

Plotting Your Course for Student Success

Kristin Rabun, Fayette County High School

Review your 2016 CB Instructional Report

- Goes beyond student score breakdowns
- Shows number of Poetry and Prose Qs; what eras were emphasized.

Multiple Choice Test

- 24 Prose/20th and 21st Century

- 31 Poetry/

Pre-20th Century

Performance on Multiple-Choice Section (Maximum Possible Score = 68)

Content Area	Number of Questions	Global Mean
PROSE	24	16
POETRY	31	18
20TH- AND 21ST-CENTURY LITERATURE	24	16
PRE-20TH-CENTURY LITERATURE	31	18
Multiple-Choice Summary		41

Review your 2016 CB Instructional Report

- Shows student strengths/needs

- Poetry scores are nearly always weaker
- Use your influence to encourage more poetry study in your department



*Scores were lower this year than the last 5 years--
Damn that Juggler! (?)

Establish your class culture

- Promote thoughtful discussion of literature in the company
— of fellow students: Small group
- Use summer reading selections as primary anchor texts for the year - throughout the year, remind students of aspects of these works when inspiration strikes
- Begin student writing practice early, and without much interference at first. *There is no magic formula.*
- Assess their knowledge of the language of literature in several ways - formal and informal.

How much material should I cover?

- – works from a range of genres and periods—
from the 16th to the 21st centuries
- Complexity of meaning
- Novels (Prose), Poetry, and Drama
 British and American
- Bust the canon!



How can I possibly do all of that?



- Create a year overview and choose most impactful texts.
- Respond to student needs and change course/drop anchor when indicated.

Planning



- Spiral in 3 major genres with lessons throughout the year to activate their prior knowledge, especially, with poetry.
- Teach what you are most passionate about, whenever possible.

Planning



Fall Semester:

Invisible Man

Native Guard (poetry collection)

Death of A Salesman (incl. Research)

Ethan Frome

*Hamlet**

Spring Semester:

1984 (with Poetry Research)

Frankenstein

-- “Allegory of the Cave”, Timed Writings Multiple Choice Practice, Romantic Poetry unit, Sonnets and fixed forms unit, Research Process and Product, and more...

Timing

50 minute class



Fall Semester:

Invisible Man unit

4 weeks

Native Guard unit

2 weeks

Death of A Salesman unit (*incl. Research*)

3 weeks

“Allegory of the Cave”

1 week (spiral to IM)

Ethan Frome (*novella*)

2-3 weeks

Hamlet

3-4 weeks

Timing

50 minute class



Spring Semester

Frankenstein unit (incl. Romanticism)

4 weeks

1984 unit (with Poetry Research)

6-7 weeks

*Targeted practice for MC and essays

*Senioritis!! It's real!

Incorporating Multiple Choice Practice

Divide old tests into passages and use as warm-ups

Tips for Poetry Study

Begin with more accessible poems--

- “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers”
- “Fire and Ice”
- “We Real Cool”
- Build confidence and work toward complexity

Create mini-lessons on a poet’s work with a balance between canonical and lesser known works by that poet.

Tips for Writing Practice

Select a bank of AP writing prompts.
(2 poetry/2 prose.)

While you are studying a novel or another major work, schedule 1 timed write per week.

After students complete 4 essays, have them choose 1 poetry and 1 prose for you to assess/grade.

Terms to emphasize

Repetition

Juxtaposition

Figurative Language devices

Point of View

Characterization

Irony

Tone

Diction

Satire

Theme