

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English III Supplement



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English III Supplement Course Overview

English III is a survey of American Literature and literary culture from its inception through the twentieth century. Students will explore the major literary forms, themes, authors, and periods of American literature. They will understand how this literature represents the experiences of people native to America, those who immigrated to America, and those who were brought to America against their will. Emphasis is placed on a rhetorical analysis of the literature to determine how authors achieve a particular purpose or effect. Through focused readings, composition, speaking and listening activities, vocabulary study, and research, students will continue to build the literacy skills they need to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.

To become critical consumers of text, students will be exposed to increasingly more complex texts to which they apply those skills. In English language arts, that critical content is both rigorous and relevant and includes high-quality contemporary works as well as the classics of literature. In English language arts, that 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: Intersection in a New World:** The focus of this unit will be on the earliest American literature. Students will read firsthand accounts of the dreams and the challenges the first settlers in the New World faced. They will read fiery Puritan sermons and the cultured poetry of a young slave. The reading will highlight the intersection and resulting conflicts of Native American, European, and African American cultures as well as establish some of the themes that will appear in the literature of America for centuries to come.
- **Unit 2: Becoming a Nation:** The focus of this unit will be on the historic and literary significance of documents relating to the establishment of the new government in America, as well as on some of the poetry and prose of the period. Students will compare, and contrast points of view presented on related issues. They will also compare and contrast the tone used in foundational documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. They will use what they learn about the qualities of an effective argument to create one of their own.
- **Unit 3: American Romanticism:** This unit will focus on the romantic literature that dominated America during the first part of the nineteenth century. Students will explore how the romantics revolted against the "cog in the wheel" philosophy of the eighteenth century and, instead, celebrated intuition, spontaneity, subjectivity, nature, and, above all, individuality. They will compare the different aspects of American romanticism by examining the Gothic tales of writers like Poe and Hawthorne, as well as the transcendental explorations of writers like Emerson and Thoreau. The slave narrative, a subgenre of romanticism, will provide students with a glimpse into the protest and struggle for identity these Americans faced.
- **Unit 5: Regional Voices:** In this unit, students will continue to explore the theme of individualism, expanding their idea of what that looked like for all Americans in the nineteenth century. They will look at the issues of racism, slavery, inequality, and displacement through the words of those who experienced these issues firsthand and those who worked to make America a more tolerant nation. They will also explore the theme of regionalism and examine how fictional characters in the works of writers like Twain and Jewett express the challenges facing America in this period.
- **Unit 6: American Modernism:** This unit explores American literature from the beginning of the twentieth century through the Great Depression. Students will be introduced to the characteristics that define literature as modern and analyze those characteristics in poetry, fiction, and drama. Because the movement is complex, the unit is subdivided into categories, allowing for a more focused analysis of the different aspects of modernism and its writers.
- **Unit 7: Post World War II:** This unit focuses on the literature that followed the second world war and takes students up to what is known as the postmodern period in literature. Like the previous unit, this final unit is divided into subcategories. Students will read representative works from the abundance of Southern literature. The unit also includes a number of selections from the 1960s that mirror this turbulent decade's struggle with issues similar to ones we face today.

Unit 1: Intersection in the New World		
Assignments		
1. Course Overview		

Unit 2: Modernism in America		
Assignments		
English III Supplement	1. This Side of Paradise: A Look at the Jazz Age, Modernism, and F. Scott Fitzgerald	15. Project: Web Quest: The Life and Art of Zora Neale Hurston
	2. This Side of Paradise, Book 1, Chapter 1: An Introduction to Theme	16. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man: Author and Context
	3. This Side of Paradise, Book 1, Chapter 2: Characterization	17. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, Chapters 1-2: Narrative Structure and Imagery
	4. This Side of Paradise, Book 1, Chapter 3: Point of View and Plot Structure	18. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, Chapters 3-4: Hyperbole and Irony
	5. Project: This Side of Paradise - A Character's Quest	19. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, Chapters 5-6: Themes
	6. This Side of Paradise, Book 1, Chapter 4: Summarize and Paraphrase	20. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, Chapters 7-9: Author Purpose
	7. This Side of Paradise, Interlude: Novel Structure	21. Project: The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man - A Reflection of Themes
	8. This Side of Paradise, Book 2, Chapter 1: Narrative Pace	22. The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, Chapters 10-11: Conclusion and Historical Context
	9. This Side of Paradise, Book 2, Chapter 2: Context Clues and Historical Connections	23. Project: Essay with Textual Evidence - Slide Show Presentation
	10. This Side of Paradise, Book 2, Chapter 3: Author Purpose	
	11. This Side of Paradise, Book 2, Chapter 4: Climax	
	12. This Side of Paradise, Book 2, Chapter 5: The Resolution	
	13. This Side of Paradise: Title Significance and Epigraph	
	14. Project: This Side of Paradise - Developing a Claim about Characters*	

(*) Indicates alternative assignment