

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English II Supplement



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English II Supplement Course Overview

English II students will study literature that spans centuries, continents, and genres. Each of the four thematically-integrated units encourages close study of this literature and its context. Students will gain valuable cultural insight as they read and write about works depicting the social, personal, religious, and political struggles and triumphs faced by people all over the world and all through history. Students will continue to build their literacy skills by engaging in focused reading, composition, speaking and listening activities, vocabulary study, and research. By the end of the course, students will have gained a broader perspective and will be well-prepared to apply that perspective to the study of American Literature in English III.

To become critical consumers of text, students will be exposed to increasingly more complex texts to which they apply those skills. The content includes classic myths and stories from around the world, America's founding documents, foundational American literature, and Shakespeare. Students will be enriched as they expand their skills and confidence in English language arts through a comprehensive study that includes the following units:

- **Unit 1: Coming of Age:** In this unit, students will read works that have been selected because they reflect the universal theme of crossing the threshold into maturity. The selections cover different centuries, different countries, different races, and different genders. Students will also read historical background and author biographies to enrich their understanding of selected works. Additionally, students will be introduced to the literary, religious, and philosophical traditions that influenced writers from other cultures.
- **Unit 2: The Struggle against Injustice:** The works in this unit illustrate, political struggle against injustice. They will meet fictional characters who used the power and beauty of language to expose the injustices they witnessed. Students will also investigate the historical and biographical background of selected works to enrich their understanding of the literature they read.
- **Unit 3: Fighting for Freedom:** In this unit, students will read works that have been selected because they represent the struggle for freedom. The selections cover different countries, cultures, centuries and genders. Students will also read historical background and author biographies to enrich their understanding of selected works. Additionally, students will be introduced to the literary, religious, and philosophical traditions that influenced writers from other cultures. The focus will be on the changes that these authors demand in the progression towards liberty.
- **Unit 5: Perspectives in World Literature:** The works in this unit represent a variety of lenses through which readers can look at the world. As in the two previous units, students will read literature from a variety of places, times, and people. They will meet characters and authors who have shaped the way we read as well as the way we look at the world. Students will also investigate the historical, biographical, and critical background of selected works to enrich their understanding of the literature they read.
- **Unit 6: Cultural Context of Writing:** Using culture as a context, students focus on the structure of narratives and tone. Inference and theme guide the students in their exploration of literature from around the globe. Many genres and cultures express individual Worldviews and tones.
- **Unit 7: *Twelve Years a Slave*:** The students encounter this post-colonial, African novel. Through research, folklore, and historical context, the students are able to compare literature of South Africa. The questions of individual rights and the rights of the society find a debatable ground in the rhetoric and logic of the politics. The value of literary perspective in a changing world is pitted against the old values of the culture's past.
- **Unit 8: Tradition vs. Change:** The works in this unit were selected because they illuminate a conflict between tradition and change. Students continue to be exposed to literature that spans continents, ages, and perspectives. They will analyze the social, political, cultural, and individual struggles depicted in this literature to better understand the existence and the impact of this conflict. And, students will continue to investigate the historical and biographical background of selected works to enrich their understanding of the literature they read.

Unit 1: Coming of Age	
Assignments	
1. Course Overview	

English II Supplement	Unit 2: The Struggle Against Injustice	
	Assignments	
	1. Hard Times: Context	7. Hard Times: Portrayals of Education
	2. Hard Times: Character Development	8. Hard Times: Word Choice
	3. Hard Times: Plot Development and Allusions	9. Hard Times: The Role of Women
	4. Hard Times: Style and Tone	10. Project: Analysis Essay – The Effect of Technology
	5. Hard Times: Utilitarianism	11. Project: Socratic Seminar
	6. Hard Times: Context Clues	

English II Supplement	Unit 3: Perspectives in World Literature	
	Assignments	
	1. Freedom's Battle: Perspective and Point of View	7. Freedom's Battle: Juxtaposition
	2. Freedom's Battle: Compare and Contrast	8. Freedom's Battle: Connotation and Denotation
	3. Freedom's Battle: Cultural Context	9. Freedom's Battle: Verb Power
	4. Freedom's Battle: Theme	10. Freedom's Battle: Context Clues
	5. Freedom's Battle: Protest and Argument	11. Project: Argument Essay – Gandhi's Claim
	6. Freedom's Battle: Repetition and Parallel Structure	

English II Supplement	Unit 4: Twelve Years a Slave	
	Assignments	
	1. Project: Cited Web Search - Slave Culture	13. Twelve Years a Slave: Classification & Sequencing - Chapter 12
	2. Twelve Years a Slave: Historical Context - Chapters 1 & 2	14. Twelve Years a Slave: Master Epps and Tone - Chapter 13
	3. Twelve Years a Slave: Stereotypes - Chapters 3 & 4	15. Twelve Years a Slave: Complex Characters - Chapter 14
	4. Twelve Years a Slave: Point of View - Chapter 5	16. Twelve Years a Slave: Modern "Masters" - Chapters 7, 8, & 13
	5. Twelve Years a Slave: Theme - Chapter 6	17. Twelve Years a Slave: Traditions - Chapter 15
	6. Twelve Years a Slave: Concrete Details - Chapters 7 & 8	18. Project: Character Analysis - Twelve Years a Slave
	7. Twelve Years a Slave: Character Analysis - Chapters 7 & 8	19. Twelve Years a Slave: Transitions - Chapter 16
	8. Twelve Years a Slave: Conflict - Chapters 8 & 9	20. Twelve Years a Slave: Runaway Slaves - Chapters 17 & 18
	9. Twelve Years a Slave: Figurative Language - Chapter 10	21. Twelve Years a Slave: Theme - Chapters 19 & 20
	10. Twelve Years a Slave: Motives - Chapter 11	22. Twelve Years a Slave: Character Motivation
	11. Twelve Years a Slave: Slave Diction - Chapter 11	23. Project: Writing a News Article
	12. Twelve Years a Slave: Sentence Types - Chapter 12	