

Virginia English 6, Semester A

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In Virginia English 6, Semester A, you will explore literary elements in both nonfiction and fiction texts. You will examine point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir. In the latter part of this course, you will study character in different genres of literature. You will explore the topic of change in nonfiction texts and evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts. Finally, you will study the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Examine main idea through the use of informational texts about identity.
- Analyze the literary elements of plot structure, character, setting, point of view, conflict, and theme in fiction.
- Explore the characteristics of personal narratives.
- Explore point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir.
- Study different aspects of character such as types of characters, characterization, and character development.
- Explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change.
- Examine a speech about social change.
- Evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts.
- Explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs Presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Virginia English 6, Semester A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: How Do We Decide Who We Are?

Summary

This unit focuses on literary elements found in fiction and nonfiction texts. In the opening lesson, you will examine the main idea in an informational text about identity. Then you will explore “The Story of the Three Bears” and “The Four Clever Brothers,” as well as “A Water Melody” by the Brothers Grimm. Through these tales, you will identify the basic plot elements of a story and learn about plot structure. Next, you will identify character and setting in the fairy tale “The Frog-Prince.” You will also study point of view in “Briar Rose” by the Brothers Grimm. Finally, you will explore the characteristics of personal narratives.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Course Syllabus and the Plato Student Orientation at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
4 days: 2–5	Defining Identity <i>Examine main idea through the use of informational texts about identity.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 6–9	The Elements that Create a Story <i>Identify the basic elements of a story and explore plot structure using Grimm’s Fairy Tales.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 10–13	Describing a Story <i>Identify characters and setting in a story using Grimm’s Fairy Tales.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 14–17	The Importance of Point of View <i>Investigate the impact point of view has on a story.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 18–20	Writing Personal Narratives <i>Explore the characteristics of personal narratives.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 21–23	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 24	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: How Does Society Shape Who We Are?

Summary

This unit focuses on literary elements in nonfiction and fictional texts. First, you will explore point of view in the following memoirs: *Behind the Scenes* by Elizabeth Keckley and *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* by Ulysses S. Grant. You will also practice writing a short memoir. Later, you will analyze the literary elements of character, setting, point of view, conflict, theme, and plot in one of the following novels: *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, or *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 25–28	How Society Shapes Your Point of View <i>Explore point of view in memoirs and practice writing a short memoir.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 29–32	Characters and Setting in Novels <i>Identify characters and setting in a novel.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 33–37	Point of View and Conflict in Novels <i>Examine point of view and word choice and how they affect conflict in a novel.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 38–41	Theme and Resolution in Novels <i>Examine how theme and plot develop over the course of a novel.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 42–44	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 45	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: How Does a Person Change over Time?

Summary

This unit focuses on the literary element of character across different genres. First, you will identify the types of characters found in literature by reading the short story “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry. Next, you will define and examine methods of characterization in the short story “The Snow-Image: A Childish Miracle” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. You will explore character development in drama through Alice Gerstenberg’s play *Alice in Wonderland*. In the same play, you will also explore how plot affects characters.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 46–49	Types of Characters <i>Identify the types of characters found in literature.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 50–54	Exploring Characterization <i>Define and examine methods of characterization.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 55–59	Observing Characters: Drama <i>Explore character development in drama.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 60–64	Observing Change in Characters: Drama <i>Explore how plot affects character development in a drama.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 65–67	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 68	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: How Does a Society Change over Time?

Summary

This unit focuses exclusively on nonfiction texts. In the first lesson, you will read Helen Keller’s autobiography *The Story of My Life* to explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change. In the next lesson, you will examine Malala Yousafzai’s Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech. Then you will evaluate arguments and claims in informational texts. Finally, you will explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 69–72	Reading about Change <i>Explore the characteristics of autobiographies and how autobiographies document change.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 73–76	Speaking about Change <i>Examine a speech about social change.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 77–80	Analyzing Differences in Opinion <i>Examine the main idea in informational texts and evaluate arguments in persuasive texts.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 81–84	Writing a Persuasive Essay <i>Explore the characteristics of persuasive writing and practice writing persuasively.</i>	Lesson

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
3 days: 85–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day: 89	End-of-Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment

Virginia English 6, Semester B

Course Overview

English is the study of the creation and analysis of literature written in the English language. In Virginia English 6, Semester B, you will begin with analyzing the element of conflict in literary nonfiction texts and examine examples of cause and effect. You will also investigate different genres of literature to analyze the element of conflict. Next, you will explore methods for developing multimedia presentations. In the latter part of the course, you will analyze elements of poetry such as theme, structure, meter, language, and sound. You will also examine different types of poetry. Finally, you will identify techniques for developing a research paper.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Explore conflict in literary nonfiction.
- Investigate examples of cause and effect in literary nonfiction.
- Identify and examine the element of conflict in different genres of literature.
- Investigate elements of essays that analyze literature.
- Explore methods for developing multimedia presentations.
- Explain the different structures, metrical patterns, and sound patterns in poetry.
- Examine different types of poems and their parts.
- Examine the elements of language, theme, and purpose in poetry.
- Explore methods for writing and revising poetry.
- Analyze how a topic is communicated through different forms of media.
- Identify techniques for developing a research paper.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs Presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Student Orientation, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Virginia English 6, Semester B is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you keep on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: How Does Conflict Affect Us?

Summary

This unit focuses on the element of conflict in literary nonfiction. In the first lesson, you will identify external conflict in Robert Shackleton’s essay “Winter Months.” Then you’ll explore internal conflict through personal letters. You’ll read “The Letters of Robert Burns” by Robert Burns and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “Letter to Scottie.” Later, you will investigate examples of cause and effect in literary nonfiction. Finally, you’ll develop skills for writing an informative essay.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Course Syllabus and the Plato Student Orientation at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation

4 days: 2–5	Recognizing External Conflict <i>Identify and understand external conflict in literary nonfiction.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 6–9	Understanding Internal Conflict <i>Explore internal conflict through personal letters.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 10–13	Exploring Cause and Effect <i>Investigate examples of cause and effect in literary nonfiction.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 14–17	Writing an Informative Essay <i>Develop skills for writing an informative essay.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 18–20	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 21	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: How Does Society Create Conflict?

Summary

This unit focuses on exploring the element of conflict across different genres of literature. In the opening lesson, you will examine conflict in Rudyard Kipling’s short story “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.” Next, you will identify conflict in the poem “Barbara Frietchie” by John Greenleaf Whittier. Later, you will investigate Theodore A. Cutting’s story “Saved by a Seal” and the conflicts that arise between people and the animals that people try to control. Finally, you will explore methods for developing multimedia presentations.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 22–26	Conflict in Fiction <i>Identify and examine conflict in fiction.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 27–31	Conflict in Poetry <i>Identify and examine conflict in poetry.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 32–36	Writing about Literature <i>Investigate elements of essays that analyze literature.</i>	Lesson

4 days: 37–40	Developing Multimedia Presentations <i>Explore methods for developing multimedia presentations.</i>	Lesson
3 days 41–43	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 44	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: How Do We Communicate with Others?

Summary

This unit explores the literary genre of poetry. In the first lesson, you will analyze literary and figurative language in the poems “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Thayer Lawrence and “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe. Next, you will examine types of poems and their parts through “Casey at the Bat” as well as in “The Duck and the Kangaroo” by Edward Lear and “The Exposed Nest” by Robert Frost. Then you will revisit “The Raven” to explore pattern and sound in poetry. You will also investigate theme and purpose by analyzing Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “The Arrow and the Song” and William Blake’s “A Poison Tree.” Finally, you will explore methods for writing and revising poetry.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 45–48	The Power of Words <i>Analyze literal and figurative language in poetry.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 49–53	Types of Poetry <i>Examine different types of poems and their parts.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 54–58	Poetry in Motion <i>Explore pattern and sound in poetry.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 59–63	Understanding Poetry <i>Investigate theme and purpose in poetry.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 64–67	Using Words Creatively <i>Explore methods for writing and revising poetry.</i>	Lesson

3 days: 68–70	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 71	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: How Does a Society Use Communication?

Summary

This unit focuses on the research process. You will analyze how a topic is communicated through different types of media. Then, you will consider topics, develop appropriate research questions, and evaluate sources. Next, you will explore methods for organizing research information. In the final lesson of this unit, you will practice methods for writing a research paper. You will revise and edit your research paper in the unit activity.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
3 days: 72–74	Examining How Societies Communicate <i>Analyze how a topic is communicated through different types of media.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 75–77	Introducing the Research Process <i>Consider topics, develop appropriate research questions, and evaluate sources.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 78–81	Organizing Ideas <i>Explore methods for organizing research information.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 82–84	Composing a Research Paper <i>Identify and practice methods for writing, revising, and editing a paper.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 85–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment

1 day: 89	End-of-Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End of Semester Test	Assessment