

## **Fantasy and Science Fiction 15-5**

### **Course Description**

Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation 15-5 opportunities for students to experience a wide range of fantasy and science-fiction works from around the world and from different periods. Students will learn about unique and fantastic worlds, such as Middle-earth, Earthsea, Camelot, the Star Wars Galaxy, and Narnia, to name a few. To gain an appreciation for the various subgenres of fantasy and science fiction, students will be exposed to a diverse range of texts, including films, television programs, screenplays, short stories, novellas, novels, graphic novels, poetry, and even interactive fantasy role-playing games. If available, the complexity and variety of text choices will expand at the 25-course level.



Besides analyzing the texts in terms of literary, cinematic, and dramatic aspects, students will gain a deeper understanding of society, community, family, and self by examining diverse worldviews on significant issues explored in fantasy and science fiction texts. Students will also learn about the historical, technological, religious, economic, scientific, social, and cultural influences on the creation of fantasy and science fiction texts, to understand how these factors affect themselves and others.

### **Sequence Introduction**

Beyond their English Language Arts studies, students will:

1. further develop their reading, speaking, listening, viewing, writing, and representing skills
2. Explore a variety of fantasy and science fiction literature and film in terms of
  - Origins and evolution of fantasy and science fiction genres
  - Major thematic topics of modern fantasy and science fiction genres
  - Definition of fantasy and science fiction genres
  - similarities and differences between fantasy and science fiction genres

- subgenre types and characteristics within each genre
- literary, cinematic, and dramatic theory and applications
- influence of historical events, technological advancements, religion, economics, scientific developments, sociological aspects, and culture on the creation of texts
- relevance to society, community, family, and self
- Indigenous culture appreciation and history awareness

3. Read and view critically, followed by responding personally, creatively, and analytically in practical ways (e.g., discussions, presentations, videos, writing, or artwork)

Although the application of literary, cinematic, and dramatic theory may cross over to some degree with English Language Arts 10-20-30 and the locally developed Film Appreciation 15-25 and Film and Media Arts 15-25-35 courses, The Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation 15-25 courses focus exclusively on exploring these two genres, their subgenres, and texts within these genres in much greater depth than other program curricula permit. Although Similar assessment activities may be done in a regular ELA classroom; the complex and interdisciplinary nature of these particular courses (e.g., aspects of science, economics, philosophy, psychology, social studies, sociology, art, and film) will enrich and enhance students'

experiences beyond the curriculum and time constraints of the regular ELA program. Film Appreciation 15-25, as well as Film and Media Art 15-25-35 locally developed courses, explore only film as a text, but Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation 15-25 courses examine a variety of text types, including various forms of fantasy and science fiction literature.



## **Scope and Sequence**

### **Essential Understandings:**

1. Developing an appreciation of a variety of fantasy and science fiction texts allows us to be more curious, imaginative, and engaged learners.
2. Exploring essential issues and diverse viewpoints conveyed in a variety of Fantasy and Science fiction texts contribute to a better understanding of society, community, family, and self.
3. Understanding the effectiveness of the text creator's literary, cinematic, and dramatic stylistic choices in various text forms foster our creativity and allow to appreciate fantasy and science fiction genres as art forms.
4. Exploring historical, technological, religious, economic, scientific, social, and cultural connections to fantasy and science fiction texts help us to better understand the impact of historical events, technology, religion, economics, science, sociology, and culture on our own lives and the lives of others.

### **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

#### **Daily Verbal Responses 10%**

(group and class discussions: asking thoughtful questions and providing considered responses to questions asked)

#### **Daily Written/Visual Responses 45%**

(independent and group activities such as writing a book and film reviews, creating reading and viewing response journals, developing and/or responding to questions in print form, writing/drawing character profiles, drawing symbols, creating new fantasy/science fiction creatures/worlds, etc.)

#### **Unit Appreciation Projects/Presentations 45%**

**LISTED BELOW (We will do 10 out of the projects listed below)**

**Note: While exams and essays are typically crucial in determining many students' marks in the regular English Language Arts (ELA) program, the Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation 15 course emphasizes creative and personal responses, class discussions, and projects.**

## **FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION APPRECIATION 15 PROJECTS**

### **1. Newspaper Article (built on Google Slides)**

Choose a specific event from the fantasy/sci-fi novel or movie (if using story, focus on the entire story) and in your unbiased article, answer the following the 5 Ws and How:

Who was involved?

What happened? To whom did it happen?

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

Why did it happen?

How did it happen?

Using the answers to the questions, create a headline, strapline, dateline, byline, and summary lead for the event. Include interviews with witnesses, people involved, experts, etc.

**Write in column format (minimum 500 words in the body of the article).**

**At least two visuals, along with captions, should be included with the typed article.**

#### **Evaluation:**

**-10 marks for Content**

**-5 marks for Writing Style**

**-5 marks for Visuals**

### **2. Tabloid Article**

Write a tabloid article about a specific event from the **fantasy/sci-fi novel or movie (or an entire story)**. Make it as **absurd as you desire**.

You **must** draw (either by hand or using AI) one outrageous picture and a caption to accompany your article. The visual needs to be in color. The funnier the picture and article, the more effective your project will be more effective.

**Write in column format (minimum 500 words in the body of the article).**

Create an amusing and shocking headline, strapline, dateline, byline, and summary lead for the typed article. Include interviews with witnesses, people involved, experts, etc.

**Evaluation:**

**-10 marks for Content**

**- 5 marks for Writing Style**

**- 5 marks for Visual**

**3. Short Story Map**

a. After reading one of the fantasy/sci-fi short stories or a novella (a novel with a provided map cannot be used for this project) done in class, draw the setting, which could be the inside of a house or the countryside on a large piece of construction paper.

b. On your map, show where key characters have lived or visited and where important events and meetings have occurred. Make symbols to stand for characters, events, and special places; prepare a legend to explain these symbols. Use color to enhance the map's details.

c. Finally, re-tell your story (in your own words) to the class, and use your map as a visual aid.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Map Content; 5 marks for Visual Presentation (how interesting and colorful it looks); 5 marks for Presentation (present the story and map to the class; you will be marked on eye contact and vocal projection)**

**4. Picture Magic**

a. Choose an interesting or creative photograph from the internet using AI, funny or unusual. Write a fantasy or science fiction story about what happened before, during, and after the photo was taken. The photograph must be submitted with the story. Decide on the type of fantasy or science fiction story you wish to write and incorporate characteristics of this particular type.

b. The story should be a minimum of **800 words**.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content; 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity**

**5. Alternate Ending**

a. Change the ending of the fantasy/sci-fi movie, novel, novella, or story read in class. You can start at the end of the work and add to it or revise the ending after

the climax. Please indicate where your ending begins at the top of your first page. A visual related to a scene given in the ending must be submitted with the story.

b. The ending should be a minimum of **600 words**.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content, 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity, 5 marks for Visual**

## **6. Prequel**

a. Add a section to the very beginning of the fantasy/sci-fi movie, novel, novella, or story read in class. The actual work will begin after your prequel. A visual related to the scene presented in the prequel must be submitted along with the story.

b. The prequel should be a minimum of **600 words**.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content, 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity, 5 marks for Visual**

## **7. Fairy Tale Character Jump**

a. Assume an already developed character seen in a fairy tale (like Cinderella for example) “**appears**” in another fairy tale (like Snow White, for example). What new conflicts might be faced? Using the characteristics of a fairy tale and The characters’ personalities as a guide, creating a new fairy tale.

b. It should be a minimum of **600 words**.

c. Read the new fairy tale aloud to fellow students and illustrate one scene from your new fairy tale with a visual.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content, 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity, 5 marks for the Visual**

## **8. Changing Perspectives Related to a Character**

a. Retell a fantasy or science fiction story, fairy tale, fable, etc., from another key character’s point of view. **For example, “The Three Little Pigs” could be told from the wolf’s perspective.** Get a copy of the actual work to be changed. Use the first-person point of view. Your creation should be at least **600 words long**, and you must submit a visual along with your work. Consider how the character tells the story.

b. You will be assessed based on creativity of re-telling the story, cohesiveness of story's new viewpoint, the appropriateness of the visual, and the accuracy of the character's perspective.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content, 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity, 5 marks for the Visual**

## **9. Changing Perspectives Related to an Object**

a. Retell a fantasy or science fiction story, fairy tale, fable, etc., from an object's point of view. **For example, "Snow White" could be told from the mirror's perspective.**

b. Get a copy of the actual work to be changed. Use the first-person point of view. Your creation should be at least **600 words long**, and you need to submit a visual along with your work.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content, 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity, 5 marks for the Visual**

## **10. Life-size Model**

a. Create a life-size model of one of your favorite fantasy/sci-fi characters and dress him/her as given in the film, novel, novella, or story. Stand behind the life-size visual and describe yourself as that character. Give details about your life, your adventures, and your relationships. Add creative expression when speaking.

b. Submit a written explanation of what you say for your chosen character **(minimum of 300 words).**

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Visual (accuracy, creativity; 10 marks for Content; 10 marks for Presentation (creative expression, vocal projection)**

## **11. Script Writing**

a. Rewrite the fantasy/sci-fi story or portion of the fantasy/sci-fi novel or novella as a play. **Include stage directions, actions, and characters' feelings in parentheses (minimum 800 words).**

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content. 3 marks for Writing Style, 2 marks for Creativity**

## **12. Miniature Scene**

- a. Build a miniature stage setting of a scene in the fantasy/sci-fi novel, story, novella, or movie. Detail and accuracy are very important. Be creative in your choice of materials.
- b. Include a written explanation of the scene's significance to the selected work (minimum 300 words).

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Visual; 10 marks for Written Explanation**

## **13. Original Song**

- a. Write the lyrics (along with a chorus) and perform an original song that tells the story of the fantasy/sci-fi book, story, novella, or movie discussed in class. The song must have a minimum of twenty lines (not including the chorus).

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content and Writing Style; 10 marks for Performance**

## **14. Movie Posters**

- a. Make two movie posters about the fantasy/sci-fi novel, novella, or short story using different media (one could be painted, for example, while the other is drawn or computer-generated).
- b. Include critics' comments, film ratings, visuals, a plot summary (one paragraph giving enough details to entice people to come to it), interesting headlines to catch your audience's interest, a film title (make it original!), etc.
- c. Both posters should have a large visual drawing the audience's attention
- d. Use different visuals, comments, plot summaries, and other elements for both posters.

**Evaluation for each poster: 5 marks for Presentation (neatness; eye-catching); 10 marks for Content; 5 marks for Visuals**

## **15. Comic Strip**

- a. Draw a comic strip (minimum of eight frames) of your favorite scene in a fantasy/sci-fi movie or a novel. If you are doing a short story, you should do the entire story in several frames. Each frame must be hand-drawn and colored, not computer-generated.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content; 10 marks for Artistry and Creativity**



## **16. Character Collage**

- a. Using a combination of visuals, quotations directly from the fantasy/sci-fi work (about the character or spoken by him/her), and magazine headlines, create a collage about your character (taken from a movie, story, novel, or novella we have covered). Each component (magazine headlines, quotations, and visuals) should appear equally throughout the collage.
- b. The character's name should appear on the bristol board in large letters.

**Evaluation: 5 marks for Presentation; 10 marks for Content**

## **17. Mini-Novel or Story**

- a. Condense your fantasy/sci-fi novel, novella, or short story into a mini-version by emphasizing key details in a book that is much smaller than usual (see the teacher, for example). On each page, the storyline and characters are presented, accompanied by a visual. You should tell it as the author would but in a more condensed style. **The book must be at least ten pages long. Design an interesting cover page.**

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content; 10 marks for Visuals**

## **18. Lost, Found, Warning, or Wanted Posters**

- a. Create two posters related to key characters or objects lost, found, or wanted in the fantasy/sci-fi movie, story, novella, or novel OR create a warning to people about a serious situation (details should be given based on the movie/book).
- b. Each Lost, Found, or Wanted poster must include a physical description of the person/item, a hand-drawn visual of the person/item, psychological traits (with supporting evidence) and outlook (if doing a character), and the type of places the character frequently haunts (if doing a character), places where the object has been seen, people who have had the object before, etc.. For a Warning Poster, include a hand-drawn visual, warnings/dangers, signs of what to look for, advice on what to do, etc..

**Evaluation: 5 marks for Presentation (neatness; eye-catching); 10 marks for Content; 5 marks for Visuals**

## **19. Diorama**

a. Construct a diorama (a three-dimensional scene that includes models of people, buildings, plants, and animals) of one of the main scenes in a fantasy/sci-fi book, novella, movie, or story. Include a written description of the scene's significance **(minimum 300 words)**.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for the Diorama (detail, creativity); 10 marks for the Written Explanation**

## **20. Book Jacket**

a. Design or redesign a book jacket (front and back covers) with an inside Summary for a fantasy/sci-fi book, novella, or story. The summary is written in paragraph form and should entice readers to read further, with a minimum of 300 words. The book jacket and the hand-drawn visual must be original for the work. Please include fascinating and essential information on the back cover (minimum of 300 words). Please examine an actual book jacket before attempting this.

**Evaluation: 10 marks for Content; 10 marks for Cover, including visual**