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How to Use This Literature Guide

Today's standards demand rigor and relevance in the reading of complex texts. The units in this series guide teachers in a rich and deep exploration of worthwhile works of literature for classroom study. The most rigorous instruction can also be interesting and engaging!

Many current strategies for effective literacy instruction have been incorporated into these instructional guides for literature. Throughout the units, text-dependent questions are used to determine comprehension of the book as well as student interpretation of the vocabulary words. The books chosen for the series are complex exemplars of carefully crafted works of literature. Close reading is used throughout the units to guide students toward revisiting the text and using textual evidence to respond to prompts orally and in writing. Students must analyze the story elements in multiple assignments for each section of the book. All of these strategies work together to rigorously guide students through their study of literature.

The next few pages will make clear how to use this guide for a purposeful and meaningful literature study. Each section of this guide is set up in the same way to make it easier for you to implement the instruction in your classroom.

Theme Thoughts

The great works of literature used throughout this series have important themes that have been relevant to people for many years. Many of the themes will be discussed during the various sections of this instructional guide. However, it would also benefit students to have independent time to think about the key themes of the novel.

Before students begin reading, have them complete *Pre-Reading Theme Thoughts* (page 13). This graphic organizer will allow students to think about the themes outside the context of the story. They'll have the opportunity to evaluate statements based on important themes and defend their opinions. Be sure to have students keep their papers for comparison to the *Post-Reading Theme Thoughts* (page 64). This graphic organizer is similar to the pre-reading activity. However, this time, students will be answering the questions from the point of view of one of the characters in the novel. They have to think about how the character would feel about each statement and defend their thoughts. To conclude the activity, have students compare what they thought about the themes before they read the novel to what the characters discovered during the story.



How to Use This Literature Guide (cont.)

Vocabulary

Each teacher overview page has definitions and sentences about how key vocabulary words are used in the section. These words should be introduced and discussed with students. There are two student vocabulary activity pages in each section. On the first page, students are asked to define the ten words chosen by the author of this unit. On the second page in most sections, each student will select at least eight words that he or she finds interesting or difficult. For each section, choose one of these pages for your students to complete. With either assignment, you may want to have students get into pairs to discuss the meanings of the words. Allow students to use reference guides to define the words. Monitor students to make sure the definitions they have found are accurate and relate to how the words are used in the text.

On some of the vocabulary student pages, students are asked to answer text-related questions about the vocabulary words. The following question stems will help you create your own vocabulary questions if you'd like to extend the discussion.

- ¿De qué manera esta palabra describe la personalidad de _____?
- ¿De qué manera esta palabra se relaciona con el problema del cuento?
- ¿De qué manera esta palabra te ayuda a comprender el escenario?
- Dime de qué manera esta palabra se relaciona con la idea principal del cuento.
- ¿Qué imágenes te trae a la mente esta palabra?
- ¿Por qué crees que la autora usó esta palabra?

At times, more work with the words will help students understand their meanings. The following quick vocabulary activities are a good way to further study the words.

- Have students practice their vocabulary and writing skills by creating sentences and/or paragraphs in which multiple vocabulary words are used correctly and with evidence of understanding.
- Students can play vocabulary concentration. Students make a set of cards with the words and a separate set of cards with the definitions. Then, students lay the cards out on the table and play concentration. The goal of the game is to match vocabulary words with their definitions.
- Students can create word journal entries about the words. Students choose
 words they think are important and then describe why they think each word is
 important within the novel.



How to Use This Literature Guide (cont.)

Analyzing the Literature

After students have read each section, hold small-group or whole-class discussions. Questions are written at two levels of complexity to allow you to decide which questions best meet the needs of your students. The Level 1 questions are typically less abstract than the Level 2 questions. Level 1 is indicated by a square, while Level 2 is indicated by a triangle. These questions focus on the various story elements, such as character, setting, and plot. Student pages are provided if you want to assign these questions for individual student work before your group discussion. Be sure to add further questions as your students discuss what they've read. For each question, a few key points are provided for your reference as you discuss the novel with students.

Reader Response

In today's classrooms, there are often great readers who are below-average writers. So much time and energy is spent in classrooms getting students to read on grade level that little time is left to focus on writing skills. To help teachers include more writing in their daily literacy instruction, each section of this guide has a literature-based reader response prompt. Each of the three genres of writing is used in the reader responses within this guide: narrative, informative/explanatory, and opinion/argument. Students have a choice between two prompts for each reader response. One response requires students to make connections between the reading and their own lives. The other prompt requires students to determine text-to-text connections or connections within the text.

Close Reading the Literature

Within each section, students are asked to closely reread a short section of text. Since some versions of the novels have different page numbers, the selections are described by chapter and location, along with quotations to guide the readers. After each close reading, there are text-dependent questions to be answered by students.

Encourage students to read each question one at a time and then go back to the text and discover the answer. Work with students to ensure that they use the text to determine their answers rather than making unsupported inferences. Once students have answered the questions, discuss what they discovered. Suggested answers are provided in the answer key.



How to Use This Literature Guide (cont.)

Close Reading the Literature (cont.)

The generic, open-ended stems below can be used to write your own text-dependent questions if you would like to give students more practice.

- ¿Qué palabras del cuento respaldan...?
- ¿Qué texto te ayuda a entender...?
- Usa el libro para explicar por qué sucedió...
- Basándote en los sucesos del cuento, ¿...?
- Muéstrame la parte del texto que apoya...
- Usa el texto para explicar por qué...

Making Connections

The activities in this section help students make cross-curricular connections to writing, mathematics, science, social studies, or the fine arts. Each of these types of activities requires higher-order thinking skills from students.

Creating with the Story Elements

It is important to spend time discussing the common story elements in literature. Understanding the characters, setting, and plot can increase students' comprehension and appreciation of the story. If teachers discuss these elements daily, students will more likely internalize the concepts and look for the elements in their independent reading. Another important reason for focusing on the story elements is that students will be better writers if they think about how the stories they read are constructed.

Students are given three options for working with the story elements. They are asked to create something related to the characters, setting, or plot of the novel. Students are given a choice in this activity so that they can decide to complete the activity that most appeals to them. Different multiple intelligences are used so that the activities are diverse and interesting to all students.

Analyzing the Literature

Provided below are discussion questions you can use in small groups, with the whole class, or for written assignments. Each question is given at two levels so you can choose the right question for each group of students. Activity sheets with these questions are provided (pages 18–19) if you want students to write their responses. For each question, a few key discussion points are provided for your reference.

Story Element	Level 1	▲ Level 2	Key Discussion Points
Setting	¿Por qué se preocupan Esperanza y Mamá por los bandidos cuando Papá sale a trabajar?	¿Por qué es importante para el cuento el escenario pos-Revolución mexicana?	The story is set in 1930, 10 years after the revolution. Many poor Mexicans are still angry with large landowners like Papa. These groups of "bandits" travel around, looking to rob and even kill any wealthy ranchers they find.
Character	Compara la relación entre Esperanza y Miguel durante su niñez con la de ahora.	¿Por qué cambia la relación entre Esperanza y Miguel con respecto a cuando eran chicos?	As children, Esperanza and Miguel were very close and played together. When they are older, they barely talk and Miguel addresses her as "my queen." Their relationship changes when Esperanza realizes she is a wealthy rancher's daughter, and Miguel is a servant. She tells him they stand on different sides of a deep river.
Plot	¿Qué descubren Mamá y Esperanza sobre el testamento de Papá?	¿Por qué el testamento de Papá motiva al tío Luis a proponerle matrimonio a Mamá?	Papa's will leaves the house and vineyard to Mama. But it leaves the land to the banker, Tío Luis, because women do not customarily own land. Tío Luis proposes to Mama so he can have it all, including the respect and reputation of Mama. He wants to enter politics and feels being married to her will help his career.
Plot	¿Por qué se marchan a Estados Unidos Alfonso y su familia?	¿Por qué piensa Alfonso que marcharse a Estados Unidos será mejor que quedarse en México?	Alfonso has family in the United States that can help them find housing and jobs. He knows he and his family will always be servants in Mexico, no matter how hard they work. Tío Luis will not treat them with any kindness or respect, so Alfonso will not stay at the ranch to work for him.

	Capitulo	13
Drál	ogo-Capítulo	
LIOI	O The Report of	tte -

Nombre			

Fecha

Análisis de la literatura

Instrucciones: Piensa sobre la sección que acabas de leer. Lee cada pregunta y expón tu respuesta con pruebas del texto.

1.	¿Por qué se preocupan Esperanza y Mamá por los bandidos cuando Papá sale a trabajar?			
2.	Compara la relación entre Esperanza y Miguel durante su niñez con la de ahora.			
3.	¿Qué descubren Mamá y Esperanza sobre el testamento de Papá?			
4.	¿Por qué se marchan a Estados Unidos Alfonso y su familia?			

Nombre	
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Prólogo-Capítulo 3

Fecha

▲ Análisis de la literatura

Instrucciones: Piensa sobre la sección que acabas de leer. Lee cada pregunta y expón tu respuesta con pruebas del texto.

1.	¿Por qué es importante para el cuento el escenario pos-Revolución mexicana?
2.	¿Por qué cambia la relación entre Esperanza y Miguel con respecto a cuando eran chicos?
3.	¿Por qué el testamento de Papá motiva al tío Luis a proponerle matrimonio a Mamá?
4.	¿Por qué piensa Alfonso que marcharse a Estados Unidos será mejor que quedarse en México?

Prólogo-Capítulo 3

Fecha

Lectura enfocada de la literatura

Instrucciones: Vuelve a leer con atención la sección del capítulo 3. Empieza con: "Todos se juntaron en la pequeña habitación de Hortensia y Alfonso". Detente en: "Y por primera vez desde que Papá murió, todos rieron". Lee cada pregunta a continuación y vuelve al texto para hallar pruebas que respalden tu respuesta.

1.	Según Alfonso, ¿por qué les sería difícil a Mamá y a Esperanza quedarse en México?
2.	¿Por qué debe mantenerse en secreto el plan de Mamá? Utiliza el texto para respaldar tu respuesta.
4	
3.	Explica el propósito de la oración "No temas empezar de nuevo". En tu respuesta, básate en la historia de la niñez de Abuelita.
4.	Utiliza detalles del texto para describir qué piensa Esperanza sobre marcharse.
2	

Fecha

Exprésate con los elementos del texto

Instrucciones: Para comprender qué sucede en una novela y por qué, es muy importante pensar en los elementos del texto de personaje, escenario y trama. Completa **una** de las siguientes actividades basándote en lo que has leído hasta ahora. ¡Sé creativo y diviértete!

Personajes

Las acciones y la apariencia de Mamá parecen haber cambiado desde la muerte de Papá. Haz un diagrama de Venn con al menos 3 rasgos de personalidad que la describan tanto antes como después de la muerte de Papá. El centro debe mostrar al menos dos maneras en las que sigue siendo la misma.

Escenario

Crea un mapa para mostrar la ruta que toma Esperanza para llegar a Estados Unidos. Utiliza un mapa de verdad como ayuda para hallar las ubicaciones de los distintos lugares.

Trama

Esperanza tiene que marcharse de su hogar sin despedirse de Marisol. Escribe una carta de Esperanza dirigida a su mejor amiga que explique lo que ha sucedido y cómo se siente Esperanza.