

8th Grade English
School Year 2024 - 2025

Unit Plan 2a	
“Star Trek” and English Verbs	
Dates:	18 Nov 2024 – 13 Dec 2024 (Four weeks)
No. of Sessions	8, two-hour sessions; 12, one-hour sessions
Unit Overview:	<p>Centerpiece(s): "Star Trek" Verb Conjugations of the 12 tense-aspects in English Irregular verbs Modals and Conditionals</p> <p>Supplements: Achieve 3000 Readings Notebook Entries (Quotes of the Day, Vocabulary, Grammar, Scholastic Tips and Tricks, Reflections)</p> <p>Common Core Standards: Writing: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1; W.8.2; W.8.3; W.8.6; W.8.7; W.8.9; W.8.10 Speaking and Listening: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1; SL.8.2; SL.8.4 Language: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1; L.8.2; L.8.3; L.8.4</p> <p>As an interlude before beginning the next novel, we will enjoy a foray into classic Americana; namely, Star Trek. We will watch a number of episodes from the highly-acclaimed original series as well as the full-length movie, “Star Trek,” which is a prequel to the original series. Students will be required to take film notes and to write a short paper on one or more of the major themes presented. Major themes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Diversity and Unity:</i> The Star Trek crew represents a diverse mix of races, ethnicities, and even alien species, highlighting the importance of cooperation and mutual respect in achieving a common goal. This theme underscores that humanity’s survival and growth rely on embracing differences rather than allowing them to divide. <i>Exploration and Curiosity:</i> The phrase “to boldly go where no man has gone before” emphasizes the importance of curiosity, exploration, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. The series encourages open-mindedness and scientific curiosity, valuing discovery for personal and collective growth. <i>Moral and Ethical Dilemmas:</i> Many episodes tackle ethical questions about right and wrong, justice, and the value of life. Characters often face decisions with no clear solution, prompting viewers to think critically about their own values and choices. <i>Peace and Non-violence:</i> The show frequently advocates for peaceful conflict resolution, with Captain Kirk and his crew striving to solve conflicts without violence. This theme promotes diplomacy and communication as better alternatives to war.

	<p>5. <i>Equality and Social Justice</i>: The series addresses issues of inequality, whether through episodes that tackle racism, sexism, or class disparity. By imagining an idealistic future, Star Trek encourages viewers to reflect on existing societal issues and work towards a more equitable world.</p> <p>6. <i>Human Potential and Self-Improvement</i>: Characters in Star Trek continually strive for self-improvement and greater understanding. This theme focuses on the belief that humanity can overcome its flaws and reach higher moral, intellectual, and social planes.</p> <p>Additionally we will review verb conjugations for the 12 tense-aspects of English using on-line conjugators and the excellent worksheet resources published by Perfect English Grammar (Ireland).</p> <p>We will return to the Oxford series with the start of the next novel, “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros.</p>
General Pedagogy:	Mastery of the English language through the study, discussion, analysis, and critique (both verbal and written) of classic Americana plus review of English verb conjugations. This to be supplemented with Notebook Entries and grammar worksheet exercises.
Scope and Sequence:	<p><u>Week 1</u></p> <p>I. Introduction to “Star Trek”</p> <p>Original cast</p> <p>Importance as Americana</p> <p>Major Themes in Star Trek</p> <p>Four (4) episodes Season 1 and Season 2</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>Introduce the series and characters.</p> <p>Analyze the episodes for creative content, character development, and exposition of major themes.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Auditory development (no subtitles)</p> <p>Film notes (in Notebook)</p> <p>Character profiles and major theme expositions (in Notebook)</p> <p>Discussion of the episodes and the major themes presented.</p> <p>Episode summaries (formal written submittals)</p> <p>II. The 12 Tense-Aspects of English Verbs</p> <p>Present (Simple, Progressive, Perfect, Imperfect)</p> <p>Worksheets and exercises</p> <p>III. English Verb Conditionals</p> <p>Worksheets and exercises</p> <p>IV. Notebook Entries</p> <p><u>Week 2</u></p> <p>I. Review of main themes and characters</p> <p>Four (4) episodes Season 1, Season 2 and Season 3</p>

Objectives:

Continue to analyze the episodes for creative content, character development, and exposition of major themes.

Activities:

Auditory development (no subtitles)

Film notes (in Notebook)

Character profiles and major theme expositions (in Notebook)

Discussion of the episodes and the major themes presented.

Episode summaries (formal written submittals)

II. The 12 Tense-Aspects of English Verbs

Past (Simple, Progressive, Perfect, Imperfect)

Worksheets and exercises

III. English Verb Modals

Worksheets and exercises

IV. Notebook Entries

Week 3

I. Review of main themes and characters

Four (4) episodes Season 2 and Season 3

Objectives:

Continue to analyze the episodes for creative content, character development, and exposition of major themes.

Activities:

Auditory development (no subtitles)

Film notes (in Notebook)

Character profiles and major theme expositions (in Notebook)

Discussion of the episodes and the major themes presented.

Episode summaries (formal written submittals)

II. The 12 Tense-Aspects of English Verbs

Future (Simple, Progressive, Perfect, Imperfect)

Worksheets and exercises

III. Irregular English Verbs

Worksheets and exercises

IV. Final paper

V. Notebook Entries

Week 4

I. Review of main themes and characters

Feature film, “Star Trek”

Objectives:

	<p>Discussion of the film as a prequel.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film notes (in Notebook) Character profiles and major theme expositions (in Notebook) Selection of topic(s) for final paper (critique) <p>II. Modals and Conditionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheets and exercises <p>III. Irregular English Verbs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheets and exercises <p>IV. Final paper due</p> <p>V. Notebook Entries</p>
Student Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual daily participation assessment • Individual daily verbal, aural, and written assessments • Individual notebook review and assessment • Individual project(s) assessment • Group project(s) assessment • Quizzes and exams
Student Exit Criteria	<p>The following measurable exit criteria for 8th grade English reflect the key skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, and include clear, specific objectives that students should meet by the end of the unit as well as projected year-end goals.</p> <p>I. Reading Comprehension (Year-end goal ==> 95%)</p> <p>a. Literature Analysis:</p> <p>Students will be able to identify and analyze themes, character development, and plot structure in grade-level texts, scoring at least 80% on a literary analysis assessment.</p> <p>b. Inferential Meaning:</p> <p>Students will be able to make inferences and draw conclusions based on textual evidence, demonstrating proficiency with an 80% accuracy rate on comprehension quizzes.</p> <p>c. Vocabulary Acquisition:</p> <p>Students will correctly use grade-level vocabulary in context, achieving a minimum of 80% accuracy in vocabulary tests and writing assignments.</p> <p>II. Reading Fluency (Year-end goal ==> 140 words per min)</p> <p>a. Oral Reading:</p> <p>Students will read grade-level text aloud with fluency, accuracy, and expression, meeting or exceeding 90 words per minute in a reading fluency test.</p> <p>III. Writing (Year-end goals ==> i) 5 out of 5; and ii) 95%)</p>

a. Essay Writing:

Students will write a coherent, well-organized essay with a clear thesis, supporting evidence, and proper grammar, receiving at least a 3 out of 5 on a standardized rubric.

b. Narrative Writing:

Students will write a narrative that effectively uses descriptive details and dialogue, showing mastery by scoring at least 80% on a creative writing assignment.

c. Research Skills:

Students will complete a research project, properly citing sources and integrating information from multiple texts, achieving a minimum score of 80% on the project rubric.

IV. Speaking and Listening (Year-end goals ==> i) 5 out of 5; and ii) 95%)

a. Oral Presentations:

Students will deliver a clear and engaging oral presentation, using appropriate volume, pacing, and eye contact, earning at least 3 out of 5 on a speaking rubric.

b. Class Discussions:

Students will participate in class discussions, demonstrating active listening and contributing relevant points, with a participation score of at least 80%.

V. Grammar and Mechanics (Year-end goals ==> i) 95%; and ii) no more than two errors per page)

a. Sentence Structure:

Students will correctly use various sentence structures (simple, compound, complex) in their writing, achieving at least 80% accuracy on grammar tests.

b. Punctuation and Spelling:

Students will use proper punctuation and spelling in their writing, with no more than five errors per page in final drafts of essays.

VI. Final Projects Portfolio

Students will compile a portfolio showcasing their best work, demonstrating growth in reading, writing, and speaking skills, with at least 80% of the included works meeting the proficiency criteria.

Instructor

Date

Bruce Marrón