

AP English Literature and Composition

Unit 5 Lesson Plans

Poetry II: Advanced Poetic Analysis: Ambiguity and Complexity

Lesson Plan 1: Understanding Ambiguity and Complexity

Objective: Students will define ambiguity and complexity in poetry and analyze John Donne's "The Flea."

- **Common Core Standards:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.4
 - **Activities:**
 1. Lecture: Introduction to ambiguity and complexity.
 2. Close reading of "The Flea," identifying multiple interpretations.
 3. Group discussion on metaphor and persuasion in the poem.
 4. Homework: Annotate "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning," focusing on tone and figurative language.
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Lesson Plan 2: Analyzing "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"

Objective: Students will explore shifts in tone and perspective within the poem.

- **Activities:**
 1. Group analysis: Discuss and compare annotations.
 2. Mini-lesson on tone shifts and poetic argumentation.
 3. Writing activity: One-paragraph interpretation of the poem's central metaphor.
 4. Homework: Read "Death Be Not Proud" and note its themes of mortality and defiance.
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Lesson Plan 3: Understanding Ambiguity in "Death Be Not Proud"

Objective: Students will analyze Donne's use of ambiguity in addressing death.

- **Activities:**
 1. Seminar-style discussion on themes and ambiguity.
 2. Workshop: Developing nuanced thesis statements.
 3. Homework: Read Plath's "Daddy," focusing on emotional intensity and historical context.

Lesson Plan 4: Discussing "Daddy"

Objective: Students will explore personal and historical layers in Plath's poem.

- **Activities:**
 1. Seminar discussion with textual evidence.
 2. Group comparison of different interpretations.
 3. Homework: Annotate "Lady Lazarus," noting symbolic meanings.
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Lesson Plan 5: Exploring Symbolism in "Lady Lazarus"

Objective: Students will analyze confessional poetry and its layered meanings.

- **Activities:**
 1. Discussion on ambiguity in confessional poetry.
 2. Writing activity: Drafting introductory paragraphs for essays.
 3. Homework: Revise introduction and outline the essay.
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Lesson Plan 6: Peer Review and "Tonight I Can Write"

Objective: Students will refine their outlines and explore Neruda's use of emotional ambiguity.

- **Activities:**
 1. Peer review of outlines.
 2. Group analysis of "Tonight I Can Write."
 3. Homework: Annotate "Ode to My Socks" with attention to imagery.
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Lesson Plan 7: Complexity in Simplicity

Objective: Students will analyze how simple language can convey deep meaning in "Ode to My Socks."

- **Activities:**
 1. Discussion on poetic simplicity and depth.
 2. Mini-lesson on incorporating multiple interpretations in essays.
 3. Homework: Read "If You Forget Me" and draft an analysis paragraph.
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Lesson Plan 8: Comparing Interpretations of "If You Forget Me"

Objective: Students will explore how interpretation can shift based on context.

- **Activities:**
 1. Seminar discussion comparing readings.
 2. Writing workshop: Refining thesis statements and body paragraphs.
 3. Homework: Complete essay drafts.
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Lesson Plan 9: Editing and Peer Review

Objective: Students will refine their essays for clarity and depth.

- **Activities:**
 1. Peer editing session.
 2. Workshop on improving argumentation and textual support.
 3. Homework: Revise essays based on feedback.
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Lesson Plan 10: Presentations and Reflection

Objective: Students will present their analyses and reflect on the role of ambiguity in poetry.

- **Activities:**
 1. Student presentations defending interpretations.
 2. Class discussion on the unit's key takeaways.
 3. Final essay submission.

Assessment:

- Annotated poems (homework assignments).
- Participation in discussions and seminars.
- Drafts and peer review.
- Final thesis-driven essay (evaluated on depth, textual support, and writing quality).

Extensions:

- Creative project: Write an original poem in the style of Donne, Plath, or Neruda.
- Comparative essay: Analyze ambiguity and complexity in a poem outside the selected texts.

Additional Resources:

- Videos on poetic devices.
- Articles on historical and biographical contexts.
- Sample student essays and feedback exemplars.