

Highlights of Grade 10 Unit 1: Inside the Nightmare

Dear Family,

In this unit, students will investigate the theme of fear, considering why frightening topics are so intriguing to people. Students will read a variety of texts, view informational graphics, and view media as they discuss the Essential Question for the unit.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

As a class, as well as in small groups and independently, students will work to answer this question: *What is the allure of fear?* Give your student the opportunity to continue the discussion at home.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR STUDENT

- What are some of the ways you could answer the question *What is the allure of fear?*
- Does scaring ourselves in a controlled situation help us prepare for more perilous situations?
- Why do you think stories related to fear are so common in media and books?
- What is the most interesting aspect of fear that you learned from your reading?

PERFORMANCE TASKS AND PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Your student will need to answer the question *In what ways does transformation play a role in stories meant to scare us?* He or she will write an explanatory essay.

STANDARDS

Activities and assignments in Unit 1 will help your student meet the following objectives for reading literature and informational texts, writing, as well as speaking and listening. Here are some key standards students will work toward in this unit:

Reading

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

Writing

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

Speaking and Listening

- Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.
- Make strategic use of digital media in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

Thank you for your continuing support!