

Program Philosophy

About Nelson English

Reading opens doors to the world. And reading and responding to texts—whether literature, information texts, or media—allows students to better understand themselves in relation to the world. By choosing a Grade 11 Nelson English resource, teachers are not only covering all the requirements set forth in their provincial curriculum, but they are also giving students a book that will enrich their personal, social, and intellectual lives.

Student and teacher resources published by Nelson Thomson Learning are produced with care, reflecting not only curricular mandates, but also the classroom needs of individual teachers. Through advisory panels, surveys, interviews, reviews, and focus groups, Nelson learned that educators were asking for distinct resources for University and College courses at the senior level. The result is two new Nelson anthologies for Grade 11—*Literature & Media 11*, tailored for Canadian university preparation courses, and *Between the Lines 11*, tailored for Canadian college preparation courses. These books are complemented by two new comprehensive language resources—*Language & Writing 11*, a university preparation resource, and *Communicate!*, suitable for college preparation courses. While each book can be used independently, teachers are encouraged to integrate these resources.

Classroom teachers have been involved at every stage of the development of the Nelson English products. The content has been reviewed by teachers with knowledge of both the curriculum requirements and classroom realities. These materials have been designed to offer teachers flexibility to accommodate individual student needs, specific teaching styles, and current classroom resources while meeting the requirements of the provincial or regional curriculum.

Nelson English teacher resource materials offer strategies for planning a course, expert advice on how to teach specific genres, lesson plans for individual selections, and a workable approach to assessing student work. In addition, there are technology links and metacognitive activities to expand students' learning.

About *Language & Writing 11*

The *Language & Writing 11* package is designed to meet the requirements for university preparation English courses. It consists of a student book, a Teacher's Guide, a CD-ROM of the Teacher's Guide, and a Web site.

The Student Book

The models in the Student Book include a variety of essay forms: personal narrative, literary comparison, cause-and-effect, classification, persuasive, film review, and problem-solution. Students are also exposed to literary forms: dramatic monologue, short story, parody, and satire. As well, students learn media forms (hard news story and advertisement) and workplace writing (memo and e-mail, proposal, and process analysis).

The Student Book guides students through the writing process of a particular form. They begin by reading a model or models, then analyzing the model(s), writing a piece of their own, and, lastly, polishing their writing by examining style, design, and conventions. Students' learning is extended to other forms of communication, namely, oral language and the media. As culminating activities, students reflect on what they have learned, honing their metacognitive skills.

The Teacher's Guide

Teacher resource material is designed to help teachers meet the requirements of the provincial or regional curriculum for Grade 11 English. To this end, the Teacher's Guide includes

- guidelines on how to plan a course of instruction using these materials
- strategies for teaching specific skills
- guidelines and tools to be used in assessment and evaluation
- lesson plans constructed to help teachers make optimum use of the selections

The lessons in the Teacher's Guide expand on the knowledge and skills introduced in the student book. In addition, the Teacher's Guide provides links to other Nelson English 11 resources (where appropriate), activity-related blackline masters, and a complete assessment plan, including rubrics and student/peer checklists.

Meeting the Requirements of the Curriculum

The *Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12 English: 2000* states: “In their study of literary works by accomplished writers and from many genres, historical periods, and cultures, students consider personal and societal aspirations and explore possibilities. Through the study of literature, students strengthen their ability to use language as an effective tool for thought, expression, and communication” (p. 2). Consequently, the models in the student book reflect a wide range of literary and informational texts. This diversity of the texts appeals to a wide range of student interests and learning styles.

The *Ontario Curriculum* also notes that “students should have frequent opportunities to analyze various aspects of media communication, including key elements of the works themselves, the audience and media industry codes and practices” (p. 10). While media study has been an integral part of many English programs for many years, it is now one of the four specific strands in the Grade 11 curriculum. *Literature & Media 11* provides an entire unit of print media material, both written and visual, that teachers and students can use to meet curriculum expectations.

As well, the *Ontario Curriculum* points out that “[w]riting, from initial musings to final publication, is a complex process that involves a range of complementary thinking and composing skills, as well as other language processes, including reading, speaking, and listening. As writers compose, they consider their audience, make decisions about form, style, and organization; and apply their knowledge of language use, including the conventions of grammar, spelling, and punctuation” (p. 9). This philosophy is the very foundation of *Language & Writing 11*, which takes students through the writing process by (1) reading model(s), (2) analyzing the model(s), (3) writing, (4) polishing their work by examining styles, designs, and conventions, (5) extending their learning through oral language and media, and (6) reflecting on their learning.

Because of the Nelson English 11 books’ emphasis on Canadian literature and media and the overall diverseness of the selections (genres and forms), *Literature & Media 11* and *Language & Writing 11* can be used as components in the optional Grade 11 English courses: Canadian Literature; Media Studies; Literacy Skills: Reading and Writing; Presentation and Speaking Skills.

The activities in the Teacher’s Guide have been written by teachers, for teachers. They provide classroom activities that engage students in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and media studies within the framework of the curriculum. It is not intended that all the suggested activities be done; teachers can select those that meet their specific objectives.

Within each lesson plan, the activities

- meet the requirements of the Ontario curriculum
- focus on the integral meaning, structure, and artistry of the form
- clearly describe student activities for individuals, partners, and large and small groups
- include links to technology
- provide opportunities for metacognition
- are purposefully linked to assessment and evaluation

Across a unit, the activities

- cover a broad range of curriculum requirements
- achieve a balance between individual and group work
- include projects requiring research and outside sources
- include instructions for applying reading and learning strategies

Integration of Language Strands

Nelson English 11 resources use an integrated approach to develop the knowledge and skills associated with the four strands of the Ontario curriculum—Literature Studies and Reading, Writing, Language, and Media Studies. Students approach learning through reading a variety of texts drawn from literary and media sources that model different types of writing. These selections provide a context for the development of specific knowledge and skills. Next, students move on to text analysis and the creation of their own literary, informational, or media texts through research, writing, editing, and publishing. In many instances, there are additional opportunities for presenting work in class.

Teachers may find it helpful to use their anthology (*Literature & Media 11* or *Between the Lines*) with its accompanying language resource (*Language & Writing 11* or *Communicate!*) to maximize reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing opportunities.

The teacher who chooses to use an anthology with its accompanying language resource can do so easily by

- referring to the links that appear in the Teacher’s Guide lesson plans for *Literature & Media 11* or *Between the Lines*. These links direct the teacher to related genres and language skills in *Language and Writing 11* or *Communicate!*
- choosing a particular theme from *Literature & Media 11* or *Between the Lines 11* and linking it to models with related themes and features from *Language & Writing 11* or *Communicate!*

The integration of the language strands is also evident in the identification of major assessment tasks (see *Assessment and Evaluation*, p. xxvi). The major tasks cluster expectations from multiple strands, thus allowing students to integrate several knowledge and skill components in one major assignment. For example, a literary essay would involve

- reading and responding to texts
- developing a thesis statement and a logical argument
- researching and organizing information
- engaging in the writing process and mastering the essay form
- revising
- formatting and publishing finished work

Technical Opportunities

The Nelson English 11 program also offers numerous opportunities for both students and teachers to use technology. For the student, opportunities to understand and interact with technology begin with the student resources, which include a variety of media- and Web-based texts, as well as activities involving media creation and the publishing process (e.g., creating a Web site or working with page layouts on screen). Students can also visit the Nelson English 11 Web site to complete additional Internet-based activities. More than just links, the Nelson English 11 Web site provides support and guidance to students as they visit Web sites linked to the selections in the student book. Here they will find additional information about authors, more information about the cultural or historical context of the text, content links, and links to media products such as newscasts, music videos, and advertising.

In addition, the Nelson English 11 Teacher Resource comes in three formats: print, CD-ROM, and Web site. The CD-ROM version of the Teacher’s Guide includes the full content of the print resource in electronic form, allowing for the customizing of course plans, lesson plans, and assessment tools. The full content of the print Teacher’s Guide is also available on the Web site.

Assessment and Evaluation in Nelson English 11

Nelson English 11 presents an assessment solution that may be used not only with all of the Nelson resources, but also with novels, Shakespearean plays, other selections that may be used to augment English courses, and independent study units. This assessment solution comprises a set of assessment tasks, described on rubrics and student checklists that are provided as blackline masters as well as modifiable electronic files.

For a complete description of assessment and evaluation in Nelson English 11, including the underlying philosophy and ideas for implementation in the classroom, see *Assessment and Evaluation* beginning on page xxvi.