Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

ENG3U, Grade 11 English (University), Buffer Lessons. Five stand-alone 75 minute lessons for flex days, shortened weeks, the day before a holiday or a supply teacher.

The big question

How can one class period still build real Grade 11 English skills?

Each lesson works on its own at any point in the semester, needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included. Texts are public domain (Christina Rossetti, Saki, short passages from The Great Gatsby and the sources behind famous quotations) or original. Lesson 1 reviews skills from every unit; Lesson 5 runs from the handout alone.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Escape the Archive**	1	Can our team use the whole course's toolkit under pressure?	R 1.4, R 1.8, R 2.3, W 3.3, OC 2.2	Five-lock team challenge: devices, sentence errors, lenses, rhetoric and thesis; codes, hints and a debrief
2	**Say More**	1	How do I turn a quotation into analysis?	R 1.4, R 1.6, R 2.3, W 2.6	Rossetti, “Up-Hill” (1862); the four-rung analysis ladder; weak and strong model paragraphs; say-more partner protocol
3	**Did They Really Say That?**	1	How do I know a quotation is real?	W 1.3, W 1.5, R 1.8, M 1.2	Quote Court: six famous quotations and their evidence; AI-invented books and court cases (check for updates); fact-check a chatbot paragraph on Gatsby
4	**The Writers' Room**	1	How do writers build one story together?	W 2.1, W 2.2, W 2.6, OC 2.2	Original model story “Lost Signal”; beat sheet; story cards; punch-up pass; table read
5	**“The Open Window”**	1	How does a liar tell a convincing story?	R 1.3, R 1.4, R 2.3, W 2.1	Saki (1914); seven questions; paragraph or scene; supply-teacher script; no tech; full answer key

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Escape codes and debrief, zoom notes and paragraphs, Quote Court verdicts and the chatbot check, beat sheets and drafts, story questions
Assessment as learning	Self-checks, the say-more protocol, punch-up logs and exit tickets
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible, so they fit any point in the semester without changing your evaluation plan.

Texts

Included in the handouts:

- **Christina Rossetti,** “Up-Hill” (1862), public domain
- **Saki (H. H. Munro),** “The Open Window” (1914), public domain
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald,** four short passages from The Great Gatsby (1925), public domain
- **Lesson 3 evidence files:** Roosevelt's first inaugural address (1933), Hamlet, Twain (1897), Rousseau's Confessions and Wilde's De Profundis (1905), with the research behind each verdict
- **Original texts:** five escape-room locks, model paragraphs, an invented chatbot paragraph and the model story “Lost Signal”

Lesson 3's AI examples (from 2024 and 2025) are current events: check for updates before teaching. Lesson 5 is written so a supply teacher can run it from the handout alone, with a script in the plan and slide notes and a full answer key for the classroom teacher.

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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