

# Semester 2 Unit: Sports and Literature

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

## **Enduring Understandings**

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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**

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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**

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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)

## **Additional Resources**

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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**

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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.