

Day One: (Detailed Lesson Plan #1)**Title:** Create Your Own Letter Assignment/Theme Development Discussion**Class:** Academic English 10

Objective: To teach about theme and symbol identification within texts; help develop interest in novels that might not be relatable; Allow students to create media connections to literature to compare themes; Propose discussion questions based on readings and personal connections; Assign composition assignment on developing own “letter” based on opinions, themes, and symbols

Rationale: This lesson is part of a larger unit developed by my mentor teacher; My lesson is designed to get students to think critically about a character in a novel while developing their own identities through comparison, reflection, and writing. In part this lesson is designed to give them practice in important learning skills such as reading short stories and novels, writing responses to topics with an emphasis on reflection and comparison. I am also attempting to help students practice upper-level thinking skills, providing them opportunities to apply what they know and to analyze and synthesize a diverse range of concepts.

PA State Standards:

1.1.11 B. Analyze the structure of materials explaining how authors used these to achieve their purposes.

1.1.11 D. Identify, describe, evaluate and synthesize the essential ideas in text. Assess those reading strategies that were most effective in learning from a text.

1.3.11 A. Read and understand works of literature.

1.3.11 E. Analyze how a scriptwriter’s use of words creates tone and mood, and how choice of words advances the theme or purpose of a work.

1.3.11 F. Read and respond to fiction.

1.4.11 D. Maintain a written record of activities, course work, experience, honors and interests.

1.5.11 A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.

1.5.11 B. Write using well-developed content appropriate for the topic.

1.5.11 G. Present and/or defend written work for publication when appropriate.

1.6.11 A. Listen to others.

1.6.11 D. Contribute to discussions.

Materials:

- Discussion Questions
- Example Symbol, Theme, Media Connection
- “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- “Create Your Own Letter” Assignment Sheets

Activities/Procedures:

1. Reflect back on reading thus far and create an understanding of how the students are enjoying the literature thus far.
2. Explain how Themes and Symbols can lead to reflection and understanding based on personal experience and examples

3. Present the quote, “A pure hand needs no glove to cover it,” and the themes and symbols that build off of it to the class to create discussion
4. List discussion questions to the class and go question by question to create even deeper discussion. The questions are as followed:
 - What moments in Chapters 1-12 can you think of that focuses on the covering up of flaws, protecting of something/someone, or showing worth?
 - Do you have any stories from your life that can be explained w/ this quote/theme?
 - How would you feel if you had to wear something that defined you to the world?
 - Can you think of any other media connections that use this theme/symbol?
5. Assign “Create Your Own Letter” composition assignment by handing out the assignment sheets, going step by step of what the assignment asks for, and answer any questions pertaining to the assignment

Assessment: Their writing can be accessed from their assignment; participation from the discussion, and the asking of any questions throughout the entire period.

Composition Assignment: Create Your Own “Scarlet Letter”

Introduction:

In Hawthorne’s *Scarlett Letter*, the letter “A” badge sewn on Hester Prynne’s chest means “Adulterer.” The first few chapters of “Letter” focus a lot on the theme of sin and the use of symbols.

Note: Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts.

Assignment:

In this activity, create your own letter badge based on whichever sin or human flaw you believe is the worst a human being can do. Be creative as to how you want to “Create” your letter. Draw it, cut it out, color it, print it out (after photoshopping it), or add glitter to it . Just keep in mind that the letter is a symbol of your sin. The letter “A” obviously is for “adulterer,” but the look of it is interesting too. As it pertains to Hester’s “A”: Why was it gold and scarlet? Why was it sewn on her chest? All of these questions you ask yourself as you create your letter based on whichever sin you choose.

When finished, write a 1-2 page essay talking about your letter by responding to the following statements/questions:

1. Why is your letter the color that it is?
2. Where must a sinner wear the letter?
3. Is it sewn on or must they wear it another way? (tattooed, branded, necklace, etc.)
4. Which famous people (dead or alive) would be issued your letter?
5. How would people react to sinners who wear your letter?

6. Compare/Contrast your letter to the letter “A” in “Letter.” What answers from the questions above are similar/different to Hester’s situation?
7. According to SparkNotes.com, the reoccurring theme of “Letter” is “whether it is ethically right to judge others.” When it comes to your sin, is it ethically right to judge them? Ask the person next to you and write down what he/she says considering your answer might be bias.

Objectives:

- Be creative and come up with your own “letter” based on a sin of your choice that you feel is the worst
- Connect your creativity to the text and find common themes/symbols based on your reading.

Due Date: Monday, October 13, 2008

Grading Rubric:

Letter	10 points
<u>1-2 page essay</u>	<u>20 points</u>
Total	30 points