

Unit Guide

Using the Arts to Improve Student Reading Comprehension

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This unit is designed as a series of 8 to 10 independent, ninety minute lessons tied directly to four required curriculum units: The Personal Narrative, The Short Story, Coming of Age During Controversy (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), and *Romeo and Juliet*. Each of the mandated units require students to use their visualization skills to better understand how good writers and filmmakers use specific literary devices, cinematic techniques, and theatrical elements to help readers and/or viewers better understand character, conflict, and theme. This unit will integrate specific visual and performance arts standards into the existing ELA curriculum so that students will understand how they can use their visualization skills to help them interpret text and images, improving and refining their overall comprehension of a given literary selection.