

Semester 1, Unit 2: Making Connections Between Two Texts

Content Area: **Language Arts**
Course(s): **English 4A**
Time Period: **Semester 1**
Length: **2 - 3 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Standards

LA.L.11-12	Language
LA.L.11-12.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.11-12.1.A	Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.
LA.L.11-12.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.11-12.2.A	Observe hyphenation conventions.
LA.L.11-12.2.B	Spell correctly.
LA.L.11-12.3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.L.11-12.3.A	Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.
LA.L.11-12.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.11-12.4.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.11-12.4.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).
LA.L.11-12.4.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, its etymology, or its standard usage.
LA.L.11-12.4.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.11-12.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.11-12.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.
LA.L.11-12.5.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
LA.L.11-12.6	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.
LA.W.11-12	Writing
LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

LA.W.11-12.1.A	Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.B	Develop claim(s) and counterclaims avoiding common logical fallacies and using sound reasoning and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.
LA.W.11-12.1.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.11-12.2	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.11-12.2.A	Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.11-12.2.B	Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
LA.W.11-12.2.C	Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
LA.W.11-12.4	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.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.W.11-12.7	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.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.RI.11-12	Reading Informational Text
LA.RI.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.11-12.2	Determine two or more central ideas of a text, and analyze their development and how they interact to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).

LA.RI.11-12.5	Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.
LA.RI.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RI.11-12.8	Describe and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. and global texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., <i>The Federalist</i> , presidential addresses).
LA.RI.11-12.10a	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
LA.RL.11-12	Reading Literature
LA.RL.11-12.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
LA.RL.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (e.g., Shakespeare as well as other authors.)
LA.RL.11-12.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
LA.RL.11-12.7	Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (e.g., Shakespeare and other authors.)
LA.RL.11-12.9	Demonstrate knowledge of and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century foundational works of literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.
LA.SL.11-12	Speaking and Listening
LA.SL.11-12.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.SL.11-12.1.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.11-12.1.B	Collaborate with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and assessments (e.g., student developed rubrics), and establish individual roles as needed.
LA.SL.11-12.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.
LA.SL.11-12.2	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.11-12.3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.

LA.SL.11-12.4

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.11-12.6

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Production and Distribution of Writing

Comprehension and Collaboration

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Conventions of Standard English

Knowledge of Language

Enduring Understandings

The following enduring understandings, essential questions, and associated knowledge and skills focus on the texts listed below under "additional resources." When planning for this unit, teachers may focus instruction on these texts and/or other thematically related texts included in the anthology *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide*, 15th ed. (Kirsznner and Mandell).

Students will understand the following:

A single word, a misnomer, can have lasting and powerful impact.

Power and racism are expressed through language, as well as physicality.

Our identities are informed by how we perceive ourselves and how others perceive us.

Language is a tool we have to express identity and can be used to uplift individuals or to suppress agency and self-actualization.

Our objective, lived experience may not be enough to overcome racism.

Reading, writing, and thinking develop over time and require much practice.

Writers strengthen their work by responding to authentic, individualized feedback from an audience of peers and from the instructor.

Essential Questions

How do names and naming reflect structures of power?

How are attitudes of racial superiority revealed in language?

What makes anecdotes about our earliest experiences effective in revealing the impact of those experiences later in life?

What makes slurs, even seemingly benign ones, like "George" in the essay, insidious in their ability to demean and demoralize?

How do younger generations react when an understanding of racial inequality is revealed through the experience of parents and grandparents?

How do younger generations use the experience of racial prejudice and micro aggressions endured by previous generations as places of growth and resilience?

How can I engage complicated ideas from the assigned text(s) through close reading, exploratory writing, and discussion?

How can I develop a complex, original thesis to focus my writing?

How can I use transitions, topic sentences, and other structural signposts to maintain a progressive development of ideas throughout the paragraphs of my essay?

How can I use multiple forms of feedback from my peers and from my instructor to strengthen the overall quality of my writing in terms of focus, organization, development, depth of thought, and overall presentation?

How can I proofread and revise my writing to strengthen sentence precision and clarity?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will be able to contextualize Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s experience as a young man living in Virginia as it relates to Amy Tan and to themselves.

Students will understand the power of anecdotes and personal experience in revealing larger truths about society.

Students will contemplate the nature and origin of names and words used to belittle people of color and maintain white supremacy.

Students will make connections between the Englishes Ms. Tan discusses and the many "one of those things" Gates Jr.'s mother refers to.

Students will draw conclusions about the pathways language offers subjugated groups to avenues of power as well as the limits language can create.

Students will recall anecdotes from their own lives that have impacted who they are today.

Students will imagine the lives of the generations before them and examine how ancestral experience paved

the road for future members of families and society.

Students will engage complicated ideas from the assigned text(s) through close reading, exploratory writing, and discussion.

Students will formulate complex, original thesis sentences to focus their writing.

Students will establish and maintain a progressive development of ideas throughout the paragraphs of their essay by using transitions, topic sentences, and other structural signposts.

Students will provide and receive feedback focused on improving the overall quality of their writing through revision.

Students will develop techniques for making sentence-level revisions that strengthen the overall clarity of their writing.

Addition Resources

"Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan

"What's in a Name?" by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide, 15th ed. (Kirszner and Mandell).

Transfer Goals

Students will be able to analyze the nature of language in shaping the lived experience of individuals.

Students will be able to express their own ideas about identity in clear and concise language, relating their understanding of how language conveys their ideas.

Students will be able to write an essay making substantive and worthwhile connections between two texts.