

## Overview for Grade 4 Unit 4, *The Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction*

Session/Minilesson		Conferring and Small-Group Work	Mid-Workshop Teaching	Share
<b>BEND I: Writing about Reading: Literary Essays</b>				
1	Close Reading to Generate Ideas about a Text	Supporting Close Reading	Developing the Eyes to See and the Language to Discuss What Others Overlook	Using Charts from Previous Units
2	Gathering Writing by Studying Characters	Revising Initial Theories	Revising Theories about Characters	Writing to Know Characters
3	Elaborating on Written Ideas Using Prompts	Elaborating on Theories about Characters	Developing Powerful Thought	Elaborating on Central Ideas
4	Finding and Testing a Thesis	The Small Size of a Thesis Makes It Perfect for Learning about Revision	Deciding on Your Boxes and Bullets for an Essay	Developing Systems to Collect Essay Materials
5	Using Stories as Evidence	Collecting and Angling Stories to Support Ideas	Using Precise Words	Connecting Stories to Big Ideas
6	Citing Textual Evidence	Evaluating Evidence for a Claim	Making Sure Evidence Speaks for Itself	Transitional Phrases for Introducing Quotes
7	Using Lists as Evidence	Asking and Answering Questions on the Page	Deciding on the Weak Spots in an Argument and Collecting to Strengthen Those Spots	Reading Lists Aloud
8	Putting It All Together: Constructing Literary Essays	Making Parts into a Cohesive Whole	Piecing Together Evidence	Rereading as a Means to Revise and Then Setting Goals
<b>BEND II: Raising the Quality of Literary Essays</b>				
9	Writing to Discover What a Story Is <i>Really</i> About	Celebrating Successes, Anticipating Struggles	Remembering to Move Up and Down the Ladder of Abstraction	Using Sentence Starters to Develop New Thinking
10	Adding Complexity to Our Ideas	Stretching Initial Ideas	Simple Words that Set Us on New Paths of Thought	Developing Ideas and Supports
11	Flash-Drafting Literary Essays	Coaching Writers to See More and Do More to Ratchet up Their Work	Flash-Drafting a Second Literary Essay	Choosing an Essay to Revise
12	Beginnings and Endings	Addressing Struggles	Using the Language of Literary Scholars	Writing Conclusions
13	Using Descriptions of an Author's Craft as Evidence	Supporting the Study of Authors' Craft	Recognizing Symbols	Considering Purpose in Crafting
14	Letter to Teachers: Editing			
<b>BEND III: Writing Compare-and-Contrast Essays</b>				
15	Building the Muscles to Compare and Contrast	Deepening Students' Initial Observations	Finding Patterns and Ideas in Our Observations	Strategies for Comparing and Contrasting
16	Comparing and Contrasting Familiar Texts	Bringing All You Know to This Important Work	Using Templates to Craft Comparative Essays	Being Literary Scholars
17	Using Yesterday's Learning, Today and Always	Essayists Think about <i>How</i> , Not Just <i>What</i>	Pushing Initial Ideas and Thoughts about Texts Further	Being Critical Friends
18	Developing Distinct Lines of Thought	Simplicity Versus Complexity	Using Your Partner to Make Sure Your Writing Is Clear	Freewriting for New Ideas
19	Letter to Teachers: Exploring Commas			
20	Letter to Teachers: A Celebration			