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

L	Language
L.SS.11–12.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
L.SS.11–12.1.A	Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and place, and is sometimes contested.
L.SS.11–12.1.B	Observe hyphenation conventions.
L.SS.11–12.1.C	Recognize spelling conventions.
L.KL.11–12.2	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.
L.KL.11–12.2.A	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.
L.KL.11–12.2.B	Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.
L.KL.11–12.2.C	Demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
L.VL.11–12.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L.VL.11–12.3.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.
L.VL.11–12.3.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).
L.VL.11–12.3.C	Analyze how an author or speaker uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text or discussion.
L.VL.11–12.3.D	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.
L.VL.11–12.3.E	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).
L.VI.11–12.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings, including connotative meanings.
L.VI.11–12.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.
L.VI.11–12.4.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
L.VI.11–12.4.C	Analyze how the meaning of a key term or terms develops or is refined over the course of a text.

L.VI.11–12.4.D	Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful.
R	Reading
RI.CR.11–12.1	Accurately cite a range of thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to strongly support a comprehensive analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly and inferentially, as well as interpretations of the text.
RI.CI.11–12.2	Determine two or more central ideas of an informational text and analyze how they are developed and refined over the course of a text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex account or analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.
RI.IT.11–12.3	Analyze the impact of an author's choices as they develop ideas throughout the text regarding a complex set of ideas or sequence of events, and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop.
RI.TS.11–12.4	Evaluate the author’s choices concerning structure and 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.
RI.PP.11–12.5	Analyze an author’s purpose in a text distinguishing what is directly stated in a text or through rhetoric, analyzing how style and content convey information and advance a point of view.
RI.MF.11–12.6	Synthesize complex information across multiple sources and formats to develop ideas, resolve conflicting information, or develop an interpretation that goes beyond explicit text information (e.g., express a personal point of view, new interpretation of the concept).
RI.CT.11–12.8	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) documents of historical and scientific significance for their purposes, including primary source documents relevant to U.S. and/or global history and texts proposing scientific or technical advancements.
W	Writing
W.AW.11–12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
W.AW.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.
W.AW.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.
W.AW.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.
W.AW.11–12.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
W.AW.11–12.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
W.IW.11–12.2	Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes) to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
W.IW.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.
W.IW.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.
W.IW.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.
W.IW.11–12.2.D	Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
W.IW.11–12.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
W.IW.11–12.2.F	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
W.WP.11–12.4	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach; sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; tracking and reflecting on personal writing progress (e.g., using portfolios, journals, conferencing); or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
W.RW.11–12.7	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.
SL	Speaking and Listening
SL.PE.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.
SL.PE.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.
SL.PE.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.
SL.PE.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.
SL.PE.11–12.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.
SL.II.11–12.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
SL.ES.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.
SL.PI.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.
SL.UM.11–12.5	Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

SL.AS.11–12.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

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. (Kirszner 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.

Assessment

Formative:

- Exit tickets
- Openings and Closings
- Strategic Questioning--higher order thinking/Philosophical thinking skills
- Think-pair-share
- Jigsaws
- Socratic Seminars
- Discussion
- Participation

- Four Corners
- Quick Writes
- Dialectical Notebook
- Walk and Talks

Benchmark Assessments:

- Research Simulation Exercises
- Vocabulary in context and analysis necessary for tracing the argument
- Synthesis Essays
- Evidence Based Selected Response Exercises
- Various Literary Analysis Tasks
- Grammar and Language Conventions

Summative:

- Formal Writing
- Game Design
- Socratic Defense
- Presentations
- Vocabulary
- Participation
- Four Corners
- Quick Writes
- Dialectical Notebook
- Walk and Talks

Modifications

Modifications for Diverse Learners

Please note this is not an exhaustive list. Please refer to the individualized education plan or 504 plan for accommodations and modifications that are individualized to the student.

General Modifications based on student individualized educational needs may include the following:

- Activity Choice
- Personally/Individually meaningful activities
- Hands-on, multimodal activities
- Involvement in goal setting and assessment activities
- Response options

Special Education/IEPs

- Previewing information/materials
- Questioning techniques
- Brainstorming and webbing
- Pre-teaching or reviewing strategies
- Study Skills
- Visual demonstrations, illustrations, or models
- Timelines for assignments
- Think-alouds, self-talk
- Journal entries
- Rubrics and checklists
- Peer review and coaching
- Individual conferencing with teacher(s)
- Graphic organizers
- Scaffolded questions
- Priority seating/Seating arrangements to minimize distractions, provide positive student models

- Written & oral directions
- Chunking of text/questions
- Kinesthetic activity
- Manipulatives
- Visual prompts/ use of images
- Differentiated instruction
- Guided notes/ class note exchange
- Reteaching concepts/ check for understanding
- Extra time 50%
- Study guide
- Oral testing as needed
- Test modification
- Project based learning
- Individualized instruction
- Practice exercises
- Cooperative learning groups - arranged based on strengths of students
- Buddy systems
- Group roles (timekeeper, recorder, encourager, materials messenger, listener)
- Gesture-signal
- Types of questioning, readings, and writing assignments

504s

- Study Skills/Extended Time on Assessments
- Priority seating/Seating arrangements to minimize distractions, provide positive student models
- Written & oral directions
- Chunking of text/questions
- Extra time
- Study guide

- Oral testing
- Test modification

ML Students

- Incorporate native culture and language
- Learning about students' cultural background is critical
- Communicate one on one with ELL teacher
- Scaffold native language
- Introduce new material using visuals
- Employ ELL translation devices/materials
- Practice a variety of activities: Talk and Turn/Group work
- Pre-teach vocabulary
- Provide extended time
- Discuss alternate responses
- Plan verbal and written instructions
- Introduce and instruct students on resources including eDictionaries
- Repeat and rephrase English phrases, sentences, and stories

At Risk Students

- Provide clear directions
- Peer support
- Modify assignments
- Set contracts for academics and behavior
- Hands-on activities
- Preferential seating

Gifted and Talented

- Questioning techniques

- Brainstorming and webbing
- Journal entries
- Rubrics and checklists
- Peer review and coaching
- Individual conferencing with teacher(s)
- Graphic organizers
- Project based learning
- Cooperative learning groups - arranged based on strengths of students
- Buddy systems
- Group roles (timekeeper, recorder, encourager, materials messenger, listener)
- Types of questioning, readings, and writing assignments
- Implement a multi-dimensional curriculum
- Personalized planning/instruction
- Student-centered curriculum
- Individual activities and projects
- Encourage ownership of learning
- Involve students in academic contests
- Consider parental input