Buffer Lessons: Unit Overview

ENG4U, Grade 12 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 12 skills?

Each lesson works on its own, in any unit: it needs no earlier lesson and uses only the materials included. Texts are public domain (Wordsworth, Dickinson, Austen, Dickens, Poe, Shakespeare, Woolf, Hemingway and Leacock) or original, and Lesson 5 runs from the handout alone with no technology.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**The Grade 12 Gauntlet**	1	Can we use every strand's skills on texts we have never seen?	R 1.4, R 2.3, W 3.3, W 3.4, M 2.2	Six-round team game: devices, inference, a thesis glow-up, sentence surgery, an invented ad and a wager; full answer key
2	**The Analysis Ladder**	1	How do I turn a quotation into an argument?	R 1.4, R 2.3, W 2.6	Summary to significance; Wordsworth sonnet and model paragraph; embedding quotations; Dickinson practice; ladder audit
3	**Tell Them Who You Are**	1	How do I write about myself for a real reader?	W 1.1, W 2.2, W 2.5, W 2.6	The 2026–27 application landscape (check for updates); two original models; moment, meaning, momentum; a 150-word draft and cut
4	**Style Heist**	1	How does a writer's style work?	R 2.3, W 2.2, W 2.4, OC 2.5	Six public domain case files; team pastiche of an ordinary moment; performance and “who wrote it?”
5	**My Financial Career**	1	How does a writer make us laugh?	R 1.3, R 1.4, R 2.3, W 2.2	Supply-ready: Leacock's comic sketch in full, eight questions, two writing tasks, a script and a full answer key; no tech

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Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Gauntlet answer sheets, ladder tables and paragraphs, application drafts, team pastiches and performances, supply-day answers and writing
Assessment as learning	Self-checks, the ladder audit, the stranger test, audience guesses and exit tickets
Assessment of learning	None: these lessons are formative and flexible. Lesson 3's draft can become a real application.

Texts

Included in full or as short passages:

- **Lesson 2:** William Wordsworth, “The world is too much with us” (1807); Emily Dickinson, “Much madness is divinest sense” (Poems, 1890).
- **Lesson 4:** Short passages from Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (1813); Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities (1859); Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843); William Shakespeare, Hamlet (Polonius's advice, Act 1, Scene 3); Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway (1925); Ernest Hemingway, The Sun Also Rises (1926).
- **Lesson 5:** Stephen Leacock, “My Financial Career,” Literary Lapses (1910), complete.
- **Original:** “The Spare Key,” the device and sentence-surgery sets and the Summit ad (Lesson 1); model paragraphs (Lessons 2 and 5); two model application responses and four prompts (Lesson 3); two model pastiches (Lesson 4).

Lesson 5 is written so a supply teacher can run it from the handout alone. Lesson 3 cites application dates and forms for 2026–27, checked in November 2026: check for updates before teaching. All public domain passages were checked word for word against Project Gutenberg editions.

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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