

Honors English Composition and Communication

Essential Understanding



Overview

This one-year course is designed for ninth and tenth grade students. It addresses the California state content standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking, and is intended to prepare students for the rigors of any four-year university English program. The thematic focus is *The Individual in Society* and will help you expand your vocabulary and emphasize the art of writing and speaking effectively and comprehensibly. This course will also provide you with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill the high school English requirement. You will develop your thinking-in-writing by practicing a variety of writing modes including description, narration, and literary analysis. You will read, discuss, analyze, interpret, debate, write and

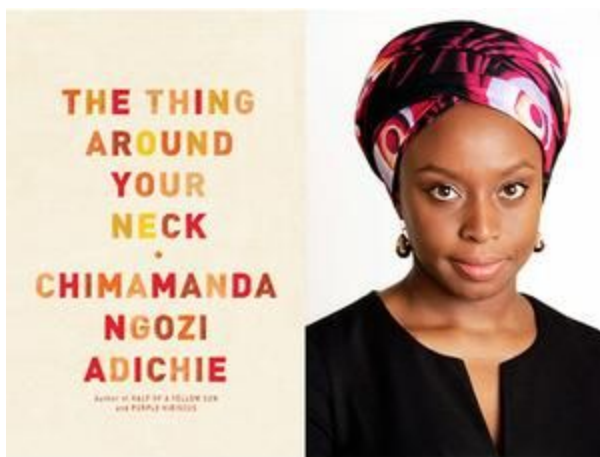
present orally on readings. Through the readings and in-class exercises, you will develop more sophisticated responses to literature, learning to create and support inferences about characters, moods, themes, etc.



***Drown* by Junot Diaz**

Drown is written by Junot Diaz, a Pulitzer prize-winning author. In this collection of short stories, Diaz explores the struggle of Dominican Republic immigrants in the United States to achieve the American Dream. Each story is related, but is a separate vignette, each with its own

title.



***The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Many of the stories in the anthology, *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, explore a generation of Nigerians whose lives have been disrupted by wars and colonialism. (Many of her characters have to cope either directly or indirectly with the consequences of the Nigerian civil war and the ethnic conflict also known as the Biafran War, that took place from 1967 to 1970, as well as with the brutal regime of Sani Abacha who ruled Nigeria from 1993 to 1998.) The loss of African traditions, exposure to Western lifestyles and values, immigration and globalism present many challenges for Adichie's main characters who are often unable to define and articulate their anxieties and the "thing" around their neck(s).

My thing is every generation of Americans has to answer what we call the 'Superman Question,' Superman comes, lands in America. He's illegal. He's one of these kids wrapped up in a red bullfighter's cape, and you've got to decide what we're going to do with Superman - Junot Diaz

Guiding question I: How is our Identity connected to our culture?

Lessons

- ___ Reading Strategies
- ___ Apprentice sentence
- ___ Identity in *Drown*
- ___ Identity in *The Thing Around Your Neck*

Readings

Drown Chapters

- ___ Ysrael ---- 10/05/2017-10/06/2017
- ___ Aguantando---- 10/09/2017-10/10/2017
- ___ No Face ----10/12/2017-10/13/2017

The Thing Around Your Neck Chapters

- ___ "A Private Experience" 10/05/2017-10/06/2017
- ___ "Imitation" 10/09/2017-10/10/2017

_____ “Cell One” 10/12/2017-10/13/2017

Individual Work

_____ **Class Warm-ups:** Responses to class SAT/PSAT Questions (**beginning of every class**)

_____ **Achieve 3000: Mondays/Tuesdays** (Annotating articles using various readings from Achieve 3000)

_____ Preparing questions for and participating in a **Socratic seminar** (using various readings from *Drown & The Thing Around Your Neck*) _____ 10/5-6/2017 _____ 10/12-13/2017

Group Work

_____ **Socratic Seminars: Thursdays/Fridays** ---- (using various readings from Achieve 3000)

	Preparedness	Participation	Synthesis/Takeaway	Self-Evaluation
Description <i>*overarching theme of treating all contributions & classmates with respect & dignity</i>	-Has carefully read & annotated article -Brings article/notes to the Seminar -Higher level questions are prepared & ready to share	-Refers to article & provides evidence to support opinion -Uses complete sentences & content-specific vocabulary -Builds on others' contributions by restating & paraphrasing	-Connects Socratic Seminar topic to class content/ lessons -Shares final thoughts using evidence from the article or a specific response to what a classmate shared	Exit Slip -Includes thoughtful goals for next time -Turned in to the teacher before exiting classroom
Points	/5	/5	/10	/10
				Total: /30

_____ **10/19-20/2017 Multimedia Group Project:** (Prezi/PowerPoint/Digital Graphics)

Choose one of the three stories and one character to illustrate how the character reflects his/her culture. (*using specific passages from Drown by Junot Diaz*)

Assessment

_____ **Final Assessment:** Mentor Paragraph ---- Choose one of the six short stories from *The Thing Around Your Neck* or *Drown* and create your own short story using the author's writing style.

The Thing Around Your Neck:

___ **Option 1- "Imitation"**

___ **Option 2- "A Private Experience"**

___ **Option 3- "Cell One"**

Drown Chapters:

___ **Option 1- Ysrael**

___ **Option 2- Aguantando**

___ **Option 3- No Face**

Extensions

See Mr. Almanza

Readings

Drown By Junot Diaz

The Thing Around Your Neck

Addendum: Detailed Class Policy

Expectations:

- Respect the classroom, others and yourself. Model GRACE and COURTESY.
- Be on time, prepared and in your designated seat at the start of class.
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on before talking.
- Listen attentively to others respectfully.
- No Candy, Drinks (with the exception of sealed container) or Gum is allowed.
- Electronics must be used appropriately and wisely.
- NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.
- No Headphones (Ask Teacher)

Outside Reading Book:

Each quarter you will pick an outside reading book of your choice. Time will be set aside for silent sustained reading of the book of your choosing.

Writing and Essays:

We will be practicing and developing a variety of writing styles and purposes such as journaling, free writing, creative writing, expository essay, analytical paragraph, summary and reflective writing. You will do this work in your writing journal and submit the journals to me for review and feedback. You must purchase your own journals.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2017						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

October 2017 Calendar Template available from www.quickcalendartemplate.com