

County Schools – Individual Learning Modules

Grade	Course
High School	English I
Unit Focus	
Students will engage with a modern poem detailing a man’s emotional encounter at a nursing home in order to better understand speaker point-of-view and theme. Students will also gain the opportunity to think and write creatively by connecting their personal experience to the poem.	
Week of 5/4-5/8	
Standard(s)	
R.KID.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development; provide an objective or critical summary.	R.CS.6 Analyze how point of view and/or author purpose shapes the content and style of diverse texts.
Resource(s)	
CommonLit Activity Possible Paired Texts (CommonLit)	Supplemental Videos Narrative Writing Rubric
Task(s)	
<p>“Nursing Home” by Hayes Davis Suggested Sequence of Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read “Nursing Home” for understanding. Use the link above or see the document below. 2. Take a look at the title and reflect on what it could mean. 3. Read the poem again, but this time annotate it if you can (physically or digitally). 4. Write a brief summary of the poem in your own words. 5. What do you think the poem means? Examine the words and phrases you identified while annotating. What do these words mean beyond the literal? Do they suggest something else? Think about who the subject of the poem is, what he/she is talking about, why you think the author wrote the poem, when the poem is happening, where the poem is happening, the poet’s attitude, and how the poem shifts from person to person or different times or places. 6. Identify a theme for this poem. 7. What poetic devices are present in this poem? How are they used? How do they help reveal the message of the poem? (simile, metaphor, allusion, imagery, personification, tone, point of view) 8. Analyze the structure of this poem. How does the structure of this poem enhance or reinforce the greater message being communicated? 9. How does the point of view of this poem reinforce the theme? 10. Look at the title again. Do you have a different interpretation of it? 11. Click on the “CommonLit Activity link above. Answer the multiple-choice assessment questions that are assigned to the poem. 12. Compose a multi-paragraph response to the following NARRATIVE prompt: Think about a memorable moment in your childhood that forced you to grow up. Write a narrative detailing this moment and what it meant to you, how it changed you, or why it is so memorable. Use the “Narrative Writing Rubric” link above to review the elements of an effective narrative. 	

NURSING HOME

by Hayes Davis 2016

Hayes Davis is a writer whose first book of poetry “Let Our Eyes Linger,” explores themes of family. In the following poem from the book, a speaker describes visiting their grandmother at a nursing home.

[1] Mommy De recognizes my diploma.
Her smile reaches her eyes, she parts her lips,

and mumbles a string of words her mind
has tried to sort into a sentence—she’s almost as happy

[5] about my degree as she was when I walked in the room.
I think of the day my mother received her Master’s¹

from Penn², and I’m glad that my grandmother
could speak her joy clearly then. As pleased as I am

that she can spill messy, jubilant³ recognition
[10] when I come to visit, I feel a little guilty that mom

has to call herself “Bethy,” to answer the inevitable
“Who are you,” coax⁴ a smile of semi-memory.

The fact that Mommy De recalls my face, if not my name
makes me uneasy when I think of my uncle Conrad

[15] who is never “Henry,” “brother,” or another alias
used to mask the disease, just a man with a beard

who never stays for as long as he has driven to visit.
Even my aunt Annette, who shares that name with her mother,

lives in the same city and visits more often than me
[20] is never someone Mommy De knows on sight.

I put my diploma away, produce graduation pictures
hesitantly, reluctant to identify three children to their mother.

“Nursing Home” from Let Our Eyes Linger by Hayes Davis.
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Notes

1. a postgraduate degree
2. an abbreviation for Pennsylvania, usually meant to refer to the University of Pennsylvania
3. **Jubilant** (*adjective*) : feeling or expressing great happiness and triumph
4. **Coax** (*verb*) : to use gradual persuasion to obtain something from someone