

Grade 10 ▶

Unit Seven

PRE-INSTRUCTION CHECKLIST

MECHANICS	ACQUAINTANCE & ANALYSIS
Review as necessary to enable revision skill use	<input type="checkbox"/> Story: Parody
	WRITING ON DEMAND
	<input type="checkbox"/> ongoing, all disciplines

GENRE FOCUS

Story: Parody

NOTES

Parody is both enjoyable and challenging. The writer toys with an established work, free to try various changes to suit different purposes. Rather than producing raw material from scratch, the writer has another author's finished material to use as a verbal playground. However, producing an effective finished work of parody—and one that is worthy of its source material—is challenging. Almost any writer can plug in a plot twist and change the ending of a tale, but making intentional changes for effect or to spark different thoughts in the reader takes work, takes craft.

Encourage students to attempt manageable parodies. For example, first-time parody writers may have more success writing parodies of familiar fairy or folk tales than in trying to create a take-off of a Shakespearian work. In the days leading up to the unit, share several examples with students. A few illustrated books that feature excellent parodies include *Cinder Edna*, *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, and *Goldilocks Returns*. Though considered “picture books,” these easily shared examples illustrate several principles of effective parody.

PATTERN STATEMENT

Contrast captures attention.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The pattern *Contrast captures attention* can be illustrated

by showing and demonstrating contrast in multiple formats. For example, display photos that feature obvious contrasts, such as a basketball player in the middle of a group of children or a man with a mohawk at a black tie affair. Play a piece of music with obvious contrasts, such as a song in which the performer sings the chorus louder or with more intensity than the verses. Raise your voice for a few moments and then speak in a “stage whisper.” Show an image that features multiple circles and one square. Display an artwork where the artist uses contrasts of light and darkness to draw attention to something or some action in the painting or photograph (EX-ex). Have the students discuss, either in small groups or as a whole class, questions such as the following:

- What stood out in each example?
- Why was that element more noticeable than what surrounded it?
- Complete the following statement: “_____ stood out in contrast to _____.”
- How does contrast affect our attention? (Ex-co)

Use questions and the students' comments to guide them to the pattern statement and record it for display during the rest of the unit (EX-el). Have the students identify examples from their own lives that illustrate contrast capturing attention. Consider listing the best examples alongside the posted pattern statement.

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STORY: Parody			
Definition		Objective	
<p>Presents a story that is overtly based on an established story and uses changes from the original for humor, to explore alternative plot developments or resolutions, or to emphasize a theme that is different (often an opposite or near-opposite idea) from the original.</p>		<p>With teacher prompting, student writes a two-act play with at least three different scenes in each act and features a problem to be solved or challenge to be met and a reasonable (i.e., believable within the context) resolution.</p>	
Rubric			
EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	ADEQUATE	NOT YET
<p>▶ Writing possesses connections to an established work or collection of works; the reader can recognize the work being parodied; however, the writing does not read like a near copy of the original,</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Writing features effective exaggeration of elements from the original work, such as style, tone, or characterization. The exaggeration amplifies the parody's intent and avoids becoming meaningless silliness,</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Writing addresses larger issue than just the original work—i.e., the writer confronts larger themes/issues (e.g., social or political trends), parodying the original work to highlight perceived wrongs or foolishness within contemporary society.</p> <p>▶ While additional revision may be possible, the parody is well crafted and reveals a depth of thought and of genre understanding on the writer's part.</p>	<p>▶ Writing possesses connections to an established work or collection of works; the reader can recognize the work being parodied; however, the writing does not read like a near copy of the original,</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Writing features effective exaggeration of elements from the original work, such as style, tone, or characterization. The exaggeration amplifies the parody's intent and avoids becoming meaningless silliness.</p> <p>▶ Additional revision could improve the writing through editing any passages that detract from the author's main ideas, and by revising any passages that seem to portray the author as superior to the reader.</p>	<p>▶ Writing possesses connections to an established work or collection of works; the reader can recognize the work being parodied; however, the writing does not read like a near copy of the original.</p> <p>▶ Additional revision could strengthen the parody by exaggerating elements (e.g., style, characterization) to absurd states, or by scaling back attempted absurdity to avoid ineffective silliness.</p>	<p>▶ Writing either lacks obvious connections to an established work, adheres so closely to the original that it is basically a copy of it, or fails to present a complete and cohesive work.</p>