

Building literary analysis skills for any short story

# Short Story Unit

Paper + Digital + Interactive Notebooks

Short Story Unit Plan  
English 9

Suggested Unit Plan  
(for 45-50 min. classes)

Pros/Def Essay Workday	Share Pros/Def Essay	Plot	Lit Term Poster Workday
ad "Lamb to the slaughter"			

HW: Finish essay

## SYMBOLISM

10-28-15

Symbolism: something not as it seems

Symbol: reward after hard work

ABSTRACT: "How many times?"

CONCRETE: chocolate inside, hard sweet blue

owl

Close-ended: What is the Red Death?

Open-ended: What do/How do the seven chambers represent the human life cycle?

Universal: How are the themes of this story still relevant today?

Connections: How does the outbreak occurred like Prospero?

and why?

## ALLEGORY

A symbol is something that stands for an abstract meaning beyond what is obs. on the literal level.  
→ object, person, animal, event

EX: 1. rose 2. the color blue 3. #3 4. a pearl  
Grooming love → being sad → Holy Trinity → hidden value

An allegory is a story w/at least two layers of meaning in which

Fables: vice

Aesop's

### Develop Your Analysis

Three steps

fire	
owl	
diamond	
light bulb	
cross	

### What is "Quote Analysis" For example...

"With great power comes great responsibility"

Who said it? Benjamin Parker to Peter in Spider-man.

What was the context? He notices Peter is changing, and that he's "shirking" "getting into fights". He doesn't know Peter's powers; he just wants to give life advice.

How does this affect the story? Peter sort of Call to Action. After Uncle Ben realizes that he needs to use his power for others, instead of just being selfish or This becomes Peter's mantra.

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Nouvelle ELA

# Nine Literary Analysis Lessons

SUGGESTED ORDER	EXAMPLE SHORT STORY/TEXT
Plot Lesson & Literary Terms	Short Films
Irony	"The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
Integrating Source Quotes	
Characterization	"Raymond's Run" by Toni Cade Bambara
Diction	"Gerald No Last Name" by Sandra Cisneros
Mood	Movie Trailers
Literary Quote Analysis	
Song Analysis	"You Can Let Go" by Crystal Shawanda and student choice
Symbolism & Allegory	"Masque of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe

Editable \* Differentiated \* Versatile  
(Includes suggestions for alternate short stories for each skill)

## Literary Quote Analysis - Student Sample

**Bellringer/"In":** Have students choose a favorite movie quote and explain its significance.

**Input/"Through":** Students complete PPT Notes (top third), one quote analysis together (middle third).

## Short Stories Unit

My short stories unit is shaped around literary elements and analysis. Each one of these lessons can be presented as traditional worksheets, Interactive Notebooks, or digital. You'll find each lesson in its own file. This document is "just the lesson plans" for your planning purposes.

You can use these lessons with the short stories of your choice. (grades 7-10)

SUGGESTED ORDER	EXAMPLE SHORT STORY/TEXT
Plot Lesson & Literary Terms	<u>Short Films for Secondary ELA</u>
Irony	The Lottery (other <u>short stories for teaching irony</u> )
Integrating Source Quotes	The Lottery
Characterization	Raymond's Run
Diction	"Gerald No Last Name"
Mood	Movie Trailers
Literary Quote Analysis	
Song Analysis	"You Can Let Go" and student choice (other <u>songs for Secondary ELA</u> )
Symbolism & Allegory	"Masque of the Red Death" (other <u>short stories for teaching symbolism</u> )

As you'll see in the Unit Calendar, I also do a few other activities. The activities are linked below. When assembling this unit, I didn't want to assume what stories you'd be reading. I didn't want you to pay for things you wouldn't use.

[before Plot lesson]

"Lamb to the Slaughter" Inferences Challenge  
(read "Lamb to the Slaughter" in class)

"Lamb to the Slaughter" Defense/Prosecution Essay

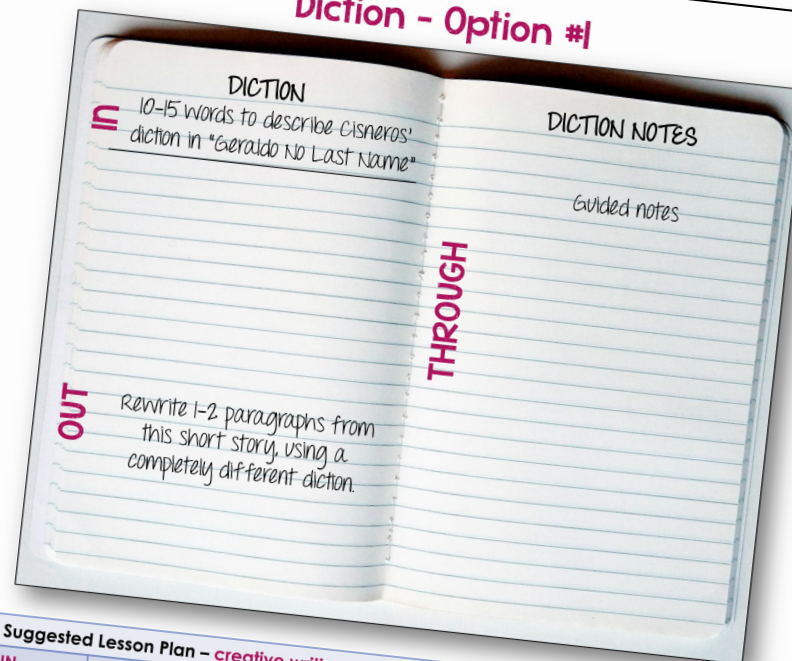
**Output/"Out":** Student analysis. They glue

\*You can require  
\*You can have

## Song Analysis

Teach students to analyze music in a meaningful, engaging way with this Song Analysis lesson. You get a full lesson, handouts, student samples, possible answers, and a list of 15 songs perfect for teaching a number of concepts in an ELA classroom. I teach this lesson as part of my Short Stories Unit.

## Diction - Option #1



## Suggested Lesson Plan - creative writing option

**IN**  
5-7 min.

Students read "Gerald No Last Name" by Sandra Cisneros and describe her diction, using adjectives only (ex. Unfeeling, distant, curt). They probably don't have a huge vocabulary for this yet, but let them share their answers and brainstorm together.

**THROUGH**  
25 min.

Students receive the Diction Notes handout. With a small group, they read through the concepts and work to apply them to "Gerald." Circulate and check for understanding.

**OUT**  
10 min.

Students rewrite 1-2 paragraphs from the story, using a different diction. They can share these with a partner and explore how the new diction impacts the story.

Can Let Go" by  
to discuss how the  
"let go" can have  
text.

e songs for my students  
partners. Here are my  
nts.

shadowing, irony)  
(tion)  
diction, plot)

music and lyrics, instead  
their own interpretation.

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ir analysis with a student

udents find another

ents. Please make  
on access. Students

Includes nine full lessons with lesson plans, student samples, and options for differentiation

## Short Story Unit Plan

### English 9

During this unit, you will read and analyze a variety of texts, keeping a critical eye on the authors' use of literary devices. Keep up with the reading in order to maximize your participation in class. Your overall unit grade will consist of:

Lit Terms Quiz – 20 pts (9/15)

Symbolism Flipbook – 25 pts

PLOT	LIT TE
3-sentence summary	Lit fol
Plot Diagram: Mr. Hublot	
13	

INTEGRATING SO	In
Irony in "The Lottery"	
Independent Practice/HW	

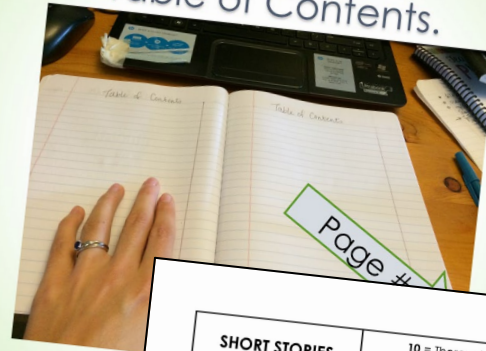
### Suggested Unit Plan

(for 45-50 min. classes)

Read "Lamb to the Slaughter"	Pros/Def Essay Workday	Share Pros/Def Essay	Plot	Lit Terms Poster Workday
	HW: Finish essay			HW: Finish poster
Lit Terms Poster Sharing	Irony "The Lottery"	Integrating Sources	Lit Terms Quiz	Char. "Raymond's Run"
HW: Irony notes	HW: Finish response, study Lit Terms	HW: Finish Ind. Practice, study Lit Terms	HW: Read "Raymond's Run"	HW: Finish Char. Writing/Analysis
Diction "Gerald No Last Name"	Mood	Quote Analysis	Song Analysis	Song Analysis
HW: Finish Rewrite/Analysis	HW: Finish rewrite	HW: Finish Ind. Practice	HW: Finish brainstorming	
Symbolism & Allegory	"Masque" reading day	Socratic Seminar	Symbolism Flipbook	Symbolism Flipbook Workday & Sharing

## How to Set Up Your ISN

Page #3 and Page #4 are also Table of Contents.



SHORT STORIES			10 = Thorough, thoughtful, and neat. All responses show analytical thought. 8 = Mostly thorough, thoughtful, and neat. 6 = Somewhat thorough, thoughtful, and neat				
Table of Contents	10	8	6	Diction	10	8	6
Plot/Lit Terms	10	8	6	Mood	10	8	6
Irony	10	8	6	Quote Analysis	10	8	6
Integrating Sources	10	8	6	Song Analysis	10	8	6
Characterization	10	8	6	Sym. & Allegory	10	8	6
Notes:				Notes:			

Editable materials for setting up Interactive Notebooks, creating your Unit Calendar, and creating rubrics

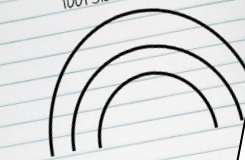
## Symbolism & Allegory

PPT Notes

Symbolism

Tootsie Roll Symbolism

IN



OUT

"Masque of the Red Death"

### Symbolism & Allegory

A symbol is anything that represents an idea other than what you can literally see. When we analyze symbols, we will work from concrete ideas to things we interpret.

3. **The Symbol:** What It Means

2. **Abstract Traits:** What You Know

1. **Concrete Traits:** What You See

#### Example: A Pearl

3. **The Symbol**  
Could represent overcoming adversity

2. **Abstract Traits**  
Rare, made over time through struggle

1. **Concrete Traits**  
-Shiny, beautiful

#### Your Turn: A Rose

Consider a rose, and the things you can see, smell, and touch about it. How are roses thought of in our society? These are your concrete and abstract traits, and will lead you to drawing conclusions about the rose as a symbol. Write your notes in the Symbolism Arc.

3. **The Symbol**

2. **Abstract Traits**

1. **Concrete Traits**

## SYMBOLISM & ALLEGORY

### Concrete to Abstract

[\(Click here for a plain text version\)](#)



A symbol is anything that represents an idea other than what you can literally see. When we analyze symbols, we will work from concrete ideas to things we interpret.

**Concrete Traits:** What You See

(Type any additional notes)

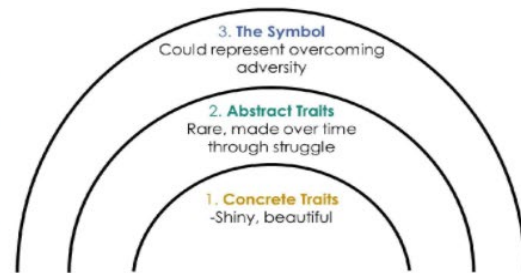
2. **Abstract Traits:** What You Know

(Type any additional notes)

3. **The Symbol:** What It Means

(Type any additional notes)

### EXAMPLE: A PEARL



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# Paper + Digital + Interactive Notebooks

## Literary Quote Analysis

**Warm Up:** Choose a quote from any movie or book and write about what it means to you and to the story.

### PowerPoint Notes:

Three Questions for Quote Analysis		Identify ...
		Summarize ...
		Analyze ...

### Develop Your Analysis:

When you **analyze**, state two supporting details. This will help you develop your analysis.  
1. Make an **observation** – How does this quote illustrate or develop any of the following:

- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

## For example...

"With great power comes great responsibility."

**Who said it?** Benjamin Parker to Peter Parker in Spider-man.

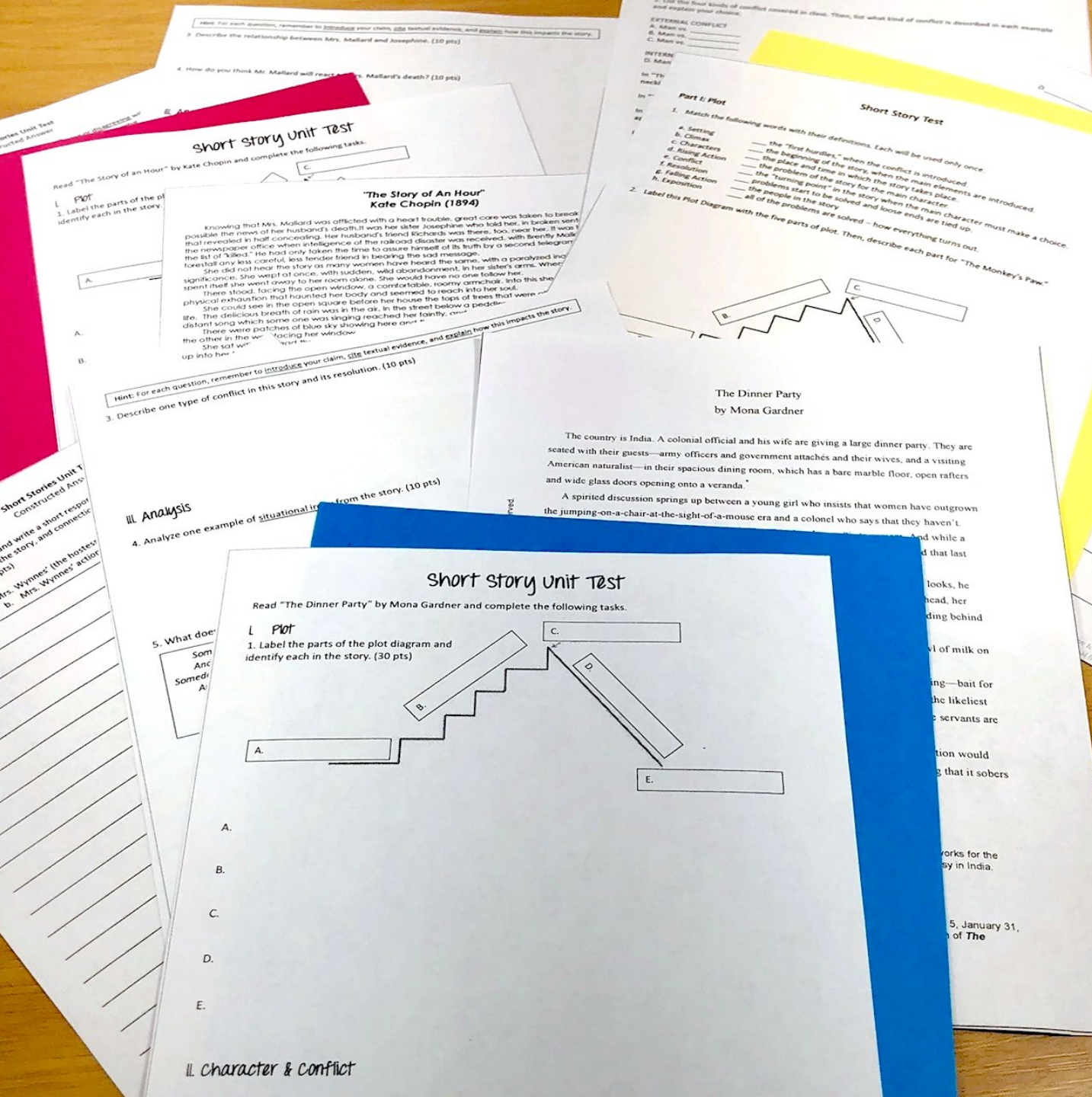
**What was the context?** He notices Peter's attitude is changing, and that he's "shirking chores" and "getting in fights." He doesn't know about Peter's power or give Peter some life advice.

**How does it affect you?** sort of Cool. I realize that others, in this become...

## What is "Quote Analysis"?

Certain quotes pack a lot of punch, and we can analyze an author's intent by examining these quotes more closely.

Includes editable PowerPoints to introduce concepts:  
Symbolism & Allegory · Quote Analysis · Diction



Three leveled tests  
allow students to  
apply skills to a brand  
new short story  
(editable in .doc)

All Short Stories & Resources

File Edit View Tools Help

Request edit access

←

Introduction

Classroom Culture

Setting

"No Me Dejas" by Mark Oshiro, found on [Slate.com](#)

Discussion Questions

"Red" by Malinda Lo, found at [F...](#)

Discussion Questions

Additional Standards

"The Night Face Up" by Julio Co...

Discussion Questions

TV Episode: "Baby" – Supernatu...

Song: "Eleanor Rigby" (The Beat...

Discussion Questions

Additional Standards

Conflict

"Marigolds" by Eugenia Collier, f...

Discussion Questions

"Two Kinds" by Amy Tan, found ...

Discussion Questions

Additional Standards

"The Treasure of Lemon Brown"...

Discussion Question:

TV Episode: "Measure of a Man..."

Additional Standards

Song: "Pray for Me" by The Wee...

Intro

"No Me Dejas" by Mark Oshiro, found on [Slate.com](#)

This story takes place inside a futuristic hospital. Our unnamed protagonist is preparing the "the Transfer," a procedure which will allow him to receive all of his dying grandmother's memories. During the procedure he experiences a rapid succession of memories that causes him to relive traumatic moments of his grandmother's life, and when he awakes his grandmother has died. He is confused, and filled with questions.

Discussion Questions

The initial setting of the hospital is cold and clinical, but the flashbacks are set in a variety of different situations.

- How does the author's descriptive language enable the reader to imagine these different settings?
- How does the author use setting to differentiate between his emotional response to the hospital versus his feelings on his grandmother's life? What emotions do the descriptions of the hospital convey, versus the descriptions of his grandmother's life?
- Do you think the narrator regrets his decision to undergo "the Transfer?"
- If such a procedure became available within your lifetime, would you consider it (why/why not)?

"Red" by Malinda Lo, found at [ForeshadowYA.com](#)

This story is a reimagining of "Little Red Riding Hood" that is much more closely related to the original story from the Brothers Grimm, "The Grandmother's Tale." But instead of taking place in an ancient forest, "Red" is set in China just after the communist revolution. Our heroine, Xiaohong, is on her way to deliver food to her ailing grandmother, Lin Popo, a former movie star who is considered an enemy of the Communist Party. Along the way, Xiaohong is waylaid by Wu Lang, a member of the Red Army, who steals her food and torments her. Wu Lang races ahead of her on his motorbike, and when Xiaohong finally arrives at her grandmother's house she makes a terrible discovery...

Discussion Questions

- How does the meaning of a story change when you change the setting?
- What does the color red symbolize in this story, and how is the color red uniquely perceived in Chinese culture?

Includes a curated  
list of short story  
suggestions  
sorted by skill