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Lesson Ten

FOCUS: What Makes a Short Story Great?

Great stories articulate and explore the mysteries of our daily lives in the larger context of the human struggle. The writer's voice, style, and use of language inform the plot, characters, and themes. By creating opportunities to learn and reflect, a great story is a work of art that affects many generations of readers, changes lives, challenges assumptions, and breaks new ground.

Discussion Activities

Ask students the following questions: If you were the voice of your generation, what would be your most important message? Why might you choose to convey this in a short story rather than a novel, poem, speech, or essay? What story would you tell to get your point across?

Writing Exercise

Have students work on their essays in class. Be available to assist with outlines, drafts, and arguments. Have them partner with another student to edit outlines and rough drafts. For this editing, provide students with a list of things they should look for in a well-written essay.

Homework

Students should finish writing their essays to hand in during the next class.