



Reavis High School
Curriculum Snapshot/Cover Page for
Perspectives: Women in Literature



Perspectives: Women in Literature

One
semester
course

This course is designed to help each student appreciate and understand a wide variety of literature written by women. Students will explore how society, both past and present, views and depicts women and their roles within the context of the novels. Through reading, writing, and discussion, students will essentially determine how accurate these views and depictions are, how contemporary society can relate to themes explored by the books, and how the struggles of these women inspire us.

Reading schedules will be provided at the beginning of each unit after a motivational activity that introduces the themes presented. Students will take weekly individual and group quizzes to discuss their thoughts expressed through annotated notes written directly into their personal copies of each book. The culmination of each unit will result in a creative project and an analysis paper.



Unit 1: Realistic Fiction

5
weeks

The current novel for this unit is *Velva Jean Learns to Drive* by Jennifer Niven. While reading this text, students will examine how the world of the novel perceives women and how society pigeonholes women into expected roles. Set in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1930's and 40's, this novel focuses on the vivid imagination and dreams of 10 year old Velva Jean Hart. Within the unit, students will complete the novel, analyze its themes, connect to the characters, and examine the novel's relevance in modern society.



Unit 2: Non-Fiction

5
weeks

The current book for this unit is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This true account reveals the rigorous determination of a young writer who diligently seeks out the truth surrounding what scientists refer to as HeLa cells. This book explores both gender and racial differences. Students will determine the importance of knowing the story of the relatively unknown woman, Henrietta Lacks.

Another choice is *Girl Interrupted* by Susana Kaysen. This account of a young girl's experience in a mental institution will incite discussion about what behavior is "acceptable" from women during this time period and how deviating from acceptable behavior is perceived by society.



Unit 3: Modern Fiction

3
weeks

The current novel for this unit is *Divergent* by Veronica Roth. While reading this novel, students will explore a dystopian society where gender roles cease to exist, and the power of the mind and the freedom to choose has the ability to overthrow tyranny. Students will examine the strong, young teenage protagonist and compare her to teenagers in today's society.



Unit 4: Independent Choice

3
weeks

At this point in the semester, students will choose a novel written by a female author and featuring a female protagonist. Applying what they have learned about making connections, recommending high quality literature, and analyzing the perspective of women in literature, students will complete a culminating project using analysis and technology to reveal the world of their chosen novels.