

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 1

- limited
- unfocused
- lacks a thesis
- ideas disconnected
- uncertain/inappropriate use of language cues and conventions

Teen Smoking

Teen smoking is an event that is being taken place all across the world. It is a bad habit for a lot of teens now days. They smoke because they like it, their parents smoke, their friends smoke; they think it will help them loose weight the list continues on. How do they get cigarettes?

There is many possible ways for teenagers to get a hold of cigarettes like getting their friends to buy them, or getting their parents to buy the cigarettes as some parents their kids smoke in this time. It is a habit and it can be dangerous, nobody really knows why some parents let their kids smoke but they do, they can also get their brothers to buy them cigarettes, one more method is that some convenient stores sell them to 16 year old teenagers. Most Teenagers smoke in with a group of friends, brothers, parents etc. all of this is what makes teen smoking a compelling issue.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 1

- inadequate development of topic
- paragraphs incomplete – lacks supporting details
- does not address readers' potential questions/concerns
- mechanical errors
- punctuation/capitalization errors

Video game addictions are real and around us. A new study finds that one in ten youths, aged 8 to 18, show unhealthy and pathological signs of video game addiction. Researcher Douglas Gentile, from Iowa State University, found that 8.5 percent of 1,178 youths studied are addicted to video games, using the same standards for addiction used for pathological gamblers.

Teens that are addicted to video gaming can spend over 96 hours in a week in front of a T.V screen. This is an obvious link to childhood obesity. This much time behind a screen can have the same health effects as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. So think about how much time you or your child spends in front of a T.V screen.

But even too much screen time isn't the most of your worries. Video Game addiction can actually drive you clinically insane. Yes, it can make your brain go bad. A kid in the United States is on trial for killing his mother and attempting to murder his father. His lawyers excuse, he pleads insanity because he is addicted to the popular Xbox 360 shoot em up game, Halo 3.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 1

- no thesis
- no conclusion
- lacking sequential development of paragraphs
- structure of paragraphs is very weak
- sentence composition weak
- word choice weak

History vs. Hollywood

Grade 9 - #1

Thesis: Monty Python and the Holy Grail

This Movie had some historical relation but the Movie was meant to be a Comedy. So there wasn't a lot of Real History. The Movie was more towards a Comedy in Making history funny. The history parts of the film were realistic.

The clothing in the Movie was fake for some of the characters. The King would have had different clothing through out the Movie. The peasants clothing was realistic. Their cloths were raggedy and dirty, there wasn't very much clean clothing for them. The Knights would have always worn armor, but it would have been more protective than what they used. Most clothing could have been used in the Dark Ages but some would have been different than in the Movie.

In the dark ages there were real horses. In the Movie they use two coconuts to make the Pounding of the hoofs. The Movie made this fact extremely funny because every where they went there was a Guy behind them with coconuts clapping them together. The Dark Ages had horses giving no need for coconuts and horse movement of the rider.

The knights that say "Neh" were fake. The knights would not get harmed by the word "Neh". The knights who said "Neh" couldn't hear the word "it" when "it" is a very common word. Defeating the knights would be easy as long as you can say "it".

A Movie like Monty Python and the Holy Grail was made a Comedy but the historical parts were real. Their clothing was realistic. The knights who say "Neh" weren't real. People rode horses. In the Movie only some of the historical moments were educational. With the Movie being a Comedy, it is hard to tell what was historical.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 2

- develops a simple but logical discussion
- develops the topic with simplistic details with no reference to outside sources
- establishes and maintains a clear, but simplistic focus
- paragraphs are simple in composition and lack details
- conclusion is simple

Families come in all different sizes, that makes it hard to say which could possibly be the best. There are many different people in a family, the size could be best for a few but not so good for others.

Families which only have two children can be great because you can really get to know your sibling, but if there is a large age gap when the older leaves home; being the youngest .

Big families can be so much fun. There's always somebody there to turn to, always somebody there to have fun with, to comfort you and for you to do the same in return. Life can get very chaotic, however.

Again it's so hard to say which could possibly be the best and have the most interest. As children we never think how hard it is for the mother to let go of her child. If you only have one then the mother has no one else to look after. Once the only child leaves home you can only imagine how lonely this would be.

Family is a lot of fun and I think a big family could be a lot of fun and good times but the parents should make sure they can look after such a big number otherwise they could go bankrupt. With any family, it is important to have parents who love each other. This relationship with the father and mother can really determine how the child or children grow up to be.

I think a mid-sized family with three or four children and loving parents would be the best. You always have someone to be with but you could also find time to be alone too. Your parents would probably have time for each of you and not have to worry about working all the time.

Whatever the size, the age range, the confusion, the most important thing is that all the family members get along with each other and that there is love and support for each other. Families are the most special part in our lives that every person is blessed with. Every family goes through rough times but they should always be there for each other, no matter what.

Views of Love Expository Paragraph

By: ***

Views that befall love come from many different people with different ideas. Stories of love each tend to look at a different angle of love. Some focus on the angle of giving gifts, others focus on love as being something that requires sacrifice. The three stories I read each focused on a different angle of love. In the first story, the husband and wife each sacrificed something very dear to them and bought a gift to the other to show their affection for each other. This in some way is a sign of affection, but some people believe that material objects are not the only way you can show affection. In the second story the view is that it doesn't matter what is on the outside but rather what is on the inside as displayed by the loathly lady in the story with Sir Gawain. People do not always have the greatest of beauties but sometimes people can be beautiful on the inside because of the way they act and feel. While in the final story the view is that money is not needed for love to prosper and that having strong faith and determination, will ultimately strengthen and maybe save the love for the couple. You do not need to be the richest man alive to get a female but rather all you really need is strong faith, determination and love for your partner to live a happy and prosperous life. These are the views of love that I decrypted from each story.

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EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 2

The Different Views of Love

In the 3 stories that we looked at in class, they all showed different views of love. The views of love shown are all important views to follow. They are: sacrifice, seeing a person for who they really are, and spending time together. It is important to follow these views in order to have a good relationship.

In *Savitri and Satyavan*, the main view is that you must make sacrifices for the one you love. The story shows that sacrifice is important in a good relationship because Savitri sacrificed for Satyavan and they were both happy in the end. True love involves sacrifice and the people must sacrifice for each other. Even if they don't expect you to sacrifice for them in a situation, it is love if you do and the other person will appreciate it, making for a good relationship.

The story *Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady*, the view is about liking a person for what is on the inside, not just what is on the outside. King Arthur needed an answer to a riddle, so he found an ugly lady that would answer the riddle in exchange for a husband. Sir Gawain volunteered to be the husband and even though the lady was ugly, he learned to love her for the person she is. It is important to follow this belief of love because if you can't look past a person's physical flaws to like someone, then it will be hard to have a relationship with someone because you can't look at their insides. If you can see the inner values of a person, then you can have a better relationship with that person because you can see them for who they really are.

Lastly, in the story *The Gifts of the Magi*, the view of love interpreted is that any amount of money or nice things won't let you be happy, it is being with the one you love that will make you happy. In the story, 2 people were poor and had no money. They gave away their most cherished possessions, which show sacrifice for the one you love. Anyway, they bought each other nice gifts from the possessions they gave away, and they decided that the gifts weren't worth it for what it cost them. They decided that the best gift was spending time with each other. In a relationship, this is important because in order to truly love each

other, you must enjoy the time spent together between the 2 of you without nice gifts to make it seem enjoyable.

In conclusion, all 3 of the stories show different views of love. The views are different, but they are all important views you must follow. If you follow the 3 views, then you will have a happy relationship. In the story the people had a good relationship because they followed the views of love.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 2

Movie: The Breakfast Club

Director: John Hughes

Stars: Molly Ringwald, Emilio Estevez, Judd Nelson,

Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy.

I had the opportunity to view John Hughes' The Breakfast club in class this week, It stars Molly Ringwald and Judd Nelson. It is the story of a group of diverse teenagers who have detention together on a Saturday.

It is no wonder this movie is still watched and enjoyed by teenagers to this day twenty – five years after it was made.

The story begins.....

It started with five high school teenager's going to high school on a Saturday for detention for almost the whole day.

The things I liked about this show was the library was one of the things that amazed me, it was big with many rooms, and floors, and lots of interesting looking books to read. I also liked the line It's wrong to wreak literature.

Five Good Things And Bad Points: Good things – 1 I think when Bender made a sacrifice to keep the principle's attention on him so that the others can get back to the library without getting caught, and avoid trouble, and anymore punishments, that moment he acted like a true friend, maybe his not so bad after all. 2 I like Ally because she has a great character to her, at first acting like a quite innocent little girl, and then after lunch acts all mysterious, she just brightens my day ^-^. 3 I also like how all five of the teenager's have different characters, and personality's, like one's a princes, one's a criminal, one's a nerd, one's a wrestler, and one's a baslatcase, It makes things more interesting and not boring. 4 Through all the hard times, and all the fighting I liked how they helped each other out and work together as a team, and became friends and told them a little about themselves. 5 I also liked how Clair was being nice and changed Ally's a appearance, and made Ally look like herself again.

Bad Points: 1 One of the things I didn't like about this show was the principle, even though the five teenagers did something they weren't suppose to do, doesn't mean he should be so cold and mean like that, epically when threatening a student, no matter what that student did, it's not right for the principle to be threatening students 2 I also didn't like the language they would speak, through the whole movie every two minutes I would hear a swear it's just bad! 3 I didn't like how bender acts all perverted and asking people if their virgins especially in public, It puts pressure on you, and makes you feel uncomfortable. 4 I don't like how they show teenager's taking drugs, and smoking in the library, It might have actually influence some of my class mates, that it's okay to do these things. 5 When Brian explains about the gun that he had in his locker was for suicide, I thought I would have flipped I mean every day in this world someone thinks suicide, we need to something about this and stop this suicidal.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 3

- develops ideas with good supports and explanations
- relates to self
- conclusion is meaningful

Proverb assignment

Proverbs can often be difficult to understand, and it takes time to wrap your head around some of them. There are many, many proverbs written by many different people. But we will focus on just one to get the idea as to what it is. The proverb is: "We will be known forever for the tracks we leave" – Dakota. To me this proverb means that, for our actions in this life, which is what future generations will remember us for. To me, this means that if you do things that affect the population as a whole, or are very significant to our time, people will know us for it in the future. For example, Jesus is known so well today because his actions were glorious to be seen and people worshipped him. People wrote stories about him which are still being handed down today. People like Adolf Hitler are remembered, because their actions affect so many people. Their actions affected most of the world, killing thousands of people, and he is remembered for those actions. This reminds me that I have a choice. I have to choose a career and a plan that will have a positive effect on the memory of me. This proverb tells us that it is vital to make smart decisions at actions. For me, it is a reminder that depending on the different paths you take is how many people will recognize you. For example: If I make the choice in school to study hard, and learn the profession I want to go into well, then I could be the one to discover some life changing discovery. But if I don't really try, and don't really put an effort into it, I might not do so well. Generations later may barely recognize my name. The proverbs we read can be very difficult to understand, but when we do learn to recognize and understand them, they can be very effective in helping us with everyday life. Everything we do leaves tracks, and the tracks we leave are what people remember us by when we are gone.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 3

- good word choice
- voice evident
- demonstrated an understanding of satire
- some repetition
- conclusion was weak

Monty Python and the Holy Grail

Monty Python and the Holy Grail is a satirical movie based on King Arthur's fabled search for the Holy Grail in the late 5th and early 6th century. Monty Python was a British comedy group made of six men, Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones, Michael Palin, and John Cleese. They were active for almost twenty years doing movies and shows similar to this one. After doing some research, I realize that this movie does actually contain many accurate facts about this time in history but they are often twisted for humour's sake. The learning experience can be lost sometimes because you are not always sure what is factual and what has been made up. However, overall I think the comedic approach to history allows us to learn about how people lived in a different time while still enjoying the movie. Therefore, there is value in watching this film as part of this unit.

King Arthur was a British leader of the late 5th and the early 6th centuries who led the defence of Roman-Celtic Britain against the Saxon invaders. The details of King Arthur's story are mainly composed of folklore and literary invention, and his historical existence is debated and disputed by modern day historians. The movie does not clearly explain the back ground of King Arthur or the war against the Saxons but it does show us the time in which he is believed to have lived and his fabled search for the Holy Grail. The Holy Grail is a sacred object figuring into literature and certain Christian traditions. It is believed to be a cup used by Christ at the last supper that was later in the keeping of St. Joseph of Arimathea. Although the movie does not explain this, because of the God character you do come to the conclusion that it is a religious relic, that he is searching for.

For a comedy, many parts of this movie were surprisingly historically accurate. The stone castles with vines going up the sides and the rustic villages seemed very realistic. They had shacks with thatched roofs along the streets, and people scavenging for food. They had people going through towns collecting the dead people that died from the plague. The actors were wearing costumes that looked just like the outfits they may have worn back in the middle ages such as chain mail, doublets and armour, swords and shields. Their helmets that went with the armour were like large tin cans with a slit for their eyes. Their way of life in the movie is very similar to the life the people may have had back then. Although the setting and costumes seemed very accurate the story line was altered substantially for the sake of humour. For example, I'm sure King Arthur rode a real horse not a pretend horse with coconuts for sound effects. He probably battled many Knights but I don't imagine any of them continued to challenge him after having all four limbs cut off. I also don't think that a killer rabbit was among his foes. Although these and many other parts were inaccurate, it was obvious that it was done for humour's sake.

There are many things we talked about in class that were depicted in this movie. The plague killed 7 million people in the middle ages. It is said that people would take corpse carts and go through the villages and collect the bodies of the dead just as it was shown in the movie. Back in the middle ages the people had a belief in witches. Often ordinary women who showed advanced knowledge were accused of being a witch and burned at the stake. They used ordeals to determine whether a woman was a witch, but the ordeals were barbaric and ridiculous by our standards and the woman often ended up dying either way.

Some of this movie was very historically accurate to what we learned in class. At first the movie seemed pointless and silly, but after I got into it I realized that it had more educational value than I thought. The scenery and the outfits matched the description we got in class. Such as the tattered clothes and the shacks with thatched roofs. The story line I still thought was weird, but the more I learned about King Arthur and the Holy Grail the more it began to make sense.

This movie was very entertaining for being a historically based movie. Even though it was mostly accurate they made the inaccurate things so ridiculous all you could do was laugh. A french guy with a french moustache was yelling insults over the castle wall to Arthur, a bunny was biting peoples heads off and there were knights who say nee that you couldnt help but laugh at. I really enjoyed this movie because of how ridiculous they made everything. This movie was so funny and well done that it made me want to learn more. The movie made me want to learn more about the ordeals and how they were performed because of the witch burning scene, and more about King Arthur and the Holy Grail and the life style of the people back in the middle ages. Over all I thought it was great movie.

There is value in watching this movie as part of this unit. Monty Python and the Holy Grail is a satirical movie based and King Arthurs search for the Holy Grail. For a comedy this movie had many parts that were very historically accurate. I never learned anything new from the movie but it made me want to learn more about King Arthur and the Holy Grail and ordeals. This movie was very entertaining in many parts and a good way to end this unit.

Bibliography

Electronic source - don't separate

www.britannia.com/history/arthur/grail.html

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/king_arthur.html

www.wikipedia.org/monty_python.html

date +
site title

Print source

class discussions

such as the discussion about the life style of the people.

The discussion about the diseases they had back then and the ordeals.

cite at least one written source.

GRADE NINE

EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 3

- weak conclusion
- paragraph transitions are weak

The novel Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis is a great novel to read, because it talks about a situation in Afghanistan. This novel explains the things that go on there, and gives us ideas about what people go through. When one reads this book one sees that sometimes the things we go through are not that bad compared to the people of Afghanistan. We should not take things for granted because it might be gone in a matter of seconds just like what happened to Parvana. Parvana is a girl who lost just about everything when the war started. Her father had died from trying to keep safe while traveling to different places and being too tired. Parvana also lost her home and the rest of her family.

Parvana is a very strong girl who always keeps her guard up and never stops to rest. She always has her father on her mind to keep her going and knows that some day she will find her mother. Parvana tries to gather food for everyone and keep them safe. She shows her strength when she tells herself "I'm tired but I keep thinking of what my father always said 'if we stop, we die'" (93).

Parvana's appearance is not like any other little girl. She seems to look more like a boy than a girl. She did not have that much hair because she thought that if she looked like a boy, she could get a job. She also did not have great "fashion sense" either. But what she had on her body and her head was just enough for her. As Ellis explains, "Parvana's hair was dipped short, and she wore the plain blanket shawl and shalwar kameez of a boy" (10).

At times, Parvana was not easy to get along with. She was one with a very quick temper. If things did not get her way, she would usually freak out, or make a big deal and get mad. When Asif and Parvana got into a fight, Ellis says, "Parvana flung her arm so violently in anger that the pot of rice slipped out of her fingers and flew off into the dirt" (76).

After awhile, Parvana could no longer hide that she was a boy. She had to start saying that she was a lady, not a boy just looking for a job. Parvana was now developing more like a lady and her hair was growing a lot more. People started seeing that she was a girl. "Cover up." A man spat at her. "You are a woman. You should cover up!" (182).

In the story, Parvana starts to be more protective of the others. She begins to start thinking of them as family, and caring for them. When any of them need a helping hand, Parvana is always there. When they are either sick or need some food, she is there to help them get along. In the story, "Parvana sat down and held Lella's head in her lap" (187), here she shows that she is going to keep her safe and show Lella that she is there for her.

In this story, Parvana is very interesting to read about. One will always want to read more, and find out what happens next!

GRADE NINE EXPOSITORY – LEVEL 4

Kira, in the novel Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry, gives the reader a character that provides a sense of hope that one can get through anything. Kira is a character that perseveres through everything that is thrown at her. She is very determined and does not let her handicaps prevent her from succeeding in things. Self motivation is one of the keys to her success, as is the encouragement she receives from others throughout her life, like that of her mother, Matt and others. Kira is wise enough to understand that other's encouragement is very important and returns the favour to those in her life that need it, like the little tyke Jo. Her wisdom and ability to focus on small details makes her very observant, noticing tiny things and the feelings of others. Kira's characteristics make her an admirable person, because she proves that limitations do not hold you back but make you stronger.

" 'I survived because of my strength' "(18), is Kira's personal mantra. She proves not only to herself, but to the others in her village that she may have a disability but that does not make her weak. Her disability is really what makes her so strong. The twisted leg she has had since birth, causes Kira to be slower than others and causes others to look down upon her. Village members say some very cruel things to her, but Kira pushes it aside and focuses on the task at hand. Her disability also causes her to work harder at things that other people do easily, and cause Kira to shine. Kira's strength makes her admirable because, it proves that minority people or groups can overcome majority groups no matter how large they may be.

Although people cause Kira to fail occasionally, people also help her to succeed. There are a lot of people who try and make life harder for Kira, but there are just as many who want to help her, like her friends Matt and Thomas. They provide Kira with

encouragement and support during everything she does, and this teaches her that support from others is the final step towards achieving things yourself. By learning this lesson, Kira applies it to other people in her life and encourages them to become the best they can be, like Jo. "The tyke, dressed in a new but simple and unadorned gown, looked confused and uncertain, but her eyes found Kira's and Kira beckoned to her, smiling"(179), proves that Kira provides encouragement without words but through actions also to Jo. Kira's encouragement and support towards others makes her admirable, because it showcases her strong relationships and her unselfish nature.

Kira is a very observant character, and provides the reader with glimpses of how the village used to be, and what has happened in it over the years. By questioning everything that occurs, Kira takes nothing for granted and learns many things about the village. Piece by piece, she receives information and puts it all together like a puzzle discovering more about the village than the average person should ever get to know. Her curious nature, and the answers she is provided with provide the novel with more depth that it would otherwise not have. "What of my father, then, him taken by beasts?"(114), is a question Kira has that foreshadows a lot of the ending and provides a lot more content to the novel. Kira's observant nature is admirable, because it proves that she is not afraid to tell her deepest thoughts to others to satisfy her curiosity no matter how silly. This makes her admirable because it provides the reader with the knowledge that it is okay to question things and everything is not always as it seems.

Lowry proves that admirable people come in all forms, and that those who face limitations, like Kira, are even more admirable. By being strong Kira shows the reader that inner strength is just as important as being physically strong. Inner strength is what

makes you physically do things and without inner strength we would not push ourselves to reach a higher standard. The encouragement Kira shows throughout the novel, provides the reader with the knowledge to support those they love. Kira also teaches the reader to appreciate the encouragement they receive from others and not to take it for granted. Her observant nature lets the reader know that things are not what they always seem and you have to question to find out the truth. Kira is an excellent character because she realizes the deceitful nature of the village, and becomes a symbol of truth for not only the reader, but the future villagers.