



Southmoreland School District

11 English Language Arts Curriculum Overview

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This course requires extensive readings from several genres and periods of American Literature. In addition to studying structure and style, students will consider the social and historical values reflected in a wide range of literary works. Students will be presented with attitudes, experiences, and ideas by exploring literature, film, and other forms of language expression. Students will make critical judgments in regard to character, motivation, theme, setting, point-of view, style, voice, and structure. Students will employ critical skills such as organization, comparison/contrast, persuasion, analysis, and audience-awareness. Writing assignments will focus on critical analysis of literature and include descriptive, persuasive, informative, and narrative essays.

Module Titles:

Module 1: The Puritan Influence

Module 2: Romanticism

Module 3: Realism/Naturalism

Module 4: Contemporary

Module Overviews:

Module 1:

The Puritan Influence: The Puritans valued religious devotion, work and duty over private emotions. This unit explores the Puritan belief in modesty, hard work, and religious devotion. The strict Puritan belief is reflected in all aspects of their lives.

Module 2:

Romanticism: This unit makes clear that the exploration of the private self was as important as the exploration of the land. American Romanticism elevated imagination over reason, feeling of fact, and nature above all.

Module 3:

Realism/Naturalism: American writers began to focus on creating portrayals of “real life” as ordinary people lived it. This unit presents characters and events in an honest, objective, and factual way. Naturalists, like Realists, also depict ordinary people in real-life situations. However, they believed in forces beyond one’s control. Indifferent nature, blind fate, heredity, and pure chance shaped human destinies.



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Module 4:

Contemporary: The novel Tuesdays With Morrie explores societies social viewpoints, current events, and the topic of death and dying.