

Tension

Content Area: **Language Arts**
Course(s): **Creative Writ 1**
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Standards

ELA.L	Language
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
ELA.L.SS.9–10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
ELA.L.KL.9–10.2.B	Vary word choice and sentence structure to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of language.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
ELA.L.VL.9–10.3.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings, including connotative meanings.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.
ELA.L.VI.9–10.4.C	Analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone; how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
ELA.R	Reading
ELA.RL.CR.9–10.1	Cite a range of thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to strongly support analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly and inferentially, as well as including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
ELA.RL.CI.9–10.2	Determine one or more themes of a literary text and analyze how it is developed and refined over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
ELA.RL.IT.9–10.3	Analyze how an author unfolds and develops ideas throughout a text, including how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
ELA.RL.TS.9–10.4	Analyze how an author’s choices concerning the structure of a text, order of the events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulation of time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).

ELA.RL.PP.9–10.5	Determine an author’s lens in a text (including cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature) and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance a point of view.
ELA.RL.MF.9–10.6	Analyze, integrate, and evaluate multiple interpretations (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry) of a single text or text/s presented in different formats (visually, quantitatively).
ELA.RL.CT.9–10.8	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on, develops, or transforms source material historical and literary significance (e.g., how a modern author treats a theme or topic from mythology or a religious text) and how they relate in terms of themes and significant concepts.
ELA.W	Writing
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
ELA.W.NW.9–10.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
ELA.W.WP.9–10.4	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach; sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out feedback and reflecting on personal writing progress; consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
ELA.W.RW.9–10.7	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, and audiences.
ELA.SL	Speaking and Listening
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.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.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.B	Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g., student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
ELA.SL.PE.9–10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.1	Review career goals and determine steps necessary for attainment.

CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.
TECH.8.1.12.D.1	Demonstrate appropriate application of copyright, fair use and/or Creative Commons to an original work.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS2	Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
TECH.8.1.12.E.CS3	Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.

Enduring Understandings

When you combine desire (the idea a character or speaker wants) and danger, you automatically create tension.

In order to maintain tension, the writer must work with two or three characters, maintain the power struggle, stay specific, and write from close-up.

Manipulating tension involves creating oppositions - setting qualities in the work against each other.

Effective strategies to manipulate tension include layering images, creating tension triangles, and using the facade technique.

Essential Questions

What is tension?

How can I add more tension to my writing?

How can I keep my writing tense?

What are some effective strategies I can use to manipulate tension?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will learn the following:

Tension is defined as trouble on the page.

Desire + Danger = Tension

The four elements of tension are a problem, a strong desire, high stakes, and obstacles.

Maintaining tension involves working with two or three characters, maintaining the power struggle, staying specific, and writing from close-up.

In order to manipulate tension, a writer must add layers, or dimension, to his/her writing.

Different ways to add layers include layering images, layering with triangles, layering dialogue and action, and using the facade technique.

Students will be able to do the following:

Write tension-filled stories that include a strong central desire and problems that could adversely affect the protagonist. Consider how writers balance the forces of tension.

Identify the four elements of tension in their own writing.

Identify the layers in several short stories.

Evaluate the changing levels of tension in several stories.

From *The Practice of Creative Writing*, by Heather Sellers

Transfer Goals

Students will independently be able to create tension and apply that knowledge to their writing by creating conflict and motivation within characters.

Students will independently be able to manipulate tension and apply that knowledge to their writing by creating exterior visual oppositions and oppositions within characters.

Assessment

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_w12qVbVV7OTThe9VW43HSpZm3Czh9kegRwYqjMm7fQ/edit?usp=sharing

Modifications

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17jJtNi1cFhRgM3667P67m3pGkj1sD-XarWejIWAANIg/edit?usp=sharing>