

English 12

Learning Guide 11: Inquiry Unit Drama

What you will hand in:

- Critical review of a drama
- Verbal Visual Collage

Activity 1: Select and watch your drama selection

By now you should be finished, or almost finished, your novel, and you should have written your big question.

Your drama selection can be in script format, a live production, or be a professionally produced movie. It must be narrative (tell a story), so documentaries will not work well for this selection, but you can use a documentary for your “free choice” later in the Inquiry project, so make a note if you find a good one while looking for your drama. Your drama **MUST** have something to do with your inquiry question. Your drama should be meaningful and important enough to contribute to your thinking about your inquiry question.

YOU CANNOT USE THE MOVIE VERSION OF YOUR NOVEL FOR THESE ASSIGNMENTS.

You need to complete **BOTH** of the assignments below:

Activity 2: Critical Review of the Drama

A film review is written for a magazine, or newspaper and its purpose is to give people an idea of what the movie or play is like before they see it. For your inquiry unit, you may choose a movie, a live theatre performance, or a script. This must have something to do with your Big Question.

Your assignment is to write a film review of the movie you have selected to go with your “Big Question”. You must carefully view the movie, and because you will need to include quotes or specific examples, you should have a copy that you can view more than once: a DVD, a Netflix selection, or a recorded presentation. Of course, if you are viewing a live presentation, this may not be possible. In this case, you should write your review as soon as possible after seeing the performance. In your review, you should include the following information:

- If it is a script, you need to include the title, author and publishing details in the opening paragraph. If it is a live production, you need to mention the title, author, director, main actors, the date and venue of the performance. If it is a movie, you need to mention the title, director,

year, author, main actors, and country of production. Since this is tough to work into an opening with an interesting hook, many magazines just list these detail as a header, above the article itself, and I suggest you do the same.

- Come up with a creative title. This is your first chance to “hook” your reader.
- Begin by giving the gist of the plot – the general situation, setting, and main problem. DON'T give the end away.
- In your next paragraph, explain how it relates to your big question. Why did you choose it? What does this drama have to add to a discussion of your big idea?
- In the next paragraph or two, give your opinion of the drama. Was it well done? What did you like about it? What was good? What could have been done better?
- Finish with a recommendation to the reader. Should your readers invest their time and money viewing this drama? What kind of person would be interested.

Aim for about 250 – 300 words. This should be a polished piece of writing, word-processed or written in ink.

I will be marking for:

- Your citation of the play, either as “top” information, or in the opening lines.
- Your creative title.
- Your plot summary.
- Your discussion of the “big question”
- Your opinion of the drama
- Your recommendation
- Your writing
- Your mechanics.

As always, I am happy to discuss your assignment with you. See me with any questions!



Activity 3: Theme Project: Verbal Visual Collage

For your theme project, you are going to identify the theme of your drama.



A VERBAL-VISUAL COLLAGE uses visuals (drawings, sketches, illustrations from magazines, photographs, etc.) mixed with writing to get at the meaning, the theme(s), the intent of the drama you have studied. This assignment is NOT about art but about INSIGHT. However, the assignment uses the “stuff” of the artistic and graphic world to help make its point. Your collage should be on at least regular blank paper (8 ½ x 11-inch), or you can use your own paper to make something poster sized.

- ❑ Read the evaluation sheet and note how your work will be marked.
- ❑ Write an eloquent theme statement that reflects the main thought behind your drama. Remember that a theme must be:
 - A sentence, not just a word. (“War is destructive psychologically”, not just “War”)
 - Universal, not just specific to this one text (“Ambition can lead people to do evil things”, not “Macbeth was too ambitious”)
 - About the drama as an entire unit, not just one section or part
 - Written in an original and thoughtful way, and not as a cliché.
- ❑ Choose at least five words, phrases, or quotations from your play that reflect this theme.
- ❑ Choose at least five images, pictures, or symbols that represent this theme. These really should be your own (I am not worried about your artistic ability). If you do “borrow” pictures from the Internet or from a magazine, please credit your sources. You really should manipulate these images in some way (turn them into a collage, colour them, etc.) rather than just place use someone else’s image.
- ❑ The title of your novel and the author must appear on your poster.
- ❑ On the back of the collage, write or paste an explanation of **at least two paragraphs** explaining the intent and meaning of the pictures and verbal statements on your collage.

VERBAL-VISUAL COLLAGE

EVALUATION SHEET

Name _____

Date submitted: _____

	I am happy with this	Teacher's comments
I have written an eloquent theme statement that reflects my motif.		
My collage shows that I have read and understood my novel		
I have included at least five visual images that reflect my theme		
I have included at least 5 quotes from the novel		
I have arranged my collage in a creative and appealing way that shows good workmanship		
The written explanation of my choice of images, quotations, and comments is clear and concise.		
Total		

When you mark my collage, I would like you to notice . . .