats express who we are?

How does our sense of fairness and spirit of competition reveal essential components of our identity?

What does it mean to play fair and to cheat?

What does our reaction to losing say about us? To winning?

How is the physical expression of human form an expression of human spirit?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will

-develop facility grappling with challenging texts.

-conduct close readings, and this kind of work with text requires engaged textual analysis that can help build independent and original claims.

-develop the habits of well-practiced readers of complex texts always do, such as reading with a pen or pencil

in hand and making comments in the margins or on post-it notes.

-attend to how parts of an essay speak to one another, contradict one another, or complicate one another.

-explore the craft of sports writing and discover early examples of writing about sports.

-explore ways in which we convey physical movement and the acute mental endurance associated with athleticism.

-Examine and write about issues of fairness and inclusivity in sports and sports writing.

-Students will explore sex and gender roles in sports.

-Students will explore how sports influences and reflects cultural performance of gender.

(adapted from: Rutgers Almanac 2016)

Assessment:

Students will work in small groups to create a video in the style of an episode of ESPN's "Outside the Lines." In their video, they will spotlight and analyze a controversial story in the sports world today via a blend of panel discussion, interviews, and textual excerpts / video clips sources from the internet. In their analysis, they will bring ideas from course texts to bear on the story at hand.

Additional Resources

Core Texts:

Friday Night Lights

Shoeless Joe

The Natural

My Losing Season

“The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner” - short story by Alan Sillitoe

“To An Athlete Dying Young” - poem A.E Houseman

“The Silent Season of a Hero” - Gay Talese

“An Innocent at Rinkside” - William Faulkner

“The Cruellest Sport” - Joyce Carol Oates

Transfer Goals

Students will be able to discuss the origins, traditions, and various implications sport has on individuals and society.

Students will be able to understand sport's place in society and the opportunity reading, writing, and thinking about sports offers.