

# Introduction

## Course Overview

*Perspectives of Life in Literature* is not just a heavy book. It is a living, vibrant thing that can shake up your and your students' lives and make them richer and deeper. It is a fine instrument for looking at the world in new ways. It is laughter, tears, sweat, and relaxation all between two covers. It is the work of more than sixty authors and poets, people who dreamed and drafted, analyzed and allegorized, read and revised.

As you teach, always view your students with eyes of hope. *They* may be the next authors and poets. At the least, they will be enriched by the study of the works of great thinkers. Their study will help them better perform in their normal tasks of writing letters, reading, or giving a speech or a topic in church. They will carry memories of these stories and poems with them into a life of usefulness and productivity. Their perspective on life will be deeper because of their study.

## The Lessons

### Vocabulary

Most lessons except those in the poetry unit begin with a vocabulary exercise that includes some of the boldfaced words from the selections being studied. These words are reviewed in the *Looking Back* sections, quizzes, and the self check. Some will appear on LightUnit Tests. The glossary in the back of the LightUnit defines all of the boldfaced words in the selections.

The poetry LightUnits (3, 4, and 5) include very little vocabulary work. The glossary in the back of these LightUnits lists various poetry terms.

### Authors

Students are asked to memorize only authors who were significant in English or American literature or in the growth of the church. They could learn much more about some authors in an encyclopedia or other reference book.

### Comprehension

Some questions are designed to see how well students understand the selection. Many of these are multiple-choice questions and are objective enough for students to check themselves.

### Thinking questions

Some questions lead students to think more deeply about lessons to be learned from the selection and relate those lessons to their own lives. Some students may balk when asked to write their thoughts. Others enjoy thinking through issues. It helps if students can see how issues apply to themselves. Some of these are essay questions you need to grade. Grade them more by the depth of thought and effort than by closeness to a certain correct answer.

### Literary technique

Some questions deal with the characteristics and techniques of effective writing and of good literature.

Some questions specifically address symbolism in literature. Your more literal-minded students may struggle to grasp figurative language, but the more they do it, the better they will become at it.

### Creative writing

Often a creative writing exercise follows exercises dealing with literary technique, giving students opportunities to put the new technique to practice.

### Looking Back . . .

Most lessons (all except Lesson 1, quiz, self check, and test lessons) have a *Looking Back* section that reviews vocabulary words, literary techniques, and key concepts from earlier lessons. Students should review these sections before taking quizzes and the test.

## Grading

You may grade the course in the usual way, using only the quiz and LightUnit Test scores, as reflected in the score boxes in the back of the LightUnits, or you may want to count creative writing scores as a larger part of the grade.

In the LightUnits in which a significant part of the work is creative writing, you may use the following method of figuring the scores for these LightUnits: Count the LightUnit Test as 40% of the final grade, the quizzes as 40% (20% each), and creative writing assignments as 20%.

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For example, suppose a student scores 95% on Quiz 1, 96% on Quiz 2, 89% on his creative writing, and 98% on the LightUnit Test. Here's how it would work:

Quiz 1	95
Quiz 2	96
Creative Writing	89
LightUnit Test	98
counted twice	98
add together	<u>476</u>
divide by five: $476 \div 5 = 95.2 = 95\%$	
	LightUnit grade

## **Correlation of Textbook Units and LightUnits**

### ***Textbook Units***

Unit 1: The Short Story—for the Christ-Filled Life  
Unit 2: Poetry—for the Joyous Life  
Unit 3: Biography—for the Exemplary Life  
Unit 4: Reflections—for the Victorious Life  
Unit 5: Allegory—for the Fruitful Life

### ***LightUnits***

1, 2  
3, 4, 5  
6  
7, 8  
9, 10