

# 06\_The Search for Meaning Copied from: English 4, Copied on: 11/15/23

Content Area: **TEMPLATE**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **4-6 weeks (20-40 Days)**  
Status: **Published**

## General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

### OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

Students will understand:

- We are bound together by the universality of the questions of why we are here, what is our purpose and where are we going.
- Living life without meaning is far less satisfying than living a life in pursuit of meaning.
- The significance of pursuing a life that leads to happiness and contributes to the greater good.

### CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

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.

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.

RI.11-12.3. Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.

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.

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.

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).

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.)

W.11-12.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

A. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

B. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

C. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

D. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters. E. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

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.)

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.

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.

SL.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.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.

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.

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. A. Vary syntax for effect, apply an understanding of syntax to the study of complex texts.

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.

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.

B. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).

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.

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).

L.11-12.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

A. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text.

B. Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

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.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.11-12.3	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.11-12.10a	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
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.
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.11-12.6	Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of the text.
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., The Federalist, presidential addresses).
LA.RI.11-12.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes and rhetorical features, including primary source documents relevant to U.S. and/or global history.
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.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.11-12.1.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.
LA.W.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).
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.D Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
- LA.W.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.
- LA.W.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).
- LA.W.11-12.3.A Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- LA.W.11-12.3.B Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- LA.W.11-12.3.C Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
- LA.W.11-12.3.D Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
- LA.W.11-12.3.E Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
- 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.
- VA.6-8.1.5.8.Cn10a Generate ideas to make art individually or collaboratively to positively reflect a group's identity.
- 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.
- VA.6-8.1.5.8.Cn11 Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
- VA.6-8.1.5.8.Cn11a Analyze and contrast how art forms are used to represent, establish, reinforce and reflect group identity and culture.
- LA.W.11-12.10 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.
- 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.11-12.5	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.
LA.SL.11-12.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
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.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).

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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TECH.9.4.8.DC.1	Analyze the resource citations in online materials for proper use.
TECH.9.4.8.DC.2	Provide appropriate citation and attribution elements when creating media products (e.g., W.6.8).

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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Refer to the 'Declarative Knowledge' and 'Procedural Knowledge' sections.

## **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

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- The basis for different life philosophies as depicted in the chosen selections.
- All of humanity shares core questions about existence and purpose.
- Having meaning and purpose is a crucial part of life.
- The importance of being a contributing member of society.

## **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- Evaluate the ability of applying an ancient philosophy to contemporary times
- Compare and contrast one's personal experience to the ideals presented in a chosen piece of literature.
- Draw a conclusion about their personal purpose now and moving forward.
- Draw their own conclusions about some of life's greatest questions.
- Find satisfaction where it is often taken for granted or overlooked.
- Make strategic choices that lead to increased happiness and purpose.
- Identify how characters are influenced in a variety of ways by the paths in which they choose in life- both in principle and in action..
- Use this knowledge from the novels as a lense through which they evaluate the current world in which we live.
- Draw specific parallels between text, self, and modern world.
- Demonstrate facility with new and unfamiliar vocabulary by using context clues.
- Determine and organize central themes and ideas and identify how they work together or how they impact that story as a whole.
- Reflect on personal growth in terms of purpose and meaning and cite evidence in a variety of formats, including both verbal and written.
- Identify, analyze and apply the use of literary devices in literature.
- Engage in lively debate and conversation in regards to the unit's essential questions as identified by the

teacher and students.

- Analyze an author's point of view and establish how he or she develops this through specific choices made in structure, language, and character.
- Incorporate research and technology into discussion, debates, and projects when appropriate.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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Refer to the 'Formative Assessments' and 'Summative Assessments' sections.

## **Alternate Assessments**

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- Individual Historical Research Project
- Podcasts
- Multimedia Presentations
- Student Dramatizations
- Original Artwork Creations
- Modified Rubrics
- Teacher/Student Conferences

## **Summative Assessments**

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[Sample Summative 1-Tao of Pooh](#)

[Sample Summative 2-Tao of Pooh](#)

## **Formative Assessments**

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Teacher Techniques:

- Help students track their individual progress toward the learning target (i.e. charts, graphs, data notebooks, etc.).



- Ask students to explain their progress toward the learning target.
- Ask students to provide evidence of their progress toward the learning target.
- Facilitate individual conferences regarding use of data to track progress.
- Use formative measures to chart individual and/or class progress towards learning targets using a performance scale.
- Use formative assessment that reflects awareness of cultural differences represented in the classroom.

#### Student Evidence:

- Systematically update their status on the learning targets using a chart, graph, or data notebook
- Describe their status relative to learning targets using the scale (e.g. exit ticket, summary, etc.)
- Individual conferences document that students provide artifacts and data regarding their progress toward learning targets
- Demonstrate autonomy in providing evidence of progress on learning targets

#### Potential Types of Formative Assessments:

- Journaling/Reflective Writing Entries (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Notes (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Reading Check Quizzes
- Homework Questions (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Class Discussion (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Group work analysis and presentation (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Quizzes (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Tests (Focused on Essential Questions)
- Exit Slip
- Think-Pair-Share / Turn and Talk
- Surveys / Questionnaires
- Conferences
- Learning Logs
- Four Corners
- Demonstrations Stations

- Student One Sentence Summaries
- Teacher Observations and Logs
- Student Designed Self Assessment
- Show of Hands (Heads Down) / 1-5 Hands
- Thumbs Up-Thumbs Down
- Teach a Friend
- Student Post-it Note Progress Reports

## **Benchmark Assessments**

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- Edulastic

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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### **Man's Search for Meaning-Core Text**

The Tao of Pooh

Cannery Row

Way of the Peaceful Warrior

The Alchemist

Tuesdays with Morrie?

The Last Lecture

Someone Like Me

\*Teacher selected current events articles

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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## Visual and Performing Arts

- Students will study how artists visually represent the search for meaning and discuss whether their interpretations align with or challenge philosophical and psychological perspectives

Visual Performing Arts	Dramatization
	Mock trials/debates
	Cinematic Analysis
	Visual Language
	Electronic media
	Historical/current art analysis
	Aesthetic Analysis
	Music Appreciation

### **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.