

CP English 9

Cluster 2: A Range of Nonfiction (5 weeks)

*Page numbers refer to *The Language of Literature* textbook unless otherwise noted.

*Glossary of “Word to Know” begins on page 1232.

*Underlined assignments can be found in the spiral-bound workbook.

Week 8

Writing for a Purpose

For more than 400 years, the essay has been a rich, vibrant, and popular literary form. Though contemporary personal essays do not much resemble their earlier formal, structured predecessors, they have one thing in common: essays are built around an idea or a belief. The personal essay has a friendly, conversational tone and loose structure, and it seizes on little things in life that many can relate to in order to offer insight into the human condition and important social and political issues of the day. This week you will read and study a personal essay by Barbara Kingsolver, a contemporary American writer known for several best-selling novels. Writers, it turns out, will write just about anything! The vehicle is determined by their purpose.

Objectives:

- Determine the author’s purpose for writing an essay and interpret the theme (author’s message)
- Analyze the structure of nonfiction and in particular the advantages of a chronological approach
- Explain the tone of each essay by examining the author’s language choices
- Use narrative techniques such as pacing, dialogue, and reflection to portray a true life experience

- pp. 233-5 Read “Learning the Language of Literature: Nonfiction”
- p. 236 Read “Build Background,” preview “Words to Know,” etc.
- Do Quickwrite: What does conformity mean to you? What does individualism mean to you? How is fashion connected to either or both of these concepts for you? Explain.
- pp. 237-40 Read “Life Without Go-Go Boots”
- As you read, do [Activity Reading SkillBuilder](#) “Chronological Order”
- p. 241 Do “Thinking Through the Literature” Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6. The answer to question #4 must be a constructed response using the ACE IT!
- Do [Literary Analysis SkillBuilder](#) “Personal Essay”
- p. 242 Do “Vocabulary in Action,” “Exercise: Synonyms”
- Do The author uses a lot of humor to get her message across. Find 4 examples of humor ranging anywhere from 1-3 sentences each. Copy each one down, along with the page number on which you found it. Then tell why it is funny and how it caught your attention as a reader. Write them down, along with the page number on which each is found.
- Write Though Kingsolver’s attitude toward her subject matter is lighthearted and humorous, she is writing about something she feels strongly about and takes seriously. You will explore this purpose through your own writing. Write a short personal essay about a time when you desperately wanted

something that you could not have. Describe how you reacted and what you thought at the time. Then explain what you think about the experience now and what you think it demonstrates or teaches. Write this short personal essay (3 paragraphs maximum) twice. The first time, use a serious tone (no humor). The second version should include humor and take a playful tone. Be prepared to share both versions with classmates and to evaluate the effect of tone on the impact of the essay.

Week 9
Intimate Knowledge

*When most people hear the word “nonfiction,” writing such as scientific books about animals, biographies on famous people, and feature articles in magazines come to mind. But the most popular and fastest growing genre in the literary world today is **creative** nonfiction. What does this mean? The word “creative” refers to the use of literary craft, the techniques fiction writers, playwrights, and poets use, to present nonfiction—factually accurate prose about real people and events—in a compelling, vivid, dramatic manner. “Creative” doesn’t mean inventing what didn’t happen, or reporting and describing what wasn’t there. It doesn’t mean that the writer has a license to lie. It just means that the writer gets to tap his or her intimate knowledge of the person or event, maybe adding in research, observation, and/or detective/sleuthing work, etc. This week you get to read an excerpt from one of the most popular memoirs to be published in recent years, Frank McCourt’s Angela’s Ashes. Only someone who lived through this past could describe the experience in such a vivid and meaningful way. Hopefully this excerpt will open your eyes to the power and possibilities of nonfiction. If you like it, consider reading the entire book from which it is taken.*

Objectives:

- Cite evidence to support an analysis of what the text says and draw inferences from the text
- Determine the theme of a memoir and analyze how it is developed, shaped, and refined by well chosen details
- Extend interpretations of the author’s ideas beyond the text
- Research to build and present knowledge

Do Study the chart below.

Deaths of children aged 1-4			
	1949		1998
Pneumonia	18.1%	Injury and poisoning	26.6%
Tuberculosis	14.8%	Congenital anomalies	23.4%
Diarrhoea, enteritis	6.6%	Sudden infant death	12.0%
Congenital anomalies	5.1%	Cancer	9.3%
Whooping cough	4.7%	Pneumonia	7.8%
Measles	3.3%	Leukaemia	3.1%
Branchitis	2.6%		
Diphtheria	1.0%		
Total number	723	Total number	64

The table contrasts the leading causes of death in children ages 1-4 in Ireland between 1949 (approximately 10 years after the event you will soon read about) and 1989. Answer: What conclusions can you draw about the principal causes of childhood mortality in Ireland over the 50 year period in question? How would the earlier statistics have affected a child's experience? How would it have impacted family life?

- p. 243 Read "Build Background" and preview "Words to Know"
- pp. 243-54 Read "Angela's Ashes"
- Do As you read, complete [Activity Reading SkillBuilder](#) "Making Inferences"
- p. 255 Write answers to "Thinking Through the Literature" Questions 1-6. The answer to question #5 must be a constructed response using ACE IT!
- Do [Literary Analysis SkillBuilder](#) "Memoir"
- Do [Grammar SkillBuilder](#) "Compound Predicates"
- p. 256 Do "Vocabulary in Action," "Activity: Context Clues"
- Research According to the nurse, Frank's empty ward was the "fever ward during the Great Famine." She is referring to a famine that devastated Ireland during the 1840's. Clearly the Great Famine was still so important to the Irish 100 years later. On your Literary Analysis SkillBuilder, you noted several other historical and social issues that McCourt refers to such as the Irish resentment of the British and the strict rules of the Catholic nuns at that time. Additionally, infectious diseases and high childhood mortality rate are outlined in the table above. All of these historical and social issues helped to shape the author's experience and therefore are an integral part of this memoir. Conduct brief research on one of these issues to learn more about it.
 - Consult at least two sources.
 - Create a Power Point or other graphic presentation to share your knowledge with others.
 - Create a Works Consulted Page to cite your two sources following the MLA format. Hint: use EasyBib.com.

Weeks 10 – 12

The Construction of a College Experience

The module that follows will afford you the opportunity to have a conversation about "next step" after high school and think about your future career choices. Not only will you spend some time thinking about what you want as a career, but you will also determine if that career needs a college degree or other type of training and what will be required of you in high school in order to realize your goals.

Objectives:

- Annotate texts in a purposeful manner
- Formulate a response to the text based on personal experience as it relates to the text
- Evaluate credibility of different types of evidence
- Focus on the organizational structure of an essay

See separate **Module Packet**