*Explorations in Literature*, Fourth Edition

Lesson Plan Overview

| **Day(s)** | Topic1 | Pages | Support Materials2 | Bible Integration |
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| ***Unit 1: Courage*** |
| 1 | Courage | 2–3 | Bulletin Board “What Have You Read?” | Scriptural Application: Men and women of courage mentioned in the Bible and some who lacked courageDiscussion: Private acts of courage (Heb. 13:5–6) |
| 2–3 | “‘Twas a Dark and Dreary Night”Thinking Zone | 4–9 | Quiz 1ATeaching Help 1ATeaching Help 1BWord List 1A | Scriptural Application: Danger of being controlled by pride (2 Chron. 32:26; Ps. 10:4; etc.)Scriptural Application: Danger of trying to be what one is not (Matt. 23:13–33)Scriptural Application: Biblical exhortation to be truthful (Prov. 12:22) |
| 4–5 | “Run, Boy, Run!”Thinking Zone | 10–19 | Quiz 1BTeaching Help 1C | Scriptural Application: Biblical comparison of challenge of Christian growth to challenge of running in athletic contest (1 Cor. 9:23–27; Phil. 3:13–14; etc.)Scriptural Application: Talents to be laid on God’s altar |
| 6 | *Cinquain Poem* | *W1* | *Writing Worksheet 1A**Writing Rubric 1A* |  |
| 7 | “The Most Important Day”Thinking Zone“Columbus”Thinking Zone | 20–26 | Quiz 1CQuiz 1DTeaching Help 1DTeaching Help 1EReading Standardized Test Practice 1 | Scriptural Application: True repentance requires courageScriptural Application: Value of perseverance |
| 8–9 | “The Friend Inside”Thinking Zone | 27–34 | Quiz 1ETeaching Help 1FVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 1A | Scriptural Application: Importance of balance in responding to temptation to do wrongThinking Zone: Discernment based on God’s Word (1 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:15; etc.) |
| 10–11 | “Yes, Your Honesty”Thinking Zone | 35–41 | Quiz 1FTeaching Help 1GWord List 1B | Scriptural Application: Courage necessary for speaking (Dan. 4; Esther 5)Scriptural Application: Importance of choosing friends wisely (Prov. 13:20)Thinking Zone: Job’s challenge (Job 22:6–11; 42:7–17) |
| 12–14 | “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi”Thinking Zone | 42–55 | Quiz 1GTeaching Help 1H | Scriptural Application: Example of wisdom, self-discipline, and persistence |
| 15–16 | “A Kind of Murder”Thinking Zone | 56–63 | Quiz 1HBulletin Board “Fall for Explorations”Teaching Help 1I | Scriptural Application: Analysis of point of view in Daniel 3–4Scriptural Application: Bible characters who spoke out for truth |
| 17–18 | *Letter* | *W2* | *Writing Worksheet 1B**Writing Rubric 1B* |  |
| 19–20 | “Edith Cavell”Thinking Zone | 64–70 | Quiz 1ITeaching Help 1JTeaching Help 1K | Scriptural Application: Dialogue and character development in Scripture (Gen. 25:27–34)Scriptural Application: Enablement to face hard times courageously (Josh. 1:8–9) |
| 21 | “Whether by Life or by Death”“Spikenard Very Precious”Thinking Zone | 71–79 | Quiz 1JBulletin Board “Character-quain”ESL Exercise 1 | Scriptural Application: Called to suffer, but not alone (1 Pet. 2:20–25)Scriptural Application: Death for a Christian, union with Christ (Phil. 1:20–24)Thinking Zone: Scriptural allusions (Phil. 4:7; Col. 3:15; etc.); Mark 14:3 and theme |
| 22 | “Stand Up for Jesus”The Bible and CourageUnit 1 Review | 80–83 | Vocabulary Standardized Test Practice 1B | Discussion: The scriptural basis for the hymn (Eph. 6:11; Ex. 10:11) |
| 23 | Unit 1 Test |
| ***Unit 2: Nature and Man*** |
| 24 | Nature and Man | 86–87 | Teaching Help 2A | Nature and Man (Ps. 19; Gen. 1:28; 9:1–7; etc.)Scriptural Application: Matching functions of nature with Scripture (Jonah 1:4; Gen. 1:26, 28; etc.) |
| 25 | “Swift Things Are Beautiful”“The Panther”“The Rhinoceros”“Catalogue”Thinking Zone | 88–92 | Quiz 2A | Scriptural Application: Poetry as a form of written expression carries God’s approval |
| 26 | *Humorous Poem* | *W3* | *Writing Worksheet 2A**Writing Rubric 2A* |  |
| 27–28 | “The Mahogany Fox”Thinking Zone | 93–100 | Quiz 2BTeaching Help 2BTeaching Help 2CWord List 2A | Scriptural Application: Fox metaphor in Scripture |
| 29 | “Wild Blackberries”Thinking Zone | 101–3 | Quiz 2CTeaching Help 2D | Scriptural Application: Accomplishment preceded by trials and earnest labor (Ps. 126:5–6; 2 Cor. 9:6; etc.)Scriptural Application: Imagery used in Genesis 49:8–12, which predicts coming of Christ |
| 30–31 | “The Life and Death of a Western Gladiator”Thinking Zone | 104–110 | Quiz 2DTeaching Help 2E | Thinking Zone: Man’s dominion mandate (Gen. 1:28; 9:1–3) |
| 32 | “The King’s Provider”Thinking Zone  | 111–14 | Quiz 2ETeaching Help 2FReading Standardized Test Practice 2A | Scriptural Application: Two basic relationships between man and nature, adversarial and cooperative |
| 33 | “Snapshot of a Dog”Thinking Zone | 115–19 | Quiz 2FTeaching Help 2GReading Standardized Test Practice 2BVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 2A |  |
| 34–36 | *Hatchet*Thinking Zone | 120–31 | Quiz 2GTeaching Help 2HTeaching Help 2IWord List 2B | Scriptural Application: God’s sovereignty (Dan. 4:35; Jonah 1:4)Scriptural Application: Creationism not Darwinism (Gen. 1:26–28)Scriptural Application: The value of human life (Ps. 139:13–16) |
| 37 | “Old Sly Eye”Thinking Zone | 132–38 | Quiz 2HTeaching Help 2J |  |
| 38–39 | “The Rainy Day”“Midnight Storm”“In Memory of My Dear Grandchild”“The Windmill”Thinking Zone | 139–44 | Quiz 2ITeaching Help 2KVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 2B | Scriptural Application: Use of repetition in Hebrew poetry (Ps. 150)Scriptural Application: Inclusion of sorrow in life to draw us to God (Eccles. 3:1–11) |
| 40–41 | “A Hillside Thaw”“The Raven and the Swan”“The Swallow’s Advice”“The Farmer and the Stork”Thinking Zone | 145–50 | Quiz 2JTeaching Help 2LReading Standardized Test Practice 2C | Scriptural Application: Man’s attempt to influence nature useless (Job 38–41)Scriptural Application: Biblical parables and lessons taught (Matt. 13)Thinking Zone: Envy versus contentment (2 Cor. 10:12; Phil. 4:11) |
| 42–43 | “Koyo, the Singer”Thinking Zone | 151–60 | Quiz 2KTeaching Help 2MESL Exercise 2 | Scriptural Application: Comparison and contrast of settings of Genesis 17:1–22 and Genesis 18:1–33 |
| 44 | *Persuasive Paragraph* | *W4* | Bulletin Board “Power of Persuasion”*Writing Worksheet 2B**Writing Rubric 2B* |  |
| 45 | “This Is My Father’s World”The Bible and Nature | 161–64 | Bulletin Board “Seeing Clearly”Vocabulary Standardized Test Practice 2C | Scriptural Application: Nature marred by the Fall to be restored; Christ’s addressing human suffering, as should ChristiansThe Bible and Nature (Gen. 3:14–19; Isa. 11:1–10) |
| 46 | Unit 2 Review | 165–67 |  |  |
| 47 | Unit 2 Test |
| ***Unit 3: Generosity*** |
| 48 | Generosity | 170–71 | Teaching Help 3A | Generosity (Mark 12:31; Luke 10:30–37; etc.) |
| 49–50 | “Stopover in Querétaro”Thinking Zone | 172–78 | Quiz 3ATeaching Help 3BTeaching Help 3CWord List 3A | Scriptural Application: Presence of Holy Spirit to comfort during hardships (John 14:26)Thinking Zone: Importance of grasping opportunities to show kindness to strangers |
| 51–52 | “Martin and Abraham Lincoln”Thinking Zone | 179–186 | Quiz 3B | Scriptural Application: The *crisis* and the *climax* of the BibleScriptural Application: Evaluation of Lincoln as Christ figure in “Martin and Abraham Lincoln” |
| 53–54 | *Character Sketch* | *W5* | *Writing Worksheet 3A**Writing Rubric 3A* |  |
| 55–56 | “The Buffalo Dance”Thinking Zone | 187–198 | Quiz 3CTeaching Help 3D | Scriptural Application: The harm of grudges (James 5:9)Scriptural Application: Certain actions earn friends (1 Cor. 13:4–7) Scriptural Application: Broken relationships healed by God’s redemption (Isa. 2:1–5; Micah 4:1–4) |
| 57–58 | “A Grain as Big as a Hen’s Egg”Thinking Zone | 199–203 | Quiz 3D | Scriptural Application: Analysis of biblical teaching on land ownership and capitalism (Exod. 20:15; Deut. 19:14; etc.)Thinking Zone: Scripture and work |
| 59–60 | “The Beggar”Thinking Zone | 204–210 | Quiz 3ETeaching Help 3ETeaching Help 3JTeaching Help 3K | Scriptural Application: Necessity of motivation of love (1 Cor. 13)Scriptural Application: Sacrificial giving rewarded by God (Heb. 13:16; 1 Kings 17; etc.) |
| 61–62 | “Most Valuable Player”Thinking Zone | 211–20 | Quiz 3FTeaching Help 3FVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 3A | Scriptural Application: Regardless of success or failure, God’s expectation is to use talents, abilities, and time wisely |
| 63–64 | *Sports Article* | *W6* | *Writing Worksheet 3B**Writing Rubric 3B* |  |
| 65–66 | “The Last Leaf” | 221–27 | Quiz 3GTeaching Help 3HWord List 3B |  |
| 67–68 | “Mary”Thinking Zone | 228–32 | Quiz 3HTeaching Help 3KTeaching Help 3LReading Standardized Test Practice 3 | Scriptural Application: Loving others as ourselves , including those with mental, physical, and financial problems (Rom. 12:16; Prov. 17:5)Scriptural Application: Comparison of Kass’s Prayer with two of Jacob’s in Scripture (Gen. 28:20–22; 32:9–12) |
| 69-70 | “Gold-Mounted Guns”Thinking Zone | 233–40 | Quiz 3ITeaching Help 3KTeaching Help 3L | Scriptural Application: Unintended consequences of doing wrong (Josh. 7) |
| 71–72 | “Country Doctor” “How to Avoid Contact”Thinking Zone | 241–44 | Quiz 3JBulletin Board “Patchwork of Generosity” |  |
| 73 | “In Flanders Fields”Thinking Zone | 245–46 | Quiz 3KTeaching Help 3I | Scriptural Application: As in many psalms, great emotion and careful structuring joined |
| 74–75 | “The Strangers That Came to Town” | 247–54 | Quiz 3LTeaching Help 3KTeaching Help 3L | Scriptural Application: Love for others illustrated in story (Rom. 12:16) |
| 76–77 | From *Preacher’s Kids*Thinking Zone | 255–64 | Quiz 3MTeaching Help 3JESL Exercise 3 | Scriptural Application: The love of money the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10)Scriptural Application: Honor and forgiveness for a parent who fails (Eph. 6:1–2; Col. 3:20) |
| 78 | “We Give Thee But Thine Own”The Bible and Generosity | 265–66 | Vocabulary Standardized Test Practice 3B |  |
| 79 | Unit 3 Review | 267–69 | Bulletin Board “Do You Know Your Authors?” |  |
| 80 | Unit 3 Test |
| 81–90 | Midterm Review and Midterm Examination |
| ***Unit 4: Our Land*** |
| 91 | Our Land | 272–73 | Teaching Help 4ATeaching Help 4B |  |
| 92–93 | “The Great Cherokee Bill” | 274–83 | Quiz 4ATeaching Help 4CWord List 4A | Scriptural Application: Application of biblical principles to story (Ps. 34:14; Prov. 13:20; etc.) |
| 94 | “The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers”“Crossing the Plains”Thinking Zone | 284–87 | Quiz 4BTeaching Help 4D | Scriptural Application: Starting a new civilization with the Bible |
| 95–96 | “Jimmy Yellow Hawk” | 288–96 | Quiz 4C Teaching Help 4E |  |
| 97 | “Billy, He’s in Trouble”Thinking Zone | 297–99 | Quiz 4DTeaching Help 4F | Scriptural Application: Analysis of Christian’s involvement in governmentScriptural Application: Biblical examples of sudden, unexpected endings |
| 98 | “To Save the Golden State”“Guard It with Your Life”Thinking Zone | 300–7 | Quiz 4ETeaching Help 4GReading Standardized Test Practice 4A |  |
| 99–100 | *Opinion Essay* | *W7* | *Bulletin Board: What Is Your Opinion?**Writing Worksheet 4A**Writing Rubric 4A* |  |
| 101 | “Paul Revere’s Ride”“Molly Pitcher”Thinking Zone | 308–14 | Quiz 4FTeaching Help 4HVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 4A | Scriptural Application: Inciting moment of Psalm 119Scriptural Application: Appreciating literature and developing literary skills to shape culture |
| 102–3 | “Monty Takes Charge of the Barter Store”Thinking Zone | 315–21 | Quiz 4GTeaching Help 4IWord List 4B | Scriptural Application: Bible’s attitude toward work and toward courtesyThinking Zone: Courtesy in service (Prov. 15:1, 18, 23, 28) |
| 104–5 | “The Wright Brothers” | 322–28 | Quiz 4HTeaching Help 4J | Scriptural Application: Necessity of preparation for a task (e.g., David before assuming kingship) |
| 106 | “Nancy Hanks”“The Day’s Demand”Thinking Zone | 329–31 | Quiz 4I | Scriptural Application: Two characteristics of biblical success—wisdom and humility (Job 32:9; Matt. 20:26) |
| 107–8 | *Charlie Coulson: Drummer Boy*Thinking Zone | 332–43 | Quiz 4JTeaching Help 4K | Scriptural Application: Biblical examples of dialogue |
| 109–10 | *Dialogue* | *W8* | *Writing Worksheet 4B**Writing Rubric 4B* |  |
| 111 | “Lift Every Voice and Sing”Thinking Zone | 344–47 | Quiz 4KTeaching Help 4L | Scriptural Application: Comparison of biblical concept of liberty and the concept of liberty used in America todayScriptural Application: Blessing to nations that honor God; chastisement to nations that dishonor God (Ps. 33:12; Prov. 14:34)Thinking Zone: Theme and John 8:32, 36 |
| 112 | “Our Blessed Land”Thinking Zone | 348–51 | Quiz 4LBulletin Board “Our Land”Reading Standardized Test Practice 4BESL Exercise 4 | Scriptural Application: Need to count nation’s blessings while not overlooking weaknesses |
| 113 | “America”The Bible and Our LandThinking Zone | 352–55 | Teaching Help 4MVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 4B | Scriptural Application: Ways to show love for AmericaScriptural Application: Specific directions given Israelites about how to preserve their landParticipation: Romans 13:1-7 on government |
| 114 | Unit 4 Review | 356–59 |  |  |
| 115 | Unit 4 Test |
| ***Unit 5: Humility*** |
| 116 | Humility | 362–63 |  | Scriptural Application: Biblical humility (Prov. 3:34; 16:19; etc.)Scriptural Application: Proud responses vs. humble ones (1 Cor. 4:7; Matt. 11:28–30)  |
| 117 | “Primer Lesson”Thinking Zone | 364–65 |  | Scriptural Application: Reminder to use words carefully and to use few words rather than many (Prov. 10:19) |
| 118–20 | “Casey at the Bat”“Godolphin Horne”“Sir Joseph’s Song”Thinking Zone | 366–73 | Quiz 5ATeaching Help 5ATeaching Help 5BWord List 5A | Scriptural Application: List of seven things the Lord hates, of which “a proud look*”* is listed first (Prov. 6:16–19) |
| 121–22 | *Contrast Paragraph* | *W9* | *Writing Worksheet 5A**Writing Rubric 5A* |  |
| 123–24 | “Being a Public Character”Thinking Zone | 374–81 | Quiz 5BTeaching Help 5C |  |
| 125–26 | “Prince Hyacinth and the Dear Little Princess” | 382–88 | Quiz 5CTeaching Help 5D | Scriptural Application: Awareness of personal faults (Matt. 7:1–5; Ps. 139:23–24) |
| 127–28 | “How Beautiful with Mud” | 389–96 | Quiz 5DTeaching Help 5E | Scriptural Application: True beauty a matter of the heart (1 Sam. 16:7) |
| 129 | “What It’s Like When You Can’t Read or Write”Thinking Zone | 397–99 | Quiz 5ETeaching Help 5FReading Standardized Test Practice 5 |  |
| 130–31 | “Three Visitors in the Night”Thinking Zone | 400–410 | Quiz 5FBulletin Board ”Unlocking Your Understanding”Teaching Help 5GVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 5A | Scriptural Application: How a person knows God’s calling to a particular task (Jon. 1:3; Exod. 3:10–11; etc.) |
| 132–33 | “The Crucifixion”Thinking Zone | 411–16 | Quiz 5GWord List 5B | Scriptural Application: Judging by heart, not by appearances |
| 134–35 | *Description* | *W10* | *Writing Worksheet 5B**Writing Rubric 5B* |  |
| 136 | “The Fool’s Prayer”“Two Went Up to the Temple to Pray”Thinking Zone | 417–20 | Quiz 5H | Scriptural Application: Meaning of “all men are created equal” (Gen. 1:26–27) |
| 137–38 | “The Soloist”Thinking Zone | 421–28 | Quiz 5ITeaching Help 5H | Scriptural Application: Relationship between courage and humility (Phil. 2:5–11)  |
| 139–40 | “Alas! Poor Annabelle!”“Father Speaks”Thinking Zone | 429–40 | Quiz 5JTeaching Help 5I | Scriptural Application: Displaying an open-minded attitude toward different customs and manners (Gen. 1:26–27; Mark 12:30–31) |
| 141–42 | “The Split Cherry Tree”Thinking Zone | 441–52 | Quiz 5KBulletin Board “Find the Characters”Teaching Help 5JESL Exercise 5 | Scriptural Application: Obligation of Christians to pay debts (Rom. 13:8) Thinking Zone: Education in the truth (Matt. 28:19) |
| 143 | “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”The Bible and Humility | 453–54 | Vocabulary Standardized Test Practice 5B | Scriptural Application: Value of salvation as related in hymn  |
| 144 | Unit 5 Review | 455–57 |  |  |
| 145 | Unit 5 Test |
| ***Unit 6: Family*** |
| 146 | Family | 460–61 | Teaching Help 6A | Analysis: God and the family (Eph. 5:22–33; Tit. 2:4; etc.)Scriptural Application: Discussion of positive and negative examples of biblical families |
| 147–48 | “Speed Adjustments”“First Lesson”Thinking Zone | 462–65 | Quiz 6ATeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6BWord List 6A | Scriptural Application: Biblical responsibilities of fathers and children (Eph. 6:1–4; Lev. 20:9; etc.) |
| 149–51 | “Hit and Run”Thinking Zone | 466–77 | Quiz 6BTeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6C | Scriptural Application: Condemning sin but continuing to love the sinner |
| 152–53 | “The Scarlet Ibis”Thinking Zone | 478–89 | Quiz 6CTeaching Help 6DVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 6A | Scriptural Application: The sinfulness of pride (Prov. 8:13; Prov. 16:18; 1 John 2:16) |
| 154–55 | “Mister Chairman”Thinking Zone | 490–95 | Quiz 6DTeaching Help 6AWord List 6B | Scriptural Application: Discussion of democratic method of family government suggested in story |
| 156 | “Love Story, Sort Of”Thinking Zone | 496–500 | Quiz 6ETeaching Help 6A |  |
| 157–159 | *Personal Essay* | *W11* | *Writing Worksheet 6A**Writing Rubric 6A* |  |
| 160 | “How We Kept Mother’s Day”Thinking Zone | 501–5 | Quiz 6FTeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6E |

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| Scriptural Application: Guarding against the self-centeredness illustrated in the selection |

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| 161–62 | “Those Winter Sundays”“The Secret Heart”Thinking Zone | 506–8 | Quiz 6GTeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6F |  |
| 163–65 | “The Courage That My Mother Had”“Uncle Randolph’s Buried Treasure”Thinking Zone | 509–18 | Bulletin Board “A Different Train”Quiz 6HTeaching Help 6A |  |
| 166–68 | *Family Anecdote* | *W12* | *Writing Worksheet 6B**Writing Rubric 6B* |  |
| 169 | “The Blanket”Thinking Zone | 519–22 | Quiz 6ITeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6G | Scriptural Application: Family harmony achieved through sacrificing self-interestThinking Zone: Caring for the elderly (Lev. 19:32; Prov. 16:31; etc.) |
| 170 | “Mother’s Hallowe’en Trick”Thinking Zone | 523–26 | Quiz 6JTeaching Help 6ATeaching Help 6HReading Standardized Test Practice 6A | Scriptural Application: Finding verses in Proverbs covering honesty, resourcefulness, hard work, and God’s provision |
| 171–72 | “The Safest Place”“Death”Thinking Zone | 527–31 | Quiz 6KTeaching Help 6AESL Exercise 6Reading Standardized Test Practice 6B | Scriptural Application: Our lives a vapor (James 4:14)Scriptural Application: Fellowship with God the enablement to respond correctly to difficulties |
| 173 | “Happy the Home”The Bible and Family | 532–33 | Bulletin Board “Explore Vacation Reading”Teaching Help 6IVocabulary Standardized Test Practice 6B | Participation: Practical ways to contribute to harmony in the home |
| 174 | Unit 6 Review  | 534–36 |  |  |
| 175 | Unit 6 Test |
| 176–80 | Final Review and Final Examination |

 The topics and support materials in italics refer to writing lessons and assignments within a chapter.

2 The following items in the Support Materials column are located on the CD found in the back of the Teacher’s Edition:Quizzes,Teaching Helps, ESL Exercises, Word Lists, Vocabulary Standardized Test Practices, Reading Standardized Test Practices, Bulletin Boards, Writing Worksheets, and Writing Rubrics.