

# Unit 07: Modern/Contemporary Literature

Content Area: **English**  
Course(s): **English 4**  
Time Period: **Semester 2**  
Length: **9 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Introduction

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Our study of modern and contemporary literature will be enhanced when students consider how the movement responds to the fragmented world created by mass society, industrialism and global conflict. Students will consider how the diversity in literature grows out of the diversity of culture.

## Progress Indicators For Reading Literature

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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.RL.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.

## Reading Standards For Informational Text

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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.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above.

## Speaking and Listening Standards

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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.
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## Language, Language Progressive Skills & Range of Text Types Standards

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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.

## **Essential Questions**

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How do the ethical dilemmas portrayed by modern characters reflect the moral concerns of modern audiences?

How are the dramatic conflicts a result of social class and economic disparities in British life?

How does Modern British literature reflect the social class divisions and educational parameters of 19th and 20th century British life?

What are the ethical concerns of recording truth as filtered through memory in the case of memoir?

How does the short story genre represent the wide variety of experiences of the postcolonial world?

How does modern literature effectively express the themes of questioning authority and breaking traditions?

How does Modern British literature reflect experimentation in both form and content?

How is disillusionment of 20th C. life reflected in modern British literature?

## **Content/Skills**

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Drama: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (Tom Stoppard)

Drama: *The Lion In Winter* (James Goldman)

Drama: *The Winslow Boy* (Terence Rattigan)

Essay About Art or Literature: Text Pages 1006-1008 “Mr. Sassoon's Poems” (Virginia Woolf)

Essay About Art or Literature: Text Pages 1015-1017 “The Music of Poetry” (T.S. Elliot)

Essay About Art or Literature: Text Pages 957-959 "The War Letters of Wilfred Owen" (Wilfred Owen)

Essay/Opinion Pieces: Text Pages 1026-1032 from "Reflections on the Death of a Porcupine" (D.H. Lawrence)

Essay/Opinion Pieces: Text Pages 998-1003 from "A Room of One's Own" (Virginia Woolf)

Essay/Short Story: Text Pages 1112-1119 “Shooting an Elephant” (George Orwell)

Essay: Text Pages 1026-1032 from "The Legacy of D.H. Lawrence" (T.S. Elliot)

Interview/Journalism: Text Pages 1218- “Reporting from the Terrain of the Mind” (Nigel Forde)

Short Story/ Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1046-1056 “The Garden Party” (Katherine Mansfield)

Short Story/Mystery: Text Pages 1084-1090 “The Demon Lover” (Elizabeth Bowen)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1147-1152 “A Shocking Accident” (Graham Greene)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1168-1173 “B. Wordsworth” (V.S. Naipaul)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1184-1190 “Games at Twilight” (Anita Desai)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1192-1198 “The Train from Rhodesia” (Nadine Gordimer)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1203- “No Witchcraft for Sale” (Doris Lessing)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 1211- “Sparrows” (Doris Lessing)

Short Story/Realistic Fiction: Text Pages 988-993 “Araby” (James Joyce)

Short Story/Satire: Text Pages 967-971 “Birds on the Western Front” (Saki)

Short Story/Science Fiction: Text Pages 1228- from “Dehli” (Vandana Singh)

Short Story: Text Pages 1034-1044 “The Rocking Horse Winner” (D.H. Lawrence)

Lyric Poem/Word Literature: Text Pages 962-966 “I Explain a Few Things” (Pablo Neruda)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1070 “War Poet” (Sidney Keyes)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1071 “Words” (Keith Douglas)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1081-1082 “What I Expected” (Stephen Spender)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1125 “Fern Hill” (Dylan Thomas)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1129 “The Hand That Signed the Paper” (Dylan Thomas)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1144 "Follower" (Seamus Heaney)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1145 "Digging" (Seamus Heaney)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 1165 "The Moment" (Margaret Atwood)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 949-950 "In Flanders Field" (John McCrae)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 978 "The Wild Swans at Coole" (William Butler Yeats)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 979 "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (William Butler Yeats)

Lyric Poem: Text Page 982 "The Second Coming" (William Butler Yeats)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1020-1021 "Preludes" (T.S. Eliot)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1022-1024 "The Hollow Men" (T.S. Eliot)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1075-1076 "Musee des Beaux Arts" (W.H. Auden)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1077-1078 "The Unknown Citizen" (W.H. Auden)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1132-1133 "Not Waving but Drowning" (Stevie Smith)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1139-1141 "The Horses" (Ted Hughes)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1163-1164 "Home Is So Sad" (Philip Larkin)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1176-1177 "Telephone Conversation" (Wole Soyinka)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 1178-1179 from "Midsummer XXIII" (Derek Walcott)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 953-954 "The Rear-Guard" (Siegfried Sassoon)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 955-956 "Dulce et Decorum Est" (Wilfred Owen)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 976-977 "When You Are Old" (William Butler Yeats)

Lyric Poem: Text Pages 984-985 "Sailing to Byzantium" (William Butler Yeats)

Sonnet: Text Pages 947-948 "The Soldier" (Rupert Brooke)

Villanelle: Text Page 1124 "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" (Dylan Thomas)

### **Supplementary Materials**

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DVD: *My Fair Lady* 1964 Director George Cukor (4 copies)

DVD: *To Sir With Love* 1966 Director: James Clavell (3 copies)

DVD *Angela's Ashes* Directed by Allan Parker 1999

DVD *Lean on Me* Directed by John Avelsdon (smp) 1998

DVD *Stand and Deliver* Directed by Ramon Menendez 1988

