

EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE UNIT

Introduction: One of the most frequently-asked questions is “How do you set up your own courses?” This is a detailed outline of how I run my Early American Literature unit. All the materials that I use in my own class are available on CreativeEnglishTeacher.com, either for sale or as a free download.

Allotted Time: Numbers appearing to the left of assignment titles indicate the days of instruction for each unit.

Using Script-Stories in the Classroom: In my classroom I made frequent use of Reader’s Theater script-stories. Below are some guidelines for handling this type of assignment in your own classroom.

Anticipatory Set: Each script-story in the *Searching for America* series includes a series of anticipatory questions to get students engaged in the content of the story.

Assessment: Each script-story in the *Searching for America* series contains five recall questions that can be used as a post-script-story quiz.

Unit Exams and Quizzes: This outline recommends conducting formative assessments or quizzes throughout the unit and days for summative assessments at the conclusion of each unit. These assessments are not included with this outline. Teachers can create their own, or there are several available for purchase at the CreativeEnglishTeacher.com store.

UNIT ONE: EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE (16 DAYS)

1. **“Spirit of America: Song Analysis Packet” (worksheet)**
 - a. Assignment: Discuss what it means to be an American by listening to four songs about America. All of the songs are available on YouTube.com.
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-the-american-dream>
2. **“Introduction to Native American Literature” (worksheet)**
 - a. Learn about the impact of Native American culture
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>
3. **“The Flying Canoe” (script-story) from the Native American Mythology Collection**
 - a. A young man named Joseph receives magical items to help him win the love of his heart
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/native-american-mythology-collection>
4. **“Gluscabi” (script-story) from the Native American Mythology Collection**
 - a. Gluscabi, a powerful inhuman, learns to respect the balance of nature
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/native-american-mythology-collection>

5. **“Voices of the Falls” (script-story) from the Native American Mythology Collection**
 - a. A young woman named Lela-Wala volunteers to save her people from an evil spirit
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>
6. **“The Explorers of the New World” (script-story) from *Searching for America, The New World: Early American Literature***
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/searching-for-america-the-new-world-early-american-literature>
7. **“Puritans and Pilgrims Notes” (presentation)**
 - a. Information about the reasons the Pilgrims immigrated to America
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>
 - c. Writing Prompt: “How important is the freedom of religion to you? Explain.”
8. **“Mayflower: The Journey of the Pilgrims” (script-story) from *Searching for America, The New World: Early American Literature***
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/searching-for-america-the-new-world-early-american-literature>
9. **“The Courtship of Miles Standish” (script-story) from *Searching for America, The New World: Early American Literature***
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/searching-for-america-the-new-world-early-american-literature>
10. **“King Philip’s War” (worksheet)**
 - a. Learn about the conflict that arose between the Native Americans and the Puritans in the New World
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>
11. **“Captured by Indians” (script-story) from *Searching for America, The New World: Early American Literature***
 - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/searching-for-america-the-new-world-early-american-literature>
12. **“Anne Bradstreet” (worksheet)**
 - a. Learn about America’s first published poet, Anne Bradstreet
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>
13. **“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” (worksheet)**
 - a. Read Jonathan Edwards’ fiery sermon
 - b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>

14. "The African Slave Trade" (worksheet)

- a. Learn about the inhuman treatment of slaves in early American history
- b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/early-american-literature-teaching-materials>

15. "The Journey of Olaudah Equiano" (script-story) from *Searching for America, The New World: Early American Literature*

- a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/searching-for-america-the-new-world-early-american-literature>

16. Early American Literature Exam

- a. 50-question multiple choice exam with ACT-style reading passage
- b. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/early-american-literature-exam>