# Teacher Notes

- **Subject:** English
- **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- **Category:** Literary Types
- **Topic:** Short Story
- **Grade Level:** 10 - 12
- **Prerequisites:** Literary Devices
- **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

## Materials

- Voyage™ 200 Personal Learning Tool (PLT), TI-92 Plus, or TI-83 Plus
- TI-GRAPH LINK™ Cable, USB Cable, or TI-Navigator™
- TI External Keyboard (optional)
- Unit-to-unit Cables (optional)

# Elements of the Short Story

## Activity 3
## Assessing the Short Story

## Activity Overview

Students will read short stories and evaluate their use of literary elements and devices. They will compare the stories they read to Poe's "The Oval Portrait." They will create Venn diagrams to compare devices.

## Tips

Students benefit from reading and evaluating one another's work; this is significant for process-oriented teaching of writing, which encourages students to critically examine the work of their peers and their own. Combining this activity with a comparison between student writing and the model it's based upon will solidify for students the relationship between those elements and a writer's effectiveness.

This activity follows the collaborative activity where students wrote short stories modeled after Poe's "The Oval Portrait."  If you choose not to use the preceding activity/activities, this assessment activity can be adapted to any short story.

## Directions

### Before the Activity Begins

Students should send their stories to one another using the unit-to-unit cables.

## During the Activity

Students will evaluate their peers' short stories by:

♦ identifying literary elements used in the story,

♦ identifying literary devices and comparing them to devices used in Poe's "The Oval Portrait" by creating Venn diagrams,

♦ assessing key story elements using a Likert Scale and then explaining their rating choice.

Monitor student progress. Ask students to evaluate as many of their peers' stories as time allows. Use the Student Assessment Sheet, "Assessing Short Stories."

## After the Activity

Students should send their assessments to the author of each story they evaluated. Consider allowing students to revise or add to their stories based on the evaluations made by their peers.

## Student Assessment Sheet
## Assessing Short Stories

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the stories your peers sent you over the unit-to-unit cables. For each story you evaluate, complete the following analysis and assessment.

**Title:** _____ **Author:** _____

### Identification of Literary Elements

As you read a story, identify the basic literary elements of that story in the space below. Include examples of style and tone.

| | |
|---|---|
| Character(s) | |
| Setting | |
| Plot | |
| Theme | |
| Tone | |
| Style | |

**Title:** _____ **Author:** _____

### Venn Diagram of Literary Devices

Next, create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast literary devices used in the short story your peer(s) wrote and Poe's "The Oval Portrait." Draw your diagram in the space below, and clearly label the elements of the diagram.

**Title:** _____ **Author:** _____

## _Assessment Rating_

Rate the story based on the following criteria. Use a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means the story was not successful and 5 means the story was highly successful. Write a brief explanation for your choice:

1.  This story includes a story within the story:

    1                2                3                4                5

    Explanation:_____
    _____
    _____

2.  This story includes an ending which is somewhat foreshadowed, but still a surprise.

    1                2                3                4                5

    Explanation:_____
    _____
    _____

3.  This story uses literary devices for effect, at least one of which is alliteration, personification, foreshadowing, irony, or paradox.

    1                2                3                4                5

    Explanation:_____
    _____
    _____

4.  This story provides careful description and uses high-level vocabulary.

    1                2                3                4                5

    Explanation:_____
    _____
    _____