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NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

CREATIVE WRITING
CURRICULUM

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Curriculum

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NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Creative Writing

Acknowledgements

Neptune Township School District is dedicated to preparing our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to be effective contributors and active participants of the 21st century.

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge the professional experience and talent of the curriculum developer. She has designed a curriculum that fosters and promotes creativity, critical thinking and effective communication.

Thank you for your endless effort and dedication in promoting the highest quality education for the students of Neptune.

Amy Blackmore
NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Neptune Township School District is to prepare all students for life in the twenty-first century by encouraging them to recognize that learning is a continuing process. It is with high expectations that our schools foster:

• A strong foundation in academic areas, modern technologies, life skills and the arts.

• A positive and varied approach to teaching and learning.

• An emphasis on critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques.

• A respect for and an appreciation of our world, its resources, and its peoples.

• A sense of responsibility, good citizenship, and accountability.

• An involvement by the parents and the community in the learning process.
Neptune Township School District

Educational Outcome Goals

The students in the Neptune Township schools will become life-long learners and will:

- Become fluent readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers with comprehension and critical thinking skills.
- Acquire the mathematical skills, understandings, and attitudes that are needed to be successful in their careers and everyday life.
- Understand fundamental scientific principles, develop critical thinking skills, and demonstrate safe practices, skepticism, and open-mindedness when collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information.
- Become technologically literate.
- Demonstrate proficiency in all New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
- Develop the ability to understand their world and to have an appreciation for the heritage of America with a high degree of literacy in civics, history, economics and geography.
- Develop a respect for different cultures and demonstrate trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.
- Become culturally literate by being aware of the historical, societal, and multicultural aspects and implications of the arts.
- Demonstrate skills in decision-making, goal setting, and effective communication, with a focus on character development.
- Understand and practice the skills of family living, health, wellness and safety for their physical, mental, emotional, and social development.
- Develop consumer, family, and life skills necessary to be a functioning member of society.
- Develop the ability to be creative, inventive decision-makers with skills in communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings.
- Develop career awareness and essential technical and workplace readiness skills, which are significant to many aspects of life and work.
Creative Writing is an academic elective course offered to 9-12 grade students. It focuses on a variety of writing genres including non-fiction, poetry, short fiction, and drama. It emphasizes a development of writing skills in each of these areas. Much of the instructional style of this course follows a workshop setting. Students are encouraged to provide constructive criticism as well as receive it and revise and edit their pieces for their ongoing portfolios. In order to achieve these goals collectively, students will be expected to read their writing aloud weekly to the class. This is a vital part of the success of this course.
# Unit 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

Students will develop an understanding of some of the genres of writing explored throughout the course. These genres include poetry, short story and narrative writing. Students will also strengthen their skills in choosing powerful diction and achieving personal style in their writing. Throughout this unit, students will begin to develop their own portfolios and utilize peer critique and self critique as tools toward improving their writing.

## STAGE 1: Desired Results

### Common Core State Standards

**Reading Anchor Standards**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4**
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

**Writing Anchor Standards**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4**
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5**
Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10**
Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**Speaking and Listening Anchor Standards**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1**
Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**Language Anchor Standards:**

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1**
Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.2**
Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3**
Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4**
Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5**
Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6**
Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

### 21st Century Skills

- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Communication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enduring Understandings</th>
<th>Essential Questions</th>
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<td>Writing is a multi-stage, reflective process.</td>
<td>How can language be powerful?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good writers develop and refine their ideas for thinking, learning, communicating, and aesthetic expression.</td>
<td>How can a writer use an established piece of writing (mentor text) to inspire a new piece?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does process shape the writer’s</td>
<td></td>
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