

**Language Arts 8**  
***The Vanishing Point***

**Grade 8**  
**Language Arts**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup> – April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Alexandra Middle School**  
**TA: Erin Sand**  
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## **Rationale**

This novel study will incorporate the main focus of Language Arts and enable students to explore communication, symbols, and themes while reading the novel *The Vanishing Point* by Louise Hawes. This novel study will also allow students to reflect on their own lives and personal identities by being able to examine the events happening in the story during the Renaissance and comparing them to our world today. They will compare how things have changed and may have not changed all that much. We will also examine one of the main themes of the main character, Lavinia Fontana, and her struggle of never being enough in her father's eyes. How this feels and how students can relate to moments in their own lives where they also may have felt this way. Finally the final project of this novel study will allow students to display their overall knowledge of the book. They will take the quotes from the book itself and examining how the main themes are expressed. Then put these ideas into symbols and pictures to create a collage of what this novel meant to them.

Overall my main hope for this novel is that students will be able to use all six strands of Language Arts; listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing, to be able to explore the major themes in this historical novel. Listening and speaking about the story will allow students to imagine their own world that encompasses the characters in the novel and be able to share these thoughts and interpretations with others. Reading and writing will enable students to interpret the words in the story and further express their understandings for themselves. Viewing and representing will allow them to acknowledge the use of symbols, both pictures and words that portray significant meaning not only to the novel but their lives as well.

## **Overview**

The aim of English language arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

## **General Outcome 1**

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences.

- 1.1 Discover and explore
- 1.2 Clarify and extend

## **General Outcome 2**

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts.

- 2.1 Use strategies and cues
- 2.2 Respond to texts
- 2.3 Understand forms, elements and techniques
- 2.4 Create original text

## **General Outcome 3**

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to manage ideas and information.

- 3.1 Plan and focus
- 3.2 Select and process
- 3.3 Organize, record and evaluate
- 3.4 Share and review

## **General Outcome 4**

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.

- 4.1 Enhance and improve
- 4.2 Attend to conventions
- 4.3 Present and share

## **General Outcome 5**

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to respect, support and collaborate with others.

- 5.1 Respect others and strengthen community
- 5.2 Work within a group

## **Unit Skills**

- Critically Analyze Text
- Create Own Meaning
- Organize main ideas and themes
- Share Meaning with others
- Respect other's interpretations

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Overview**

Lesson #1 (March 24<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 1**

Introduce novel and Window Pane Assignment, Explain final project, Read Ch. 1

*GLO 1*

PROJECT CONTRACT & WINDOW PANE

Lesson #2 (March 25<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 2**

Read Ch. 2 and Hand in Project Contract

*GLO 1*

REVIEW PROJECT CONTRACT/CHOICE

Lesson #3 (March 26<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 3 & 4**

Jot Thought about Ch. 1 & 2, Add to Window Pane, Read Chapter 3 & 4

*GLO 1-5*

Lesson #4 (March 27<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 5**

Mix-Freeze-Group about Ch. 3 & 4, Add to Window Pane, Read Chapter 5,  
Chapter 5 question

HW: Read Chapter 6 & 7

*GLO 1-5*

CHAPTER 5 QUESTION

Lesson #5 (March 30<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 8 & 9**

One Stray about Ch. 6 & 7, Read Chapter 8 & 9

*GLO 1-3 & 5*

Lesson #5 (March 31<sup>st</sup>):

**Chapter 9 Question**

Stand Up-Hand Up-Pair Up about Ch. 8 & 9, Add to Window Pane Ch. 5-9

HW: Chapter 9 question

*GLO 1-5*

CHAPTER 9 QUESTION & GIVE FEEDBACK ON WINDOW PANE

Lesson #6 (April 1<sup>st</sup>):

**Read Chapter 10**

Read Chapter 10, Showdown and Reflection Ch. 1-10

*GLO 1-5*

REFLECTION & COLLAGE LIST FEEDBACK

Lesson #7 (April 2<sup>nd</sup>):

**Chapter 11 Question**

Read Chapter 11, Add to Window Pane Ch. 11, Chapter 11 Question

*GLO 1-3*

CHAPTER 11 QUESTION & CHAPTER 9 QUESTION DUE

Easter Break (April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>):

HW: Read Chapter 12-14 and Window Pane due when back

Lesson #8 (April 13<sup>th</sup>):

**Chapter 15 Question**

Story Sequence for Ch.1-14, Add to Window Pane Ch. 12-14, Read Chapter 15

HW: Chapter 15 question

*GLO 1-5*

CHAPTER 15 QUESTION

Lesson #9 (April 14<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 16**

Read Ch. 16, Simultaneous Round Table about Ch. 15 & 16, Add to Window Pane Ch. 15 & 16

*GLO 1-5*

Lesson #10 (April 15<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 17**

Read Ch. 17, Sketch While Listen and Reflect Ch. 15-17, Add to Window Pane Ch. 17

*GLO 1-5*

CHAPTER 15 QUESTION DUE & REFLECTION, COLLAGE LIST FEEDBACK

Lesson #11 (April 16<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 18 & 19**

Read Ch. 18, Add to Window Pane, Read Ch. 19, Add to Window Pane

*GLO 1-3*

GIVE FEEDBACK ON WINDOW PANE

Lesson #12 (April 17<sup>th</sup>):

**Read Chapter 20**

Read Chapter 20, Inside-Outside Circle Ch. 18-20 and Reflection, Add to Window Pane Ch. 20

HW: Chapter 20 Question

*GLO 1-5*

CHAPTER 20 QUESTION & REFLECTION

Lesson #13 (April 20<sup>th</sup>):

**Project Paragraph**

Write paragraph about project, Review

*GLO 1-5*

PROJECT PARAGRAPH

Lesson #14 (April 21<sup>st</sup>):

**Test**

Hand in Project and Window Pane, Write Test

*GLO 1-3*

TEST, WINDOW PANE, PROJECT

Lesson #15 & 16 (April 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>):

**Present Projects**

Students give 5 min. presentation about project

*GLO 1-5*

CHECKLIST AND PEER FEEDBACK

## Assessment and Activities

### ***The Vanishing Point Collage Project***

**Your Goal:** To create a collage including quotes from the novel and images representing the main themes and events that take place in the novel. Your collage can be in medium of your choosing and must include at least **5 quotes** and **10 images** and designed in a clear, concise and neat format.

#### **Overall Expectations:**

- Critically analyze novel.
- Create own meaning of novel's imagery, symbolism, and quotes.
- Organize main ideas and themes in collage.
- Explain your meaning and use of imagery and quotes within collage.
- Share own meaning and collage with others.
- Respect each other's interpretations and work.

#### **Your Collage:**

1. Pick your medium. You can choose from the below suggestions:
  - Painting
  - Drawing
  - Cut & Paste Collage (Digital or Physical)
  - Your Choice (**Must be okayed by Miss Fornwald**)
  - Diorama
  - Slideshow
  - Online Photo Collage
2. Keep track of filling in your Window Pane Table for each Chapter. Including main chapter events, quotes, images/symbols, and chapter questions.
3. Go back to Window Pane and decide on images and quotes you may want to use in your collage. Create a list that will be handed in to me and given feedback. **Chapter 1-10:** April 1<sup>st</sup> **Chapter 11-17:** April 15<sup>th</sup>
4. Create your collage. **This will be done outside of class time. Keeping up with Window Pane will allow this to be a much easier task.**
5. Write a paragraph about your collage. You will get class time on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Your paragraph must include:
6. Present Project to Class. This will be a short presentation to the class explaining the ideas you wrote about in your paragraph.

**Project and Paragraph Due:** April 21<sup>st</sup>      **Presentation:** April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>