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## UNIT OVERVIEW

### *Loser*

#### **OVERVIEW**

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts, as students develop a love for reading longer materials, like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, decision-making, spelling and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) **Chapter Questions**

For each chapter students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is a key as students must read and understand the entire novel in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students must understand the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.) The ***Discussion Questions*** allow the teacher to bring students into a conversation about key events in the novel.

2. **Vocabulary and Language**

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary and thesaurus, spelling, syllables, antonyms/synonyms/homonyms and compound words.

3. **Writing and Creativity**

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language in order to express themselves more effectively. Creative writing is a focus of this segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills.

## CHAPTER 1- 4

### *Vocabulary and Language*

Choose a word from the list that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word.

heedless  
agreeable

trolley  
instinct

annoy  
sift

unpredictable  
remarkable

quiver  
constraints

1. There were limits placed on the children in the playground. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She had an inborn ability of knowing the right thing to say in all situations.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Gretzky was an extraordinary hockey player. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Zinkoffs' lower lip began to tremble. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The movies ending could not be determined in advance. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The streetcar runs right by my friend's home. \_\_\_\_\_
7. That loud noise is beginning to anger me. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The cook used a sieve to separate out the bugs from the flour. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The puppy was unmindful of his mother's warning bark. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The climate in California was most suitable to the early pioneers. \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER 10 - 11

### *Vocabulary and Language*

**Synonyms** are words with similar meanings. Use the context of the sentences below to help you choose the best synonym for the underlined word in each sentence. If you cannot determine the meaning from the context, consult a dictionary.

- Mrs. Biswell found Zinkoff's behaviour to be insulting and disrespectful.  
a) silly    b) rude    c) humourous    d) noisy
- Zinkoff's handwriting was atrocious.  
a) stylish    b) neat    c) old-fashioned    d) dreadful
- The teacher grew tired of the boy's antics in the cafeteria.  
a) pranks    b) speeches    c) charades    d) stale lunches
- Donald expects to drive a respectable distance.  
a) short    b) far    c) good    d) bumpy
- Mr. Zinkoff is determined to make the day live up to his son's expectations.  
a) goals    b) anticipations    c) hobbies    d) riddles

### Compound Words

A compound word is composed of two or more words united together. For example, hair + cut = haircut

In the following activity, one word from Column A must be joined to a word in Column B.

Column A	Column B	Compound Word
play	ball	1. _____
mail	time	2. _____
every	ground	3. _____
him	room	4. _____
child	one	5. _____
base	way	6. _____
green	self	7. _____
door	box	8. _____
class	board	9. _____
lunch	hood	10. _____

## CHAPTER 12 - 14

### *Writing and Creativity*

#### **Alphabetical Order**

Put the following ten words from Chapters 12 - 14 in alphabetical order:

pale	_____
pickle	_____
pith	_____
pajamas	_____
pack	_____
piece	_____
pay	_____
padlocks	_____
packed	_____
particular	_____

#### **TRIANGLE POEM**

Write a **TRIANGLE POEM** about being a mail carrier.

A triangle poem has five lines and gets its name from the shape of the poem.

This is the pattern: Line 1 - *title*  
Line 2 - *two Asmell @ words*  
Line 3 - *three Atouch @ words*  
Line 4 - *four Asight @ words*  
Line 5 - *five Asound @ words.*  
(Lines 2-5 all refer to the title.)

