

TASC Preparation - Language Arts

Reading Part 2

Course Overview

The TASC Preparation Courses were developed by aligning Plato Courseware with the strands and topics that are assessed on the 2014 TASC Test. Each unit aligns to one or more strands within the 2014 TASC Test and the modules within each unit target the essential concepts of the Common Core State Standards as assessed on the TASC Test for Language-Arts Reading. This course focuses on the study of different reading strategies and vocabulary skills for literary texts. In this course, you will find a variety of lessons and activities to improve your knowledge of these strategies.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will:

- Explore different reading strategies to make inferences.
- Explore the use of prior knowledge to predict, locate and identify supporting details and main ideas from literary and narrative texts.
- Understand how to summarize stories, ask and answer questions about stories, read between the lines, and analyze characters through a story's narration and dialogue.
- Understand how to identify plot and events of a story as portrayed by the author and how to picture the settings of the story.
- Explore ways to interpret literary analysis of a story.
- Explore the use of context clues and prefix clues to determine the meanings of unknown words as well as figurative language used in text.
- Explore the use of denotative and connotative words and figures of speech to enhance writing.
- Analyze dialogues, characterization, different viewpoints and organizational patterns in literary texts.
- Explore idiomatic language, literary subgenres and different techniques of literary fiction and author's use of tone in literary texts.
- Evaluate characteristics of subgenres and analyze how satire works.
- Understand how to read a passage that includes both text and graphics.
- Analyze how to classify fiction and nonfiction texts through their characteristics.
- Explore strategies for reading and interpreting poems, and classify poems by identifying their characteristics.

- Explore drama as a literary genre and interpret a drama by identifying its characters, events in the action of a play, and style and tone.
- Analyze strategies to understand, read and answer questions on a literary passage.
- Understand how to connect literature to historical contexts, current events and personal experiences.
- Analyze how to use prior knowledge, visualization and question/answer strategy to understand narrative texts.

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.

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
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Structure

Unit 1: Literature: Key Ideas and Details

Summary

Unit 1 focuses on different reading strategies to make inferences and the use of prior knowledge to predict and support details in literary texts. This unit shows how to identify supporting details and main ideas from literary and narrative texts. Students learn how to summarize a story, and how to use a question and answer strategy to understand a story. Students learn how to read between the lines and analyze a story's characters through its narration and dialogue. The unit also helps to identify the plot and events of a story and helps the reader visualize the settings. The concluding part of the unit explains different ways to interpret a literary analysis of a story.

Unit 2: Literature: Craft and Structure

Summary

Unit 2 explores the use of context and prefix clues to determine the meanings of unknown words as well as figurative language used in the text. The unit explores how the use of denotative and connotative words and figures of speech enhance writing. Students learn to analyze dialogues and characterization in a work of literature including how these elements develop the plot. Students will also explore how to recognize the order of events and a variety of tones used in a passage. The unit also provides an understanding of the use of analogies and idioms in literary texts. Students learn to evaluate characteristics of subgenres and analyze how satire works. The concluding part of the unit covers symbolic meanings, irony and tone.

Unit 3: Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Summary

Unit 3 helps students to understand how to read texts which include graphics. Students learn to classify fictional texts based on their characteristics. Students learn different strategies to read and interpret a poem. This unit provides knowledge on how to classify a poem based on its characteristics and different techniques used in the poem. Students explore drama by identifying characters, events, and style and tone used in a play based on examples from Shakespearean plays. The concluding part of the unit includes how to read, understand and answer questions based on literary passage.

Unit 4: Literature: Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.

Summary

Unit 4 begins by showing students vocabulary building strategies. The unit explains ways to connect literature to historical contexts and personal experiences. Students learn to use prior knowledge as an aid to read narrative texts. Students learn to visualize images and use a question/answer strategy to interpret narrative texts. The concluding part of the unit includes strategies that monitor comprehension of literary texts.