Voice and Story: Unit Overview

ENG2D, Grade 10 Academic English, Unit 1. 16 classes of 75 minutes (about three and a half weeks).

The big question

How do writers make us care about a character in only a few pages?

Students read four classic public-domain short stories, learn how structure, suspense, irony, narration and style work, then use those tools to write a personal narrative in their own voice.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Six Words**	1	What makes a tiny story hit hard?	W 1.2, 2.2; R 1.5; OC 2.1	Six-word wall and dot vote; writer survey (diagnostic)
2	**The Heist Map**	1	How are stories built?	R 1.2, 1.3, 2.1; OC 1.2	Plot as a heist; “The Monkey's Paw” Part I with prediction stops
3	**The Monkey's Paw**	1	How do writers build suspense?	R 1.4, 1.6, 2.3; OC 2.1	Suspense tracker; four-corners debate on the third wish
4	**The Story of an Hour**	1	Can a life change in an hour?	R 1.4, 1.5, 1.8, 2.3	Emotion timeline; irony unpacked; then and now
5	**The Tell-Tale Heart**	1	Can you trust the narrator?	R 1.4, 1.7, 2.3; OC 1.2	Free LibriVox audio; style detective; jury verdict
6	**The Necklace**	1	What is it really worth?	R 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8	The price tag; theme builder
7	**Voice Remix**	1	How do style choices create voice?	R 2.3; W 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	Remix stations: one moment in four voices
8	**The Analysis Paragraph**	2	How do you write about a story?	R 1.4, 1.6, 1.7; W 1.4, 3.3	Strong or weak ranking; quote sandwich; summative paragraph
9	**Finding Your Story**	1	Which moment is your story?	W 1.1, 1.2, 1.4; OC 2.1	Memory map; zoom in; two-minute tell
10	**Show, Don't Tell**	1	How do you make a moment real?	W 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.3	Act it out; five-senses snapshot; dialogue rules
11	**Drafting Studio**	2	How do you get it down?	W 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4	Openings and endings mini-lessons; conferences
12	**Revise, Edit, Publish**	1	How do you make it shine?	W 2.6, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7	Revision passes; peer protocol; editing checklist

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13	**Author's Chair**	1	How has your voice grown?	OC 1.2, 2.1; W 2.2; R 1.5	Reading circles with listener cards; unit reflection
	Flex day	1			Catch-up, conferences or extra reading

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Diagnostic	Six-word stories and the writer survey (Lesson 1)
Assessment for learning	Exit tickets, prediction logs, trackers and conferences
Assessment as learning	Strong or weak ranking, peer feedback, revision passes, checklists and reflection
Assessment of learning	Personal narrative (Writing) and short story analysis paragraph (Reading), with rubrics in the Summative Tasks document

The stories

All four stories are in the public domain, so you can print free copies. They are not included in this package; use any free online copy or your school's anthology.

- **“The Monkey's Paw”** by W. W. Jacobs (1902): Project Gutenberg, in The Lady of the Barge
- **“The Story of an Hour”** by Kate Chopin (1894): katechopin.org/story-hour
- **“The Tell-Tale Heart”** by Edgar Allan Poe (1843): Project Gutenberg; free audio at librivox.org
- **“The Necklace”** by Guy de Maupassant (1884): any public-domain English translation, such as those on Project Gutenberg

You can swap in Canadian short stories your school owns. The lesson structures still work.

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

Links were checked in November 2026.

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