**English Language and Literature 10**

**Short Story Unit**

**Assessment Task: Group Presentation**

***Key Concept:*** *Connections*

***Global Context:*** *Orientation in Space & Time*

***Statement of Inquiry:*** *Stories can communicate universal truths about humanity*

*across cultures and time periods.*

*Short stories present snapshots of human experiences in the human or natural world. Their strength lies in presenting interesting characters, settings, and situations, and in rendering small but significant truths about human nature and the meaning of the human experience.*

**THE TASK:**

**(1) Choose an interesting short story**

This is your opportunity to read and review a great short story! Choose a short story that interests you. See links on class website, book collections, library, others’ recommendations…

**(2) Identify and analyze elements of literature**

Next, read and summarize your story and note the **key elements** such as conflict, character, setting, atmosphere, tone, and theme. Discuss, analyze, and annotate the story in groups.

Select one of the issues presented in the story you have read that you consider the most relevant for our current society. Pull out examples of how this issue is conveyed through various features in your story (evidence to support your idea).

**(3) Connect the story to the bigger picture**

Finally, explore how this story connects to you, your lives, the community, or the world - past, or present. What did this story make you think about? How is the story’s theme timeless and/or universal? You will need to do some research for this part (studies, articles that link to your story).

**(4) Presentation**

Creating text: Prepare an informative and interesting **15-20 min presentation** about your short story for the class. You should briefly describe the setting, plot, and characters, and then set out how the theme is depicted by the author and how it relates to universal/timeless concerns.

*You can do a formal presentation OR be creative with this (talk show, hot seating, etc.), OR both!*

Include:

❒ A brief overview of the story, its author, and its context (summary of the plot, setting, key characters and relationships, the basic plot, themes, and conflicts)

❒ A discussion of the key issue presented in the story – HOW is it presented and HOW does it affect the characters and relate to theme? (textual evidence for support is needed)

❒ An examination of how the issue links to modern-day society and how it affects people today (analyze specific examples from your story and present links to research/current events)

❒ Attention to eye contact, volume, pace, register, and equal participation in your presentation.

**Presentation Style:**

Your presentation can take whatever format you wish, as long as you include the elements listed above. You may choose to present the information in a formal style (ppt, prezi, etc.). You can do this for the entire presentation, but you can also choose a more creative way to get your ideas across, especially for the “modern-day links” portion, which can take the form of a talk show, feature story newscast, expert/panel discussion, etc.

**HAND IN:**

You will submit the script and/or notes for your presentation immediately following your presentation.

**GRADING:**

Your presentation will be graded on the following criteria: C and D (see strands below).

See the criteria rubric on the class website. Your criteria for success are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *MYP criteria:* | *Task-specific clarifications:* |
| **Criterion C: Producing Text**  i.Produce text that demonstrates a high degree of personal engagement with the creative process; demonstrate a high degree of insight, imagination or sensitivity and perceptive exploration of and critical reflection on new perspectives and ideas  ii.Make stylistic choices in terms of linguistic, literary, and visual devices, demonstrating awareness of impact on an audience  iii.Select relevant details and examples to develop ideas | **Criterion C: Producing Text**  i.Presentation shows depth and clear insights gained from exploring your story, including clear time spent considering and reflecting on the theme and its connections to real-life issues/events. Ideas are conveyed in a convincing, well-developed, thought out, and sensitive manner.  ii. Ideas are clearly presented through powerful wording and appropriate terminology as well as visual aids to engage your audience  iii. Use textual evidence in the form of specific quotations (sources) to support points and opinions |
| **Criterion D: Using Language**  i. **effectively** uses a range of appropriate vocabulary, sentence structures and forms of expression  ii. writes and speaks in a **consistently appropriate** register and style that serve the context and intention  v. makes **effective** use of appropriate non-verbal communication techniques. | **Criterion D: Using Language**  i. Use a variety of words and sentence structures to express your ideas and captivate your audience. Use a formal register that is suitable to a formal oral presentation. Use appropriate terminology.  ii. Consistently use formal language that is suitable to an analytical oral presentation.  v. Speak in a clear, loud voice and vary your intonation to show interest. Maintain eye contact with your audience and engaging body language. |

***\*\* Ensure that every group member participates equally and contributes to creating and providing insights on the text and themes (not just summarizing events or stating facts)***

***so that everyone has the opportunity to achieve the highest bands in Criterion C!***

***Be insightful, be creative, and have fun!***