Electronic Literature and Language in South East Asia

Self study suggestions
Level 1: American Literary Classics

This ELLSA teacher's guide can be accessed on the internet at
http://www.rdlthai.com/ellsa_selfstudy1.html

Exploring American Literature Online through ELLSA

Student Self-Study Guide & Instructions: Level 1

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What You Will Learn from ELLSA, Level 1

The main goal of ELLSA Tier 1 is to provide an online literary companion for students of American literature, not unlike an electronic version of the Cliff Note ® series some of you may already be familiar with. You can use the lessons to help you if you are using any of the following titles from USIA's American Literary Classics series in a class, or for your own learning enjoyment: To Build a Fire and Other Stories by Jack London, The Red Badge of Courage and Other Stories by Stephen Crane, and The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories by O. Henry.

By using ELLSA you will:

• Gain an appreciation for the art of the American Short Story
• Learn about American authors and their lives
• Understand more about American history and culture
• Learn how to analyze short stories in terms of their five main elements: Character, Setting, Plot, Conflict and Theme.
• Improve your English
• Build your English vocabulary
• Develop internet and computer skills

Student Level

Level 1 of ELLSA is primarily designed for students of English as a Foreign language in Southeast Asia, but will be useful for all students of English around the world. Students for whom Tier 1 lessons will be especially appropriate should have a low to high-intermediate proficiency in English. This will apply to a wide range of secondary schools and first or second year university classrooms in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and most countries in the region. Students should have about a 1,000 to 2,000 word reading vocabulary in English, and therefore be able to read these abridged stories and engage in the classroom activities suggested here.

Materials & language

Level 1 is designed as an on-line companion to The American Literary Classics Series from USIA. The three titles from that series that are incorporated into this level are: To Build a Fire and Other Stories by Jack London, The Red Badge of Courage and Other Stories by Stephen Crane, and The Gift of the Maji and Other Stories by O. Henry. The language of these selections has been simplified from the original versions to make them appropriate for the levels described above. Students will need to have access to the books for proper execution of the lessons.

Downloading & printing the self-study guide

1.   Log on to the Map of ELLSA Tier 1 or the Contents of American Literary Classics page.
2.   Bookmark the webpage in your browser.
3.   Go to the button which reads Download Study Materials.
4.   Select the link for the lesson you wish to explore and click to download to your computer.
5.   Open the file in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat Reader.
6.   Print the lesson pages.
7.   Use these pages like worksheets when you do an online lesson, or independently with the story you are reading. It is not necessary to use a computer after you have printed the lesson worksheets.

Study suggestions

1.   Get a pocket or file folder to keep ELLSA materials in, and bring it to the computer terminal where you will be logging on to the site.
2.   Get a small notebook which will fit inside of your ELLSA folder. Use this as a vocabulary notebook.
3.   Be sure to have your American Literary Classics book (The Gift of the Magi and other Stories by O.Henry, To Build a Fire and Other Stories by Jack London or The Red Badge of Courage and Other Stories by Stephen Crane) with you at your computer terminal.

4.   Have a pen or pencil ready.
5.   Work through the lesson in the intended sequence: a) synopsis, b) pre-story, c) in-story, d) exercises, e) follow-up.
5.   Write out your answers to questions on your Self-Study worksheets.

Lesson focus and lesson design

Lesson focus

Each lesson focuses on one short story, it's author and one element of short story writing that is exemplified by that story. In addition, language specific to that focus, is often examined.

Lesson Design

Following a biography of the author and synopsis of the story, each lesson follows the same four-part design:

- Pre-story (activation of student background knowledge and vocabulary)
- In-story (exploration of plot, setting, character, theme or conflict)
- Exercises (focus on language analysis and use)
- Follow-up (creative writing, discussion and dramatization projects which allow you to apply your learning to new ideas).

Author's biographies

The author's biography can be read online either before or after the lesson and includes vocabulary development work. Add new words from the biographies (and synopses) to your ELLSA Tier 1 Vocabulary Notebooks.