

Eco Application: Mishima

Social Studies 10 · The Seduction of Certainty

ELL Adapted Version

WHAT YOU WILL DO

You will analyse Yukio Mishima using Umberto Eco's ideas about fascism. Mishima was a Japanese writer who believed in fascism. Your job is to explain **how** Eco's ideas help us understand Mishima.

KEY VOCABULARY

Fascism	A political belief that values strength, tradition, and a powerful nation. It often rejects democracy and sees violence as good.
Feature	A characteristic or quality. Eco lists 14 features that help identify fascism.
Paradox	When two things seem opposite but are both true. Example: Mishima loved life, but he chose death.
Evidence	Proof from the text. When you quote Mishima's words, that is evidence.

YOUR TASK

1. **Choose 3 or 4 features** from Eco's list that you see in Mishima.
2. **Find evidence** from Mishima's writing for each feature.
3. **Explain** how the features connect to each other.
4. **Think about the paradox:** Why did someone who loved life choose death?

CHOOSE HOW TO SHOW YOUR THINKING

Option A: Written Write 300–500 words. Use the sentence starters on the next page.	Option B: Graphic Organiser Use the organiser on page 3. Fill in each section.
Option C: Audio Recording Record yourself explaining (3–5 minutes). You can use notes.	Option D: First Language Draft Write your ideas in your first language, then translate key parts to English.

SENTENCE STARTERS

Use these to help you write. You do not have to use all of them.

Identifying Features

One of Eco's features I see in Mishima is _____.

This feature means _____.

I can see this feature in Mishima because _____.

Using Evidence

Mishima wrote, "_____."

This quote shows _____ because _____.

When Mishima says "_____", he is showing Eco's feature of _____.

Showing Patterns (How Features Connect)

The feature of _____ connects to _____ because
_____.

These features work together in Mishima because _____.

I notice that when Mishima shows _____, he also shows _____.

The Paradox

It seems strange that Mishima loved life but chose death. This happened because
_____.

The paradox shows something about fascism: _____.

I think Mishima's death reveals that fascism _____.

GRAPHIC ORGANISER

Use this if you chose Option B. Fill in each section.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. FEATURES I SEE IN MISHIMA (choose 3 or 4)

Feature 1:

Feature 2:

Feature 3:

Feature 4 (optional):

2. EVIDENCE FROM MISHIMA

Feature	Quote from Mishima	This shows...

3. HOW DO THESE FEATURES CONNECT?

4. THE PARADOX: Why did someone who loved life choose death?

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Competencies: Evidence evaluation, perspective analysis

Criterion	Emerging (0-4)	Developing (5-7)	Proficient (8-10)	Extending (11-12)
Evidence	Does not use quotes from Mishima.	Uses some quotes but does not explain them well.	Uses good quotes and explains what they show.	Uses quotes to show patterns that are hard to see at first.
Eco's Features	Names features but does not connect them to Mishima.	Connects features to Mishima but treats them as a list.	Shows how features connect to each other in Mishima.	Uses Mishima to teach us something new about fascism.
The Paradox	Does not talk about the paradox.	Mentions the paradox but does not explain it.	Explains what the paradox shows about fascism.	Uses the paradox to understand why fascism is dangerous.