

HiSET® Preparation

Language Arts-Reading, Part 1

Course Overview

The HiSET Preparation courses were developed by aligning Plato courseware with the strands and topics assessed in the 2016 HiSET test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands in the 2016 HiSET test, and the modules within each unit target the essential concepts of the Common Core State Standards as assessed in the HiSET Language Arts–Reading subtest. This course focuses on reading strategies and vocabulary skills for literary texts. The lessons and activities in this course will help you improve your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Identify the basic elements of a story.
- Investigate the impact of point of view on a story and examine point of view and narration in short stories.
- Examine plot development in fiction.
- Investigate the characteristics of external conflict in literature.
- Explore the basic characteristics of fiction.
- Explain the use of symbolism in short stories.
- Understand the effect of point of view and word choice on a novel.
- Discuss the use of literary techniques in postmodernism.
- Analyze dialogues, characterization, different viewpoints, and organizational patterns in literary texts.
- Explore themes, setting, and drama in literature from different time periods.
- Explore drama as a literary genre, and interpret a drama by identifying its characters, events, style, and tone.
- Understand how to connect literature to historical contexts, current events, and personal experiences.
- Explore different elements of poems.
- Analyze figurative language in poetry.
- Explore strategies for reading and interpreting poems, and classify poems by identifying their characteristics.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word-processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or ink pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Structure

Unit 1: Comprehending Literary Texts

This unit focuses on comprehension of literary texts. You'll learn to identify the basic elements of stories and analyze the narrator's point of view. Later in the unit, you'll analyze the common features of plot development in fiction and examine narration and point of view in short stories. The unit concludes with a lesson in which you'll explore the characteristics of external conflict in literature.

Unit 2: Literary Texts—Short Stories

The focus of this unit is short stories. You'll study the purpose of fictional narratives and the techniques for reading them. You'll explore the structure and basic characteristics of fiction and the use of symbolism in short stories. As you read Amy Tan's "Rules of the Game" and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart," you'll evaluate the narrator's point of view and the structure of the works. Later in the unit, you'll explore the development of characters and plot in short stories. Then you'll analyze how historical context can influence purpose and meaning in literature. At the end of the unit, you'll evaluate how authors use unreliable narrators and other literary techniques for effect in realist literature.

Unit 3: Literary Texts–Novels

In this unit, you'll examine point of view and word choice in a novel to understand how they affect the conflict of a novel. Then you'll explore how theme and plot develop over the course of the novel. You'll analyze the novel's characters and evaluate the use of literary techniques in postmodernism. Later in this unit, you'll compare and contrast how a theme or topic is presented in literature from different periods.

Unit 4: Literary Texts–Drama

This unit focuses on examining the historical context, characteristics, and genres of Shakespearean plays. You'll explore themes of family and love in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. You'll also evaluate classical dramatic texts by reading Sophocles's *Antigone*.

Unit 5: Literary Texts–Poetry

This subject of this unit is the elements of poetry. In this unit, you'll explore elements of poetry such as structure, sound patterns, and figurative language. You'll then analyze figurative language, conflict, theme, and purpose in poetry. At the end of the unit, you'll examine the life of Edgar Allan Poe and analyze the theme, symbolism, and tone in his poem *The Raven*.