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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
1980 Volume I: Adolescence and Narrative: Strategies for Teaching Fiction

The Modern Novel: Reading, Writing and Wrestling with Form and Content

Guide for Curriculum Unit 80.01.08
by Pat Snee

This unit attacks the problem of studying the novel in a condensed fashion, rather than over a course of weeks-per-novel. The highlights of the unit involve a study of prose style by means of stylistic analysis, a search for narrative point-of-view through writing exercises and discussion, a set of terms in order to assist analysis of story-type, and an aim toward expanding the reader's awareness of the novel as he reads. The novels in this unit are straightforward narrations that exhibit a strong physicality and surface plot, as well as subtler character development. The most prevalent themes in the suggested novels are Search for Truth in an inhospitable environment, Violence, both premeditated and external, and Adjustment to Social Norms. Especially important to this unit is the section of stylistic analysis, which can be used to assist the student in improving his own writing style.

(Recommended for 11th and 12th grade Advanced English and Composition/Creative Writing.)

Keywords

Novel Literature

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