

A Comparison of Two Institute for Excellence in Writing
Literary Analysis Resources
By Lesha Myers and Adam Andrews

	<i>Windows to the World</i>	<i>Teaching the Classics</i>
Resource	Lesha Myers' <i>Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis</i> . Student Book and Teacher's Manual (\$49), by Lesha Myers	Adam Andrews' <i>Teaching the Classics</i> DVD seminar and Teacher's Manual (\$89); <i>Teaching the Classics—Worldview Supplement</i> DVD seminar and workbook (\$49), by Adam Andrews
Intent	Intended to teach the foundational elements and devices of advanced literary analysis to encourage students to examine the techniques an author uses to produce a specific meaning in any story. Once students understand the basics of the program, they will be able to apply them to other works of literature.	Presents a method for teaching the fundamentals of literary analysis to students of any age. Describes a set of teaching techniques that can be applied to any story, including 1) a story chart which diagrams the story's plot, conflict, setting, characters and theme and 2) a list of discussion questions designed to promote literary analysis among students.
Description	An 18 to 26-week adjustable curriculum containing specific lessons to guide students through the basics of literary analysis (elements and devices), to think about a story's meaning, and to write about it. Lessons contain instruction, thinking exercises, and writing suggestions, as well as many suggestions for supplemental activities and projects.	Uses children's stories to present the important techniques of literary analysis, then shows teachers how to apply these techniques to more advanced stories. Demonstrates the process with model discussions of five works by Longfellow, Twain, Kipling, Tolstoy and Thayer. Once teachers internalize the process, they can lead their own discussions using suggested questions included in the text.
Intended Ages & Audience	Middle and High School Students Instruction is in the text, which is written directly to the student in a conversational style.	Teachers of students in grades K-12 Instruction is on the DVD, which was recorded at a live workshop for teachers, and in the 97-page Teacher Manual.
Worldview	Embedded in text. Asks students to consider James Sire's 7 worldview questions, which are reviewed in the text.	Detailed in the worldview supplement. Shows teachers how to consider 13 worldview questions, which are included in the text.
Genres & Texts	With help and then on their own, students analyze 6 poems and 6 short stories, which are included in the student's book. An additional 11 poems are printed in the teacher's manual, which also contains information on how to find specific supplemental stories on the Internet.	Shows teachers how to teach 2 poems and 3 short stories in the basic text, as well as 2 more short stories in the supplement. The texts of these short stories and poems are included in the workbooks. Shows how to apply these concepts to novels as well. Contains a reading list for additional stories and novels.

<p>Pedagogical Technique</p>	<p>Follows a three-step teaching methodology:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher instructs and models new information 2. Student applies it with teacher’s help 3. Student works independently. Teacher assesses and determines whether to move on or continue teaching. 	<p>Follows a Socratic discussion methodology where students respond to oral or written questions. Resources include specific questions for each poem or story demonstrated and a list of 178 additional Socratic questions covering both structural and stylistic elements of literature.</p>
<p>Content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five chapters teach each of the literary elements (plot, suspense, and conflict; characterization, theme; setting; and point of view). Advanced concepts related to these elements are included. Example for characterization: the eight ways to analyze characters, the character arc, kinds of characters (protagonist/antagonist, foil, stock, static vs. dynamic, and flat vs. round) • Seven chapters directly teach and contain exercises to internalize and experiment with specific literary devices as follows: annotation, allusions, parallelism/euphemism/ similes, symbolism, anaphora/epistrophe, mood & atmosphere, imagery, diction/personification/ metaphor, narrator & unreliable narrator, shifts, tone, and irony. Students are encouraged to use these techniques in their own writing. • Additional literary devices taught within the context of above chapters: understatement, hyperbole, foreshadowing • Specific writing instruction detailed below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models the Socratic discussion format, using the story chart and Socratic list to engage students in a discussion of literary ideas. • Models teaching of the major structural elements of fiction: Conflict, Plot, Setting, Characters and Theme • Models the teaching of literary devices such as onomatopoeia, assonance, consonance, alliteration, rhyme, understatement, hyperbole, cliché, oxymoron, imagery, simile, metaphor, personification, irony, allusion, foreshadowing, and symbolism. • Trains teachers in the development of daily lesson plans. • Trains teachers in the development of scope and sequence strategies. • Provides three annotated booklists of classic works for primary grade students, junior high students, and high school/adult students.

Writing Instruction	<p>Writing instruction constitutes a significant portion of the curriculum in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains step-by-step instructions on how to write a literary analysis essay, including forming a thesis, gathering evidence, blending quotations, and writing commentary, as well as how to form introductions and conclusions and use graphic organizers, checklists, and models. • Students also write persuasive essays and journal entries (reflective narratives). • For creative writing, students write vignettes to change a story's point of view and create a specific tone. • Models, checklists and student samples are included for all writing assignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains teachers to apply the Socratic list to writing assignments • Provides a rubric for evaluating writing based on the Socratic discussion model • Encourages the use of IEW materials for instruction in mechanics and style.
Projects	<p>Many included in teacher's manual, from poster projects to discussion, to hands-on activities. Activities adaptable for classroom or individual students.</p>	<p>Not included</p>
Additional Resources	<p>Contains many reviews of Internet and print resources to supplement and expand concepts taught.</p>	<p>Teacher Manual provides links to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online book reviews and graded reading lists • DVD courses and Teacher Guides applying the TTC method to additional classic stories • Audio lectures in the TTC approach • Articles on various aspects of literary history, literary interpretation and educational philosophy.