Through the Lens: Unit Overview

ENG3U, Grade 11 English (University), Unit 1. 14 classes of 75 minutes (about three weeks).

The big question

How do the lenses we read through change what a story means?

Students learn five critical lenses (reader-response, gender, class, race and power, psychological) and apply them to five public domain short stories from 1892 to 1922, plus original contemporary micro-texts. Along the way they practise close reading, irony, unreliable narration, symbol and historical context. The unit ends with a lens seminar and a literary analysis essay. A full Reading Packet with all five stories is included.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**What Is a Lens?**	1	How can one story hold many meanings?	R 1.5, R 1.8, OC 1.2	Original micro-story; five lens stations
2	**The Close Reading Toolkit**	1	What makes us laugh, and how?	R 1.2, R 1.4, R 2.3	Leacock, “My Financial Career”; annotation; device hunt
3	**Money and Power**	1	What is the satire about?	R 1.6, R 1.8, W 1.2	Class lens; satire; power map
4	**“Désirée's Baby”**	1	How does a twist force a reread?	R 1.3, R 1.4, R 2.1	Chopin; context; foreshadowing; irony
5	**Race, Gender and Power**	1	How do lenses intersect?	R 1.8, R 1.6, OC 2.2	Expert jigsaw; silenced voices
6	**“The Yellow Wallpaper”**	1	Can we trust the narrator?	R 1.4, R 2.1, R 1.2	Gilman; the rest cure; journal form; trust meter
7	**Breaking Through**	1	Breakdown or breakthrough?	R 1.6, R 1.8, W 2.1	Symbol web; four corners; ending paragraph
8	**“In the Land of the Free”**	1	Free for whom?	R 1.8, R 1.5, R 1.1	Sui Sin Far; U.S. and Canadian exclusion laws
9	**“The Garden Party”**	1	Does Laura really change?	R 1.6, R 2.3, R 1.7	Mansfield; class; symbols; epiphany debate
10	**One Story, Five Readings**	1	Can I apply every lens to a new text?	R 1.5, R 1.8, OC 2.1	Original story “The Delivery”; seminar prep
11	**Lens Seminar**	1	Can I lead and build discussion?	OC 1.5, OC 2.2, OC 2.3	Inner and outer circles (summative 2)

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12	**The Lens Essay**	1	How do I turn a lens into an argument?	W 1.4, W 2.1, W 2.4	Thesis builder; MLA; outline
13	**Draft and Peer Review**	1	How do I sharpen my draft?	W 2.6, W 2.7, W 2.2	Drafting; peer review; counterargument
14	**Polish and Reflect**	1	What did I learn as a reader and writer?	W 3.3, W 3.5, R 4.1	Editing checklist; submit essay (summative 1); reflection

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Lens stations, device hunt, power map, foreshadowing tracker, wallpaper tracker, trust meter, symbol web, power and voice chart, two worlds chart, outlines, drafts
Assessment as learning	Seminar self-assessment, observer sheets, peer review, revision plan, unit reflection
Assessment of learning	Lens essay (Reading and Writing) and lens seminar (Oral Communication), with rubrics in the Summative Tasks file

Texts

All five stories are public domain in Canada and the U.S. and are included in full in the Reading Packet:

- **Stephen Leacock,** “My Financial Career” (1910)
- **Kate Chopin,** “Désirée's Baby” (1893)
- **Charlotte Perkins Gilman,** “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892)
- **Sui Sin Far (Edith Maude Eaton),** “In the Land of the Free” (1909)
- **Katherine Mansfield,** “The Garden Party” (1922)

Original micro-texts (“The micro-story” and “The Delivery”) are included. “Désirée's Baby” and “In the Land of the Free” deal with racism and use period language; “The Yellow Wallpaper” depicts a mental health crisis. Teacher notes include guidance for discussing these respectfully. Add a contemporary story by a First Nations, Métis or Inuit author from your board's resources if you can.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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