

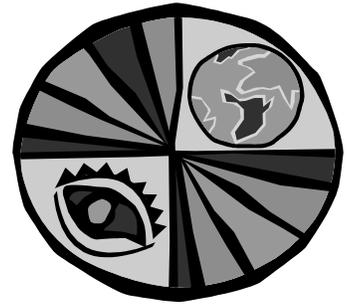
## Unit 3 Harrellland 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Ways of Looking; Ways of Seeing; Ways of Knowing

This unit is vital not only in terms of polishing creative writing and Collins 1-5 writing, but also in developing positive, rewarding, and civil thinking and life skills.

### Essential Questions:

1. How can we learn to see beyond our prejudices and limits?
2. How can we effectively share our ideas with others?
3. What roles do literature, the arts, and popular culture play in this?



### Materials needed:

#### From handouts saved from previous years:

- a. Transformations in Three Parts on website home page (poetry) and in handouts for each grade as well. We will primarily focus on part 3 in this unit.
- b. Having a Writing Conference with Yourself (website homepage, general information)
- c. How to Rewrite Your Poems, Understanding line breaks (handout in your harrellland folder and website homepage)
- d. Various grammar and style guide sheets for reference (website homepage general information)

#### Additional handouts, guides, and links needed for this unit:

1. For warm-up: Commonly Understood and Different Perspectives (given in class)
2. Email from Elise's dad (shown on document camera)
3. The Person Sitting Next to You (get handout from class page) cutting magazines, scissors, glue provided in class, sample poems and illuminated text also provided
4. Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (handout given in class, link on website 8<sup>th</sup> handouts)
5. The War Prayer (handout given in class, links on website 8<sup>th</sup> helpful links)
6. from Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain (read from website)
7. Ways of Looking; Ways of Seeing poems (print from class page or website)
8. A Sense of Wonder (quotes from Rachel Carson on website)
9. The Tucson Zoo by Lewis Thomas (handout given in class)
10. On the Other Side by Monica Nimmo, a student
11. from Ohyiesa Remembers (get handout from class page)
12. In All Its Shades of Grey (harrellland website 8<sup>th</sup> handouts)
13. From Metaphor as a Way of Knowing: Learning from Star Trek (get handout from class page), Captain's Logs, Darmok episode #102 (handout given in class), Darmok DVD shown in class, read Darmok Episode Guide (website 8<sup>th</sup> helpful links)
14. Lamb to the Slaughter by Roald Dahl (read short story on harrellland website 8<sup>th</sup> links)
15. Death By Scrabble by Charlie Fish (read short story on harrellland website 8<sup>th</sup> links)
16. The Story of an Hour by Kate Chopin (read short story on harrellland website 8<sup>th</sup> links)
17. Several additional stories and poems always come up...The Lottery, Willow and Gingko, et al

## Activities and outcomes:

Throughout the unit students will participate in informal class discussions, table talk, and Collins levels 1 and 2 writings as we explore concepts of perspectives using Transformations packet activities (a) and various items on document camera, YouTube, DVD and pieces we will read in class or for homework (1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16). Our focus is discovering when and why people fail to see things in more than surface ways. We will also explore the challenges involved with considering various points of view. Additionally we will try to explore solutions to these “blind spots” whenever we see them around us or see them creeping into our own lives. I also want students to experience the broad range (humor, satire, reflection, poetry, parody, metaphor, film, drama, and popular culture) of expressing these difficult concepts and to complete at least six products themselves using these formats. Activities and Collins level 5 writings are delineated on the following handouts:

- The Person Sitting Next to You (# 3) **Art activity with brief reflective poem or prose**
- Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird (#5) **Poem modeled on Stevens’ or student samples**
- A Sense of Wonder (#9) **Internet Information, Images, Inspiration project (individual or pairs)**
- Ohyiesa Remembers (#11) **Brief reflective essay modeled on this piece**
- In All Its Shades of Grey (#12) **Writing a poetic sequel to a favorite poem or piece of art**
- Transformations packet (a) **Complete at least one artistic or writing project from the many options offered**

## Evaluation:

- ❖ **40% based on usual work ethic standards involving:**

preparation for class (materials and attention)

participation

focus and production during work days

**and practicing the actual life skills this unit is all about:**

understanding, listening, patience,

being willing to see beyond yourself and your comfort zones

considering new ideas

reacting civilly to challenges

helping others, et al.



- ❖ **60% based on the six major writings and projects assigned. The usual *je ne sais quoi* grading standards will apply here as well as evidence that Grammar Bytes is being mastered.**