

Scope and Sequence

The Red Couch Reading Room's
British Literature



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-Cara L. Shelton (aka Miss Cara)

Course: RCRR's British Literature (Brit Lit): Take Your Place in the Great Conversation

Reading Strand	Writing Strand	Oral Strand
<p>Description: The goal of reading the texts assigned in <i>RCRR's Brit Lit</i> is to increase the student's critical and analytical competency. Emphasis will be placed upon five levels of interaction with the text:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehension: the fundamental understanding of the text at a literal level. Through modeled reading, discussing, and being responsible for higher-level texts, the student learns to be fully cognizant during reading, and begins to develop more mature comprehension. 2. Discernment of meaning: In lecture, homework, and discussion, the student will be encouraged to find and understand the implications and inferences in a text, along with the deeper meaning they create. 3. Analysis: In American Lit, the student is constantly aware of the text as a product of its historical and sociopolitical context. 4. Critic: In this course, the student will be reminded of the reality of authorship and will be steered toward understanding the implications for theme and message. 5. Debating Criticism: Student will be exposed to critical analysis and guided through a process of examining the criticism via comparison with each of the major texts. <p>Student competency will be evaluated through reading comprehension quizzes, and study questions in written or oral discussion format.</p> <p>Vocabulary study is a critical element of competency, and each major unit includes a vocabulary component with assessment. Semester writing assignments provide extensive insight into a student's grasp of the works studied and their ability to work with elements of the text.</p>	<p>Description: Early in the course, we will cover a series of lessons on writing the literary essay. Learning to write well, to write persuasively, to write with grace and style, is as much an art as it is a science, but the first unit we cover will provide both examples, a template, and helps for the students. Writing will be heavily emphasized in <i>British Literature</i>, with focus on the following goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Master paragraph construction. Utilize the Toulmin method of argumentation for crafting literary analysis papers. 2. Understand how to correctly format a literary analysis paper, including specific introduction, supporting paragraph, and conclusion requirements. 3. Reinforce writing style tips to help bring grace and elegance to the expression of students' thoughts. <p>In <i>Brit Lit</i>, the student will receive a writing packet each semester entitled <i>Occupa Locum Tuum in Conloquio Magno (Take Your Place in the Great Conversation)</i>.</p> <p>This packet includes a selections of literary responses, from which - together with their on-site teacher (parent or tutor) - the student will select four of the possible</p>	<p>Description: The student will participate in-class in dramatic readings of literary selections from a variety of genres including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem • Speech or essay • Scene from a play • Sustained reading of a novel • Reader's Theater <p>Each semester, students will prepare to participate in a Socratic seminar around one of the works they have read. The student will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take notes to prepare for oral presentation • Use relevant textual detail to support their assertions • Explain how textual quotes support points • Cite information sources • Use body language and eye contact to indicate active listening • Pose and respond to questions • Use appropriate transitions to build on or change topics • Summarize and clarify ideas

The following texts will be covered during this course. **The highlighted texts must be purchased for the class by the student/parent. Any version is acceptable, but it must be unabridged and the student must be free to mark in it.** Other items (short stories, essays, poems, plays) will be provided via pdf for the student to print out or read on an e-reader (of course, you are always welcome to procure a hard copy of any of the works, or to use a copy you own):

Unit 1: Medieval Literature - 4 weeks

- **Beowulf**
- Canterbury Tales (Excerpts), Chaucer
- The Magna Charta
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- Le Morte D'Arthur

Unit 2: The Renaissance Era - 4 weeks

- *A Modest Proposal*, Jonathan Swift
- **Hamlet**, Shakespeare
- Edmund Spenser, poetry, excerpted from The Faerie Queene
- Assorted poems, samples from works of John Donne, John Milton, introduction to Shakespearian sonnet

Unit 3: Romantic Era - 4 weeks

- **Frankenstein**, Mary Shelley
- Poets: Wordsworth, Lord Byron, Rosetti, Browning, Tennyson

Unit 4: Literary Realism - 4 weeks

- **Jane Eyre**, Charlotte Bronte

Unit 5: Victorian Literature - 5 weeks

- **Tale of Two Cities**, Dickens
- *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, Doyle
- *A Cup of Tea*, Mansfield

response prompts to respond, forming their semester writing project. Estimated formal writing word count (for the year, divided between the two semester-long writing projects): 12,000.

Grammar Review: Each of the 30 class lessons will include a Grammar Review component with applications designed to help the students apply their grammar knowledge to their writing. (Requires purchase of Strunk & White's **Elements of Style, 4th Edition**. The worksheets will follow along with the lessons from this classic work of English grammar and writing).

Unit 6: Modernism & Post-Modernism - 3 weeks

- *Lord of the Flies, Golding*
- *The Rocking Horse Winner*, DH Lawrence
- *The Nightingale and the Rose*, Oscar Wilder
- *The Open Window*, Saki
- Poetry, samples from works of: Yeats, Dylan Thomas

Unit 7: Playwrights & Essayists - 2 weeks

- *Pygmalion*, George Bernard Shaw
- (Essays) G.K. Chesterton
- (Speeches) Winston Churchill, Elizabeth I

Unit 8: The Unparalleled Children's Literature of Britain: 4 weeks

- *Wind & the Willows*, Graham
- *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, Carroll
- *various*, Beatrix Potter
- *Lion, Witch, & the Wardrobe*, Lewis