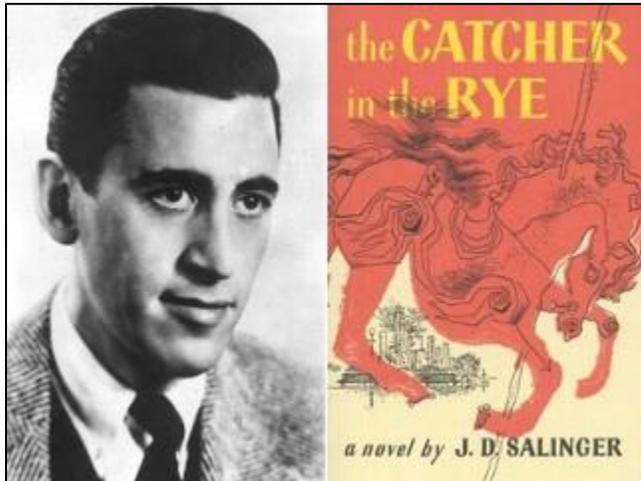


Lesson Plan: Themes and Literary Movements



Pictured at left is one of the most well-known and controversial American novels (and its author) from the 20th century: *The Catcher in the Rye*. The story follows the young social rebel Holden Caulfield, and is told using a technique called “stream of consciousness.” Holden’s resistance to change and society highlights the painfulness of growing up.²

| <u>Subject</u> | American Literature of the 20th Century, Themes/Literary Movements |
|------------------|--|
| <u>Overview</u> | In this lesson plan, students will utilize the multimedia sharing website Cellblock. They will be uploading different pictures of novel covers. The novel they choose each night will also have to correspond to a particular literary movement within American Literature of the 20 th Century. In the caption of the picture, students will have to briefly discuss one main theme associated with the piece they chose. |
| <u>Standards</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are expected to create a Cellblock account and give their user name to the instructor.• Students will be required to upload a specific novel cover to the cellblock the instructor creates for the class. Students will use the password their instructor gives them in order to access the specific cellblock. Each literary movement will have its own cellblock, but the same password will be used throughout the lesson plan.• A student’s post into the cellblock has to be unique, so students should be encouraged to post something as early as possible.• Before the next class period, students will be required to send a link to the instructor’s email containing a link to the post they have made. |

Procedure³

***Other types of works, such as short stories, poems, essays, and novellas, can be used IF a cover for them can be found.**

Day 1: Students are assigned to create an account on www.cellblock.com and email their instructor their user name by the next day's class period.

Day 2: The instructor will give everyone the password that will be used to access all of the cellblocks used throughout this assignment.

- ❖ **Assignment:** Students will be required to look up and post one novel cover from the "Turn of the 20th Century" (1900-1918).
 - This will be posted in the cellblock titled "Themes and Literary Movements (TALM): Turn of the 20th Century."
 - In the caption students must write: the title of the work, the author, the year it was published, a brief summary, and describe one theme from the novel, citing examples.
 - Students must then post their novel into the cellblock and send a link to it via email to their instructor.

Day 3: A class-led discussion will occur in which students discuss the novels they posted. From this discussion, notes will be taken on works from the "Turn of the 20th Century."

- ❖ **Assignment:** Students will be required to look up and post one novel cover from "The Lost Generation/Great Depression Era."
 - This will be posted in the cellblock titled "TALM: The Lost Generation/Great Depression Era."
 - Students must fill out the caption line as dictated in the assignment instructions on **Day 2**.
 - Students must then post their novel into the cellblock and send a link to it via email to their instructor.

Day 4: A class-led discussion will occur in which students discuss the novels they posted. From this discussion, notes will be taken on works from the "The Lost Generation/Great Depression Era."

- ❖ **Assignment:** Students will be required to look up and post one play cover/play poster from "American Theatre."
 - This will be posted in the cellblock titled "TALM: American Theatre."
 - Students must fill out the caption line as dictated in the assignment instructions on **Day 2**.
 - Students must then post their play cover/play poster into the cellblock and send a link to it via email to their instructor.

Day 5: A class-led discussion will occur in which students discuss the plays they posted. From this discussion, notes will be taken on works from "American Theatre."

- ❖ **Assignment:** Students will be required to look up and post one novel from "Post World War II" (1945-1969).
 - This will be posted in the cellblock titled "TALM: Post World War II."

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students must fill out the caption line as dictated in the assignment instructions on Day 2. ○ Students must then post their novel into the cellblock and send a link to it via email to their instructor. <p>Day 6: A class-led discussion will occur in which students discuss the novels they posted. From this discussion, notes will be taken on works from “Post World War II.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <u>Assignment:</u> Students will be required to look up and post one novel from “Postmodernism” (1970-present) and one novel from “Minority Literature” (from any part of the 20th Century). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This will be posted in the cellblock titled “TALM: Postmodernism/Minority Lit.” ○ Students must fill out the caption line as dictated in the assignment instructions on Day 2. ○ Students must then post their novel into the cellblock and send a link to it via email to their instructor. <p>Day 7: A class-led discussion will occur in which students discuss the novels they posted. From this discussion, notes will be taken on works from “Postmodernism/Minority Lit.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <u>Assignment:</u> Review the class notes over the themes/literary movements discussed in class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An essay test will be given tomorrow, and students can write about 3 out of 4 topics presented on the test. The 4 essay questions are listed in the next section. <p>Day 8: In-class Essay Test.</p> |
| <p><u>Essay Test Questions</u>^{3, 4}</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As America and the world made dramatic social, economic, and technological strides in the 20th Century, so too did the literature. Focusing more on American literature during this time period, compare and contrast themes found from distinct literary movements. (Hint: picking very distant movements may help if choosing this option.) 2. It is heavily disputed as to when Postmodernism began and if it has yet ended, due to the fact that no one particular author defined the time period. In your opinion, name one or two authors that you feel defined postmodernism and provide good reasoning through their themes/works. 3. Choose a common theme that remained prevalent in American literature throughout the 20th Century, and analyze how the story has changed around that theme as time has passed. 4. In detail, discuss what you liked and did not like about this assignment, and how was your experience using Cellblock specifically? |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Objectives and Evaluation</u></p> | <p>The purpose of this lesson plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate students on the American literary movements within the 20th century and the themes utilized within those movements. • Utilize the technique of group discussion in order to extrapolate necessary information about a topic. • Expose students to the application and usage of Cellblock. <p>Students will be evaluated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their posts within the cellblocks. • Their participation in class discussions. • Their score on the Essay Test. |
| <p><u>Indiana State Standards</u>⁵</p> | <p>11.3.5 Analyze or evaluate works of literary or cultural significance in history (American, English, or world) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were written by important authors in the respective major historical periods. • Reveal contrasts in major themes, styles, and trends. • Reflect the philosophical, religious, social, political, or ethical ideas of their time. <p>11.5.2 Write responses to literature that Analyze the use of imagery, language, universal themes, and unique aspects of the text.</p> |

References

1. http://a.abcnews.com/images/US/abc_id_salinger_dead_100128_mn.jpg
2. <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/catcher/themes.html>
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_literature#Turn_of_the_20th_century
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodern_literature#Common_themes_and_techniques
5. <http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/PrintLibrary/docs-english/2006-06-ela-grade11.pdf>