11.4.1 Lesson 5

Introduction

In this lesson, the Mid-Unit Assessment, students use textual evidence from Tim O'Brien's story "On the Rainy River" from *The Things They Carried* to craft a formal, multi-paragraph response to the following prompt: Choose a specific part of the text and analyze how it contributes to the overall meaning and structure of the text.

Students review their annotated texts, lesson Quick Writes, discussion notes, homework notes, and tools to organize their ideas. Students then develop their responses to convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. The Mid-Unit Assessment is assessed using the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

For homework, students continue their Accountable Independent Reading (AIR).





Standards





Assessed Standard(s)			
RL.11-12.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.		
W.11-12.2.a-f	 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. a. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. c. Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic). 		
Addressed St	andard(s)		
W.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.		
W.11-12.9.a	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grades 11-12 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics").		





Assessment





Assessment(s)

Student learning in the first part of this unit is assessed via a formal, multi-paragraph response. Students respond to the following prompt, citing textual evidence to support analysis and inferences drawn from the text.

- Choose a specific part of the text and analyze how it contributes to the overall meaning and structure of the text.
- Student responses are evaluated using the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

High Performance Response(s)





A High Performance Response should:

- Choose a specific part of the text (e.g., The story's introduction in which the narrator tells readers "This is one story I've never told before" contributes to the structure and meaning of the text. The narrator describes how he has "had to live with [his story]" for two decades and calls it a "confession" (p. 37). The narrator also explains that the reason he tells the story now is a hope "to relieve at least some of the pressure on my dreams" (p. 37).).
- Analyze how this part of the text contributes to the overall meaning of the text (e.g., O'Brien's introduction makes readers aware of the story's importance to the narrator, and the "confession" the narrator is about to tell (p. 37). The narrator confesses a long-kept secret for the first time, a story in which he is not the "secret hero" who has a "secret reservoir of courage," giving the impression that the story will be about his personal lack of heroism or courage (p. 37).).
- Analyze how this part of the text contributes to the overall structure of the text (e.g., Through the introduction, O'Brien establishes the story as a reflection. The narrator describes wanting "to relieve at least some of the pressure on [his] dreams," indicating he needs validation or at least a break from the burden of his past shame which he hopes to attain by confiding in readers via his confession (p. 37).).

A High Performance Response may include the following evidence in support of a multiparagraph analysis:

- In the boat on the Rainy River, the narrator recalls the "sudden tightness in [his] chest" (p. 53) from twenty years before, and interrupts his reflection to engage the reader by saying, "as I write this, I can still feel that tightness" (p. 54). Breaking the structure of the narrative pulls the reader into the intensity of the narrator's conflict. He asks readers to imagine themselves in his situation, telling them "I want you to feel it ... You're at the bow of a boat on the Rainy River. You're twenty-one years old, you're scared, and there's a hard squeezing pressure in your chest" (p. 54). The narrator further engages the reader in his "moral split" (p. 42) with a series of hypothetical questions, starting with "What would you do?" (p. 54). By directly addressing readers, the narrator creates feelings of empathy and further clarifies the meaning of the story, which is his ongoing struggle to resolve the conflict between his shame and his beliefs. This structural choice contributes to the overall structure of the text by momentarily breaking the narrator's reflection. Following this break, the narrator returns to the story by addressing his reflections at the beginning of the story about why he "never told this story before," thus, connecting the past to the present (p. 54).
- The narrator recalls his past as though it happened "in some other dimension" because "[n]one of it ever seemed real" (p. 52). The narrator recalls "[e]ven now I can see myself as I was then" (p. 52). O'Brien manipulates time by shifting between the narrator's present observations and recollections of the past. The narrator tells the





Vocabulary

Vocabulary to provide directly (will not include extended instruction)

None.*

Vocabulary to teach (may include direct word work and/or questions)

None.*

Additional vocabulary to support English Language Learners (to provide directly)

None.*

Lesson Agenda/Overview

Student-Facing Agenda	% of Lesson
Standards & Text:	
• Standards: RL.11-12.5, W.11-12.2.a-f, W.11-12.4, W.11-12.9.a	
Text: "On the Rainy River" from The Things They Carried by Tim	
O'Brien	
Learning Sequence:	
1. Introduction of Lesson Agenda	1. 5%
2. Homework Accountability	2. 10%
3. 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Assessment	3. 80%
4. Closing	4. 5%

Materials

- Copies of the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Assessment for each student
- Copies of the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric and Checklist for each student





^{*}Because this is not a close reading lesson, there is no specified vocabulary. However, in the process of returning to the text, students may uncover unfamiliar words. Teachers can guide students to make meaning of these words by following the protocols described in 1e of this document: http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/9-12_ela_prefatory_material.pdf.

Learning Sequence

How to Use the Learning Sequence		
Symbo l	Type of Text & Interpretation of the Symbol	
10%	Percentage indicates the percentage of lesson time each activity should take.	
no symbol	Plain text indicates teacher action.	
	Bold text indicates questions for the teacher to ask students.	
	Italicized text indicates a vocabulary word.	
•	Indicates student action(s).	
•	Indicates possible student response(s) to teacher questions.	
i	Indicates instructional notes for the teacher.	

Activity 1: Introduction of Lesson Agenda

5%

Begin by reviewing the agenda and the assessed standards for this lesson: RL.11-12.5 and W. 11-12.2.a-f. In this lesson, students complete the Mid-Unit Assessment in which they analyze how specific parts of the text contribute to the overall meaning and structure of the text.

Students look at the agenda.

Activity 2: Homework Accountability

10%

Instruct students to take out the previous lesson's homework assignment. (Review and expand notes, tools, and annotations in preparation for the following lesson's Mid-Unit Assessment.)

Instruct students to form pairs and share how they reviewed and expanded their materials for the Mid-Unit Assessment.

 Students discuss how they reviewed and organized materials for the Mid-Unit Assessment.



Activity 3: 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Assessment

80%

Explain to students that because it is a formal writing task, the Mid-Unit Assessment should include an introductory statement, well-organized ideas supported by the most significant and relevant evidence, and a concluding statement or section. Students should use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to clarify relationships among complex ideas, and manage the complexity of the topic by using precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor and simile. Remind students to use this unit's vocabulary, as well as proper grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in their responses to establish a formal style and objective tone.

Instruct students to write a multi-paragraph response to the following prompt:

Choose a specific part of the text and analyze how it contributes to the overall meaning and structure of the text.

Instruct students to use their annotated texts, lesson Quick Writes, discussion notes, homework notes, and tools to write their response. Distribute and review the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric. Remind students to use the Text Analysis Rubric to guide their written responses. Ask students to use this unit's vocabulary wherever possible in their written responses.

- Consider reminding students that the appropriate use of textual evidence to support their response demonstrates their application of W.11-12.9.a.
- If necessary, consider reviewing the components of W.11-12.4, which include producing clear, coherent writing that employs organization and style appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

Instruct students to use the remaining class period to write their Mid-Unit Assessment.

- Students independently answer the prompt using evidence from the text.
- See the High Performance Response at the beginning of the lesson.
- Consider encouraging students who finish early to reread and revise their responses.

Activity 4: Closing

5%

Display and distribute the homework assignment. For homework, students should continue to read their AIR texts through the lens of a focus standard of their choice and prepare for a 3-5 minute discussion of their texts based on that standard.

Students follow along.





Homework

For homework, continue to read your Accountable Independent Reading text through the lens of a focus standard of your choice and prepare for a 3-5 minute discussion of your text based on that standard.





11.4.1 Mid-Unit Assessment

Text-Based Response

Your Task: Based on your reading and analysis of "On the Rainy River" from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, write a well-developed, text-based response to the following prompt:

Choose a specific part of the text and analyze how it contributes to the overall structure and meaning of the text.

Your response will be assessed using the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

Guidelines:

Be sure to:

- Read the prompt closely
- Address all elements of the prompt in your response
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support your analysis
- Follow the conventions of standard written English





CCSS: RL.11-12.5, W.11-12.2.a-f

Commentary on the Task:

This task measures RL.11-12.5 because it demands that students:

Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of the text (e.g., the
choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution)
contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

This task measures W.11-12.a-f because it demands that students:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
 - Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
 - Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
 - Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 - Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
 - Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
 - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).





11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric

_____ /___ (Total points)

Criteria	4 - Responses at this	3 - Responses at this	2 - Responses at this	1 - Responses at this
	Level:	Level:	Level:	Level:
Content and Analysis The extent to which the response analyzes how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact. CCSS.ELA- Literacy.RL.11-12.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	Skillfully analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to the text's overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	Accurately analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to the text's overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	With partial accuracy, analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to the text's overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	Inaccurately analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to the text's overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

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Criteria	4 - Responses at this Level:	3 - Responses at this Level:	2 - Responses at this Level:	1 - Responses at this Level:
Command of Evidence and Reasoning The extent to which the response thoroughly develops the topic through the effective selection and analysis of the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.	Thoroughly and skillfully develop the analysis with the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. (W.11-12.2.b)	Develop the analysis with significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. (W.11-12.2.b)	Partially develop the analysis with weak facts, extended definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. (W.11-12.2.b)	Minimally develop the analysis, providing few or irrelevant facts, extended definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. (W.11-12.2.b)
CCSS.ELA- Literacy.W.11-12.2 Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.				
CCSS.ELA- Literacy.W.11-12.2.b Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.				

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4 - Responses at this 3 - Responses at this 2 - Responses at this 1 - Responses at this Criteria Level: Level: Level: Level: Coherence, Skillfully introduce a Introduce a topic; Ineffectively introduce Lack a clear a topic; Organization, and topic; effectively organize complex a topic; organize illogically arrange Style organize complex ideas, concepts, and complex ideas, ideas, concepts, and ideas, concepts, and information so that information, failing to concepts, and The extent to which information so that each new element information so that create a unified whole; the response each new element builds on that which each new element when useful to aiding introduces a topic clearly builds on that precedes it to create a partially builds on that comprehension, and organizes which precedes it to unified whole; when which precedes it to ineffectively include complex ideas, formatting, graphics, create a unified whole; useful to aiding create a loosely unified concepts, and when useful to aiding comprehension, include whole; when useful to and multimedia. (W. information so that formatting, graphics, aiding comprehension, each new element comprehension, 11-12.2.a) and multimedia. (W. skillfully include somewhat effectively builds on that which Ineffectively use formatting, graphics, 11-12.2.a) include formatting, precedes it to create transitions and syntax and multimedia. (W. graphics, and a unified whole; Effectively use to link the major 11-12.2.a) multimedia. (W. when useful to appropriate and varied sections of the text, 11-12.2.a) aiding Skillfully use transitions and syntax creating incoherent or comprehension, appropriate and varied to link the major Somewhat effectively unclear relationships includes formatting, transitions and syntax use transitions or use sections of the text, among complex ideas graphics, and to link the major create cohesion, and unvaried transitions and concepts. (W. multimedia. sections of the text, clarify the relationships and syntax to link the 11-12.2.c) create cohesion, and among complex ideas major sections of the CCSS.ELA-Rarely or inaccurately and concepts. (W. clarify the relationships text, creating limited Literacy.W.11-12.2 use precise language, cohesion or clarity in among complex ideas 11-12.2.c) Write informative/ domain-specific the relationships among and concepts. (W. explanatory texts to Use precise language, vocabulary, or any 11-12.2.c) complex ideas and examine and convey domain-specific techniques such as concepts. (W.11-12.2.c) complex ideas, Skillfully use precise vocabulary, and metaphor, simile, and concepts, and language, domaintechniques such as Inconsistently use analogy to manage the information clearly specific vocabulary, and metaphor, simile, and precise language, complexity of the and accurately techniques such as topic. (W.11-12.2.d) analogy to manage the domain-specific through the effective metaphor, simile, and complexity of the vocabulary, and Lack a formal style and selection. analogy to manage the topic. (W.11-12.2.d) techniques such as objective tone that organization, and complexity of the metaphor, simile, and Establish a formal style adheres to the norms analysis of content. topic. (W.11-12.2.d) analogy to manage the and objective tone that and conventions of the complexity of the CCSS.ELA-Skillfully establish and is appropriate for the discipline. (W. topic. (W.11-12.2.d) Literacy.W.11-12.2.a norms and conventions maintain a formal style 11-12.2.e) Introduce a topic: and objective tone that of the discipline. (W. Establish but fail to Provide a concluding organize complex is appropriate for the 11-12.2.e) maintain a formal style statement or section and objective tone that ideas, concepts, and norms and conventions Provide a concluding that does not follow information so that of the discipline. (W. is appropriate for the statement or section from or support the each new element 11-12.2.e) norms and conventions that follows from and information or builds on that which of the discipline. (W. explanation presented. Provide a concluding supports the precedes it to create 11-12.2.e) statement or section information or (W.11-12.2.f) a unified whole; that clearly follows explanation presented. Provide a concluding include formatting from and skillfully (W.11-12.2.f) statement or section (e.g., headings),

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supports the

information or

(W.11-12.2.f)

explanation presented.

graphics (e.g.,

figures, tables), and

The extent to which

multimedia when

useful to aiding

comprehension.





that loosely follows

ineffectively supports

explanation presented.

the information or

from and so

(W.11-12.2.f)

- A response that is a personal response and makes little or no reference to the task or text can be scored no higher than a 1.
- A response that is totally copied from the text with no original writing must be given a 0.
- A response that is totally unrelated to the task, illegible, incoherent, blank, or unrecognizable as English must be scored as
 a 0.





11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Checklist

Assessed Standards: _____

	Does my response	✓
Content and Analysis	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to the text's overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact? (RL.11-12.5)	
Command of Evidence and Reasoning	Develop the response with the most significant and relevant textual evidence? (W.11-12.2.b)	
Coherence, Organization, and	Introduce a topic? (W.11-12.2.a)	
Style	Organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole? (W.11-12.2.a)	
	When useful to aiding comprehension, include formatting, graphics, and multimedia? (W.11-12.2.a)	
	Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts? (W.11-12.2.c)	
	Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic? (W. 11-12.2.d)	
	Establish a formal style and objective tone that is appropriate for the norms and conventions of the discipline? (W.11-12.2.e)	
	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the explanation or analysis? (W.11-12.2.f)	



