

# Canon Revival

## Supplementing Classic Literature Through Young Adult Novels

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### Unit Outcomes

Students will critically analyze YA texts for themes, plot events, and character development(s) in preparation for analyses of classic literature

Students will relate to and engage with modern YA texts due to accessible language, characters, and contexts. These connections will serve as background knowledge when reading the paired classic novels.

### Iowa Common Core Standards: Writing

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. **(W.9–10.1)**

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. **(W.9–10.7)**

### Iowa Common Core Standards: Reading

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. **(RL.9–10.1)**

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text. **(RL.9–10.2)**

### Inaccessibility of Classic Literature

Traditional curricula in secondary English/Language Arts classrooms requires that students read, interpret, and analyze classic literature. These texts ask that students interpret dated or inaccessible language and analyze complex or multiple themes, all while reading literature that is distanced from them in terms of relevance and context.

### Addressing the Issue: Scaffolding

When paired successfully, Young Adult literature can be taught as precursors for three classic texts due to their similarities in terms of major plot events, themes, and character developments.

### Focus Objectives

#### Theme

Students will identify themes present in YA precursor novels and analyze the connections between the YA text and the classic.

Students will compare and contrast the themes found in the YA precursor novel to the themes found in the classic text.

#### Plot

Students will summarize the plot of their YA novel through both oral and written tasks.

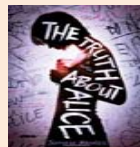
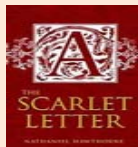
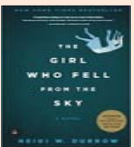
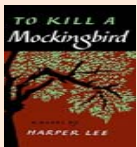
Students will research the plot of the classic pairing and analyze the similarities and differences to the YA precursor text.

#### Character Development

Students will analyze how a character develops throughout a text and why this development is important to the text as a whole.

Students will research and compare/contrast a character from the YA precursor novel to a character from the paired classic novel.

### Text Pairings



### Text Comparison Charts

#### *The Scarlet Letter*

**Plot Events:** Hester Prynne is charged with adultery and exiled from town with her baby daughter, Pearl. Controversy surrounds Pearl's paternal origin.

#### *The Truth About Alice*

**Plot Events:** Alice is judged as sexually promiscuous by peers at school, gossip about her reputation worsens when she is blamed for causing the star football player's death, Alice befriends the school's "social outcast."

**Shared Themes:** Religion, hypocrisy, sexuality, revenge, isolation, guilt

**Character Development:** Personal growth, working through adversity, realizing others' opinions don't define yourself

#### *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Plot Events:** Tom Robinson's trial; Bob Ewell attacks Jem and Scout; Jem, Scout, and Dill's fascination with mysterious Boo.

#### *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*

**Plot Events:** White mother tries to kill her biracial children to shield them from racism. Rachel survives, but struggles with her racial identity and the type of person she wants to be.

**Shared Themes:** Identity, family, prejudice, discrimination, right v. wrong, racial injustice, morality, (loss of) innocence

**Character Development:** Personal growth, realizations of identity, understanding of others

#### *The Lord of the Flies*

**Plot Events:** Plane crash, boys stranded on an island without adult supervision or guidance, survival situations.

#### *Nothing*

**Plot Events:** One day Pierre realizes there is no "point" to life, which makes his schoolmates uncomfortable. They begin to question their own authority and the society they live in.

**Shared Themes:** Loss of innocence, allegory, authority, rules of society, savagery v. civilization

**Character Development:** Audience's understanding of character motivations and goals, maturation of characters