



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2009 Volume I: Writing, Knowing, Seeing

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## **Love: The Art of Seeing, Knowing and Writing Today and in the Past**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 09.01.07  
by Marialuisa Sapienza

Love is a feeling or an emotion, but it can also be positive attitudes and behaviors. Our retina will never construct the image of love because it is not a physical object. However, being in love leads to behavioral changes we can see and describe. The unit starts with the following essential questions: "What do I see? What do I notice? Is this love?" It includes a visual section that primarily teaches students to see details, interpret them, infer, analyze the context, and discuss what an artist/author wants to communicate with a visual image. A second section focuses on critical thinking and takes into consideration the following essays: "Seeing" by Annie Dillard, "I Want a Wife" by Judy Brady, "The Breakups That Got Under My Skin" by Kerry Cohen published in *The New York Times*, and the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. The objective is to enhance students' ability to see details, pay close attention to context, think, close-read, analyze, discuss, synthesize, and evaluate themes. The unit requires various writing activities and concludes with a documented essay or, for those students who have special needs, a simple documented visual presentation.

(Recommended for English, AP English Language and Composition, and AP English Literature and Composition, grades 11 and 12)

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