

Teaching a Leveled Selection

Introduction

This guide discusses teaching a Prentice Hall Literature leveled selection for Grades 6–10. It talks about the organization of the Selection Choices feature and the available resources to help plan instruction. Next, it discusses the before, during, and after reading activities, including the activities available on PH Lit Online. Finally, this guide examines selection assessments.

Selection Choices Organization

The Selection Choices feature appears several times in every unit. There are reading skills listed for each selection pair. The pair always includes an accessible and a more challenging literature selection. The same skills are taught for both. This way, teachers can choose the selection most appropriate for students based on their reading ability.

Each selection contains before, during, and after reading activities. Integrated Language Skills include grammar, writing, listening, speaking, research, and technology activities to deepen understanding of the literature. Finally, Test Practice assesses mastery of reading skills after students complete two Selection Choice features.

Planning to Teach a Leveled Selection

First turn to the Time and Resource Manager to begin planning for instruction. On the next page is the Lesson Pacing Guide, which provides detailed lesson plans and lists the lesson objectives.

Lesson Pacing Guide

DAY 1 Preteach

- Administer the Reading and Vocabulary Warm-ups (*Unit 1 Resources*, pp. 30–33 or 48–51) as necessary.
- Introduce the Reading Skill: Context Clues. (1)
- Introduce the Literary Analysis concept: Narrative Text. (2)
- Distribute copies of the appropriate graphic organizer for the Reading Skill (*Graphic Organizer Transparencies*, pp. 6–8). (3)
- Distribute copies of the appropriate graphic organizer for Literary Analysis (*Graphic Organizer Transparencies*, pp. 3–5). (4)
- Teach the selection vocabulary. (5)
- Introduce the Word Study skill.

DAYS 2–3 Preteach/Teach

- Build background with the Background feature. (6)
- Develop thematic vocabulary and thematic thinking with Writing About the Big Question.
- Prepare students to read with the Activating Prior Knowledge activities (TE). (7)
- Informally monitor comprehension while students read. (8)
- Use the Reading Check questions to confirm comprehension.
- Develop students' ability to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, using the Context Clues questions. (9)
- Develop students' understanding of narrative text, using the Narrative Text questions. (10)
- Reinforce vocabulary with the Vocabulary notes. (11)

DAY 4 Assess

- Assess students' comprehension and mastery of the skills by having them answer the Critical Thinking, Reading Skill, and Literary Analysis questions. (12)
- Have students complete the Vocabulary Practice activities. (13)
- Have students complete the Word Study activities.

DAY 5 Extend/Assess

- Have students complete the Grammar lesson. (14)
- Have students complete the Writing activity and write a compare-and-contrast essay. (You may assign as homework.) (15)
- Extend learning by having students complete the Listening and Speaking activity, a dramatic reading. As an alternative, assign them "When Animals Help People" or "Learning the Truth in China" in *Reality Central*. (16)
- Administer Selection Test A or B (*Unit 1 Resources*, pp. 42–47 or 63–68). (17)

Next, the Guide to Selected Leveled Resources lists suggested resources to support all learners during instruction. This information displays core, extended, and intensive support for both selections in an easy-to-read table.

The following page shows the Visual Guide to Featured Selection Resources. This guide lists leveled instructional resources. The icons indicate which resources are appropriate for various learners. Depending on the students, use a few or many of these resources.

All of this information helps to plan and personalize instruction in a time-efficient manner.

Choosing a Selection

The next page in the Teacher’s Edition shows the Before You Read activities. Introduce the two selections to students. The Accessibility at a Glance chart compares the two selections by criteria such as language complexity, vocabulary, and lexile.

Either assign one selection to the entire class or use both selections depending on whether the class has students with mixed abilities. Regardless of the selection students read, all students will learn the same skills.

The Selection Skills Guide below the story descriptions helps students practice these skills while reading either selection.

Selection Skills Guide

Practice these skills with either “*Papa’s Parrot*” (p. 26) or “*MK*” (p. 34).

- Identify context clues. Use context clues to unlock meaning
- Understand narrative text
- Record a narrative sequence of events
- Identify common and proper nouns
- Write a brief compare-and-contrast essay
- Deliver a dramatic reading

Before You Read Activities

Each literature pair focuses on specific selection skills. These typically include reading and literary skills. As an example, *Papa’s Parrot* and *mk* provide practice on using context clues, understanding narrative text, and sequencing story events with a narration chart. Explicitly teach these skills to all students regardless of the selection they read. There are worksheets in the unit resources book for additional skills practice.

If the more challenging text is assigned to the entire class, there are suggestions in the Teacher’s Edition for preparing lower-level students to read this selection.

Making Connections

Turn to the next page to see the Making Connections activities for one selection. Each selection includes activities to help students make connections to the Big Question, learn new vocabulary, meet the author, and read background information about the story. Look at the activities for students reading *Papa’s Parrot*. Notice the sentence starters that help students reflect on the Big Question. New vocabulary is introduced. The next page introduces the author and provides background information about parrots. Suggestions for extended support are available in the Teacher’s Edition.

PH Lit Online

Look at the activities on PH Lit Online. From the table of contents, click the title of the selection and choose **View** from the pop-up menu. The Before You Read activities are listed below the red arrow. The Get Connected Video relates to the selection theme and students type their

response to a writing prompt. Students then connect the story to the Big Question and complete the writing activity online. Meet the Author introduces the author, and a Background Video builds context for the story. Vocabulary Central features the key vocabulary words. Reading Skill and Literary Analysis provide an explanation of the skills and link to the printable skill worksheets.

While You Read Activities

Students can read selections in the textbook, in a Reader's Notebook, and online. Graphic organizers help students practice the literary skill as they read. Students who need additional reading support can use leveled warm-ups and partially-completed graphic organizers.

Next, students think critically about the selection by answering comprehension questions. Students again revisit the Big Question and make connections to the selection.

PH Lit Online

While You Read on PH Lit Online begins with vocabulary and reading warm-ups. The online selection provides reading support similar to the support provided in the textbook and Reader's Notebooks. Students can highlight important sections of the text. They can also interact with the text by writing notes and responding to prompts by typing into text boxes as they read.

The Critical Thinking section provides the comprehension questions with space for typing responses.

After You Read Activities

The After You Read activities provide additional practice of selection skills. For example, students reading *Papa's Parrot* create a chart about context clues, answer questions applying what they know about narratives, and explain their understanding of vocabulary words used in context.

Every leveled selection pair also provides leveled assessment options to determine students' grasp of the reading skills. Notice the Assessment Resources box. Prentice Hall Literature helps teachers personalize assessment in addition to personalizing instruction.

Integrated Language Skills

All students complete the Integrated Language Skills activities that link to selection content. These include grammar, writing, and either listening and speaking or research and technology activities. Every selection pair addresses different sets of skills.

The writing practice typically includes a brief essay and a prewriting activity. The prewriting activity prepares students for the Writing Workshop and reinforces an important step of the writing process.

Again, the Teacher's Edition provides a Teaching Resources box, which highlights the leveled resources available for different learners.

PH Lit Online

The online After You Read activities contain the same skill practice that appears in the textbook. Each selection also provides the Integrated Language Skills practice. Students watch a Grammar Tutorial and complete Grammar Practice activities online. The Writing section

includes a link to the printable writing worksheet. The Listening and Speaking activities complete the instruction for this selection pair.

Test Practice

Practice tests assess how well students grasp the reading and literary skills. There are two practice tests per unit.

A second pair of leveled selections provides additional skill practice. As an example, the first pair of leveled selections may focus on using context clues to unlock meaning and learning about narrative writing while the second pair of leveled selections focuses on using the strategy of rereading to confirm meaning and analyzing literature based on point of view.

After completing instruction of both selection pairs, Test Practice provides an authentic assessment to determine mastery of reading skills. This test includes reading a fiction and nonfiction selection then answering questions. Test Practice also includes Writing for Assessment, which is a necessary skill for many high-stakes tests.

Writing for Assessment

Connecting Across Texts
Explain how the meaning of the word *sealed* differs in each passage. Write a brief paragraph, using details from both passages to support your answer.

Remember that assessments are also available online. These tests provide immediate feedback to students and automatically assign remediation based on the student's test score.

Review

This guide explained the Selection Choices feature in Prentice Hall Literature for Grades 6–10. It also covered the following topics:

- The Selection Choices provide a pair of leveled selections for students to practice explicitly taught reading skills.
- The Time and Resource Manager provides detailed lesson plans for a variety of learners.
- The Visual Guide to Featured Selection Resources provides an easy way to identify leveled resources for both selections.
- Before, during, and after reading activities support instruction and practice of important reading and literary skills.
- Selection tests and test practice determine mastery of skills and inform instruction to ensure meeting lesson objectives.