TEACHER: Mauricio Martinez Martinez

GUIDE: 8 From March 7th to March 28th (14 hours)

UNIT: 3

TOPIC: A PLACE CALLED HOME

Subtopics:
  b. Literary genre: Autobiographical excerpt
  c. Reading skills: Analyze author’s use of comparison and contrast.
  d. Literary devices: Autobiography, essays subjective and objective writing.
  e. Writer’s workshop: Write a descriptive essay about a place.
  f. Words to own

PERFORMANCES
- Identifies autobiography
- Differentiates objective from subjective writing.
- Analyzes and synthesizes essays
- Codes and decodes Words to Own.
- Analyzes and synthesizes “The Best Gift of My Life” by Cynthia Rylant
- Uses divergent thinking in expressing ideas through a descriptive essay.

CONTENT FRAMEWORK
The given topics and subtopics are taken from Elements of Literature, Third Course Holt, Rinehart and Winston, a Harcourt company.
- Objective and subjective p. 394.
- Comparison and contrast p. 394.
- Introduction to essays p. 399
- Words to own p.p. 395-397
- “The Best Gift of My Life” by Cynthia Rylant p.p. 395-397
- Creative Writing: Write an essay describing a special place or gift. P398

NEW VOCABULARY
Look up the following words in an English-English dictionary, write their definitions on your notebook and learn a synonym in order to be used in context.

1. canopy 7. catalog 13. enclosed 19. junkyard 25. rotten
2. barrels 8. consequently 14. equipment 20. linoleum 26. rust (ing)
3. bathtub 9. crawled 15. fellowship 21. maids 27. rusting
4. bleachers 10. curse 16. grocery 22. marshmallow 28. salvage
5. brick 11. drapers 17. heaters 23. notable 29. scatter (ed)

November 14th, 2010
HOMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBTOPICS</th>
<th>HOMEWORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading selection: “The Best Gift of My Life” by Cynthia Rylant.</td>
<td>- Scan and skim “The Best Gift of my Life” pp 395 and extract subject and objective writing examples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary genre</td>
<td>Write your autobiography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading skills</td>
<td>Do exercise in practice and application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary devices</td>
<td>Write a subjective composition about teenagers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writer’s workshop</td>
<td>Write an essay describing a special place or gift.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words to own</td>
<td>Rewrite the sentences that use the Words to Own from the selection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTENT EVALUATION
Answer the following questions based on the selection. (Analyzing and synthesizing)

1. What is the main idea in the story? Express the main idea in your own words.
2. What is objective and subjective writing?
3. What two things does Rylant compare and contrast in the first two paragraphs?
4. What is Rylant’s attitude toward each of them?
5. Is Rylant being objective or subjective in the opening four paragraphs? How do you know?
6. What groups of people in the world today are fighting a history of dispossession?
8. What values would you like to embody in your own life?
9. Name four beautiful things that are ephemeral.
10. Why is fellowship synonym of companionship?

PRACTICE AND APPLICATION
Read the information about Subjective and Objective writing and then, write one subjective and objective writing example. (Differentiating)
SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE WRITING

Compare and contrast both types of writing. Use purpose, audience, writing pieces and style as criteria. (Comparing and contrasting)
HOW TO WRITE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

When writing an autobiography, you focus on three major things: who you are in life, what life means to you and what your outlook on the future is.

“Autobiographies have been written since A.D. 400 when an early Christian leader, Saint Augustine, wrote his.” An autobiography is information about one's own life written by that one person. In it, it tells what that person's life is all about. When writing your own autobiography, use interesting facts to explain as much about yourself as you can.

The first thing you do when writing an autobiography is start off with a lot of facts about your life; for example, when and where you were born, where you live (city and state), where you go to school and who you live with. You have to give a lot of information so your reader can clearly understand what is going on. Once you have written this introduction, you are ready to start your first paragraph of the autobiography.

Who you are in life?

The best way to start an autobiography is to state your name. When you are writing this paragraph, you usually explain the type of person you are; use facts about yourself such as: have you won any awards? What types of awards have you won? Did you finish school? Do you plan on going to college?

What life means to you?

This is now your second paragraph. In this paragraph you should state how you see life—what does life mean to you. Are you happy or sad? Do you have a lot of friends or just a few? How do you make your school days go by? Do you have a boyfriend/girlfriend? What are your favorite places to go on dates? How long have you been dating? If you are involved in a relationship, do you think it will last forever?

What is your outlook on the future?

In this paragraph you should explain what you think the future will be like. Pick a year and explain how it will be but explain it through your eyes. Where will you be? How will you be living? Will you be married? Will there be any kids? Who will you be married to? What is he/she like? How long will you have been together?

Conclusion

The conclusion is the last paragraph of your autobiography and an important one, too. In the conclusion you usually try to re-word the introduction and add some type of closure to bring the whole autobiography together.

AN EXAMPLE OF AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I was born on a warm, sunny day in June in Sarasota, Florida. I still live in Sarasota, Florida, and I go to school at Booker High School. I live with my mom, Kate; my brother, Jake; and my Aunt Molly. When I was born, my brother was fifteen-months-old and hid under the table from me. Jake is a sweet kid and he would do anything for me, but like all brothers and sisters we fight like cats and dogs. So sometimes when no one was around, Jake would come up to me and bite my toes for no reason. I still love him but only because he is my brother.

Who I am in life.

My name is Sally Friday. I started school when I was six-years-old. I went to kindergarten through fifth grade at Booker Elementary and while I was there, I won an award for perfect attendance. I also won an award for honor roll all four terms. Then I attended Booker Middle School, and there I also won a couple of awards: one for perfect attendance and two for being named Student of the Year—one in sixth grade and the other in eighth grade. I am now a senior at Booker High School. I plan on finishing school and maybe going to a community college.

What life means to me.

Life to me means friends and family who you can trust and who trusts you. I am pretty much on the happy side of life, but like all teens I do I have my “days of.” That means I do have some sad days or depressed days. I have a few friends here that sort of look out for me and when I am having a bad day, I have someone here at school to talk to. I make my school days go by thinking of either the next hour or what I will do when I get home or on the weekend. I'm not seeing anyone now but when I did have a boyfriend, our favorite places to go were the movies and out to dinner. Sometimes we went to the beach. Only once we went to an amusement park: Universal Studios. We were together for twenty-nine days and then we broke-up; so no, I don't think it was forever.
What's my outlook on the future.

The year 2018 will make twenty years since I graduated from high school. I think I will probably be still living here in Sarasota. I will be quite comfortable with my living situation, meaning that I will be married to Paul Smith. We will have one child: Linda Treasa Smith, who at that point will be three-years-old and a little devil. Paul is a sweet guy; he will do anything for anyone. He is six feet tall and built well. He has baby blue eyes and blond hair. We will have been together for five years and will be happy together--this is forever.

Conclusion

As I said in the beginning, I was born here in Florida and I've lived here my whole life. I would like to see more of the USA but unfortunately, I don't have any money to leave Florida to go anywhere right now. I hope you have enjoyed reading my life story as much as I have enjoyed writing it for you. Try to get as much as you can out of school; you're only there for twelve years and when you graduate, you're home free. Here's a tip for you to live or try to live by: If you think it, it can be done.

References

A PLACE CALLED HOME
Read the selection and answer the exercise. (Comparing and contrasting)

There once lived a very famous leader who knew how to plan and fight battles in wars. Once, during wartime, he traveled to a foreign land in order to make his battle plans. His hosts, thinking of his importance and fame, let him live in a mansion with many rooms and servants, fit for a king. To everyone’s surprise, though, the man didn’t like the grand house. He couldn’t concentrate there. So he thanked his hosts but said that he wanted to live in a smaller house. They gave him a cottage with only two bedrooms and modest but comfortable furniture. There he felt much more at home.

2 The man’s name was Dwight David Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in World War II. Later, he would become President of the United States. The simple dwelling Eisenhower called home was Telegraph Cottage. It was, perhaps, the most humble home of any American general stationed in England during the war.

3 I think my grandfather would have completely understood why Eisenhower preferred a cottage to a mansion. To my grandfather, “home sweet home” had nothing to do with impressing the neighbors or living in a grand style. Instead, it had everything to do with familiarity, safety, and the feeling of being comfortable in well-worn surroundings.

4 As one of a multitude of grandchildren, I used to love to go on frequent visits to my grandparents’ tiny house in Tyler, Texas. Their house was so small, and so plain, that we affectionately called it “the shack.” Sitting right off the highway, this tiny one-bedroom house crouched on a blanket of east Texas dirt covered with tall pines. Out back, a wooden outhouse—an outdoor toilet—stood alone at a distance from the house. My grandparents didn’t get indoor plumbing until later.

5 When we got older, we found out that our grandparents didn’t have to live in “the shack” any longer. They had saved plenty of money. So they built a new brick house up the road. It had three bedrooms, and a separate living room and den. Spotless velvet chairs and shiny wooden tables from my uncle’s furniture store in Oklahoma City made it look like a page torn right out of a catalog. There were flushing toilets, shiny white sinks, and a huge kitchen complete with a new dining room table set. Compared to “the shack,” it was a palace, all shining and new and elegant.

6 Like Eisenhower in his English mansion, however, I don’t think my grandfather ever really felt comfortable in that fine new house. He soon started spending a lot of time out in the garage, and little by little he moved important personal items out there. Eventually, we saw his razor, shaving cream,
and comb resting on the garage’s little sink. There was also a comfortable old chair he kept out there to sit in so that he could read and ponder things.

7 I think my grandfather wanted to feel a little closer to the ground—to reality. He didn’t want to be surrounded by picture-perfect furniture that threatened to get scratched or dirty. Besides, the garage was warmer and cozier. An old gas stove made a good footrest. My grandfather wanted his house to be simply a shelter, nothing more: a place that kept him from being cold or wet, but at the same time didn’t lock him up and make him forget that he was still a creature of this earth.

8 I like to think that when my grandfather started setting up home in the garage, he was doing what Eisenhower had done: choosing the soft comfort and familiarity of a modest but real home over the impersonal luxury of a palace. I like to think that, for both men, home was a place where rooms could be as familiar as family, where chairs could be like old friends, and where every crack and paint splotch had a story to tell. Most of all, it was a place where you could be yourself and hear your own thoughts. It was a safe harbor. It was home sweet home.

**A PLACE CALLED HOME**

**Skill:** Comparing and Contrasting

**Directions:** After reading the MiniRead “A Place Called Home,” respond to each of the following scales by placing an X in the Phrase or Expression that you think best completes the statement. Be sure to explain your choices based on evidence in the text.

1. The writer likes her grandparents’ newly built house ____________ the old “shack.”
   - more than
   - less than
   
   **Explanation:**
   
2. The grandfather feels ____________ the new, bigger house.
   - dissatisfied with
   - pleased by
   
   **Explanation:**
   
3. The grandfather’s feelings about home are ____________ Eisenhower’s feelings about home.
   - the same as
   - different from
   
   **Explanation:**
   
4. Both the grandfather and Eisenhower felt that a very luxurious home was ____________.
   - Comfortable
   - uncomfortable
   
   **Explanation:**
GRAPHIC SUMMARY
Read the text and answer the questions. (Divergent thinking)

Somewhere Else
Cynthia Rylant daydreamed about being somewhere and someone else, and her daydreams led her to become a writer. Suppose one of your own daydreams came true. What might it lead you to become? In the dream bubble below, identify a daydream that stands out in your memory. Then jot down your ideas about where your daydream might lead you. You may use words, symbols, sketches, or a combination of all three.

1. What real-life actions could you take to make your daydream a reality?

2. How would you respond to someone who claimed that daydreams were a complete waste of time? What reason(s) can you give to support your response?

NEW CONCEPTS
Tone
Autobiography
-A Place Called Home-

Mini-Scale Project

DIRECTIONS

- Write an essay about the best gift of your life. You might think of family, a teacher, a trip, special lessons. In a brief essay, name the best gift, and tell why you treasure it so much.

GUIDELINES

1. First, make a list of the best gift of your life.
2. Share your best gift of your life with your classmates.
3. Present your findings to the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Student’s signature</th>
<th>Teachers’ initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Present a list of the best gift of your life.</td>
<td>Friday, March 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Share your findings with classmates and tell why you treasure it so much.</td>
<td>Friday, March 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL EVALUATION

After reading the selection, provide answers to the following questions. (Analyzing and synthesizing)

The Best Gift of My Life. Cynthia Rylant

11. When she was a teenager, Rylant’s idea of heaven was a
   a. small apartment with linoleum floors
   b. good-sized apartment with modern appliances
   c. new brick house with carpeting and a picture window
   d. high school gym with waxed wooden floors

12. The main reason Rylant is ashamed of her home is that
   a. it doesn’t smell like chocolate-covered marshmallow cookies
   b. she thinks other people will judge her by where she lives
   c. it has yellow drapes
   d. she envies her friend Christy’s family

13. The orchestra’s performance has a great effect on Rylant because
   a. it represents what she does not have
   b. the music bounces off the gymnasium’s walls
   c. it is held in such a small town
   d. she wants to become a famous composer

14. The view from the front window of Rylant’s apartment is
   a. of a park and a museum
   b. so beautiful that it inspires her to write poetry
   c. of an ugly warehouse and junkyard
   d. blocked by an office building

15. What does Rylant consider the “best gift” of her life?
   a. the gas heaters that kept her warm every winter
   b. the special attention of the New Orleans Symphony’s conductor
   c. her childhood desire to be someone else
   d. her ambition to be a famous composer
16. The author compares and contrasts her house with Christy’s house in order to express her
a. yearning to play in the orchestra with Christy
b. desire for things she did not have
c. desire to travel and see other homes like her own
d. feeling that what she already had was perfect

17. The contrast between the author’s house and Christy’s house is illustrated by the fact that
a. the roof of Christy’s house is slanted toward the ground
b. Christy’s house has a picture window
c. Christy’s house has new carpeting
d. the kitchen in Christy’s house has been completely renovated

18. Which of the following lines is the best example of subjective writing?
a. “She lived in a new brick house with carpeting in it and a bar in the kitchen. . . .”
b. “It was a long metal building enclosed by a high chain-link fence. . . .”
c. “I wouldn’t even go to the library in the nearby city because I felt so unequal to city kids.”
d. “I read a lot of magazines. . . .”

19. Which of the following is the best description of objective writing?
a. It focuses on nonliving objects.
b. It concentrates on facts and does not include personal opinions and feelings.
c. It is used by newspaper reporters to express thoughts about controversial issues.
d. It reveals the writer’s feelings, opinions, or biases.

20. The word essays comes from the French word, essais, which means
a. prayers
b. tries or attempts
c. ideas or thoughts
d. easy

21. An essay is a
a. short piece of fiction
b. long piece of fiction
c. short piece of nonfiction
d. long piece of nonfiction

22. The general tone of personal essays is
a. conversational
b. formal
c. moralistic
d. scholarly

OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE WRITING
Mark “O” in the box if you think the statement is objective, mark “S” if you think it is a subjective statement. (Differentiating)

1. O When I have a monthly haircut, on average, about 2 cm is trimmed off.

2. O If roughly one adult in three smokes, that is about 12 million people who smoke in the United Kingdom.

3. O Without a doubt, scientific inquiry is the only relevant inquiry in society.

4. S My favourite colour is blue because it reminds me of blueberries.

5. S Green tea is definitely better than Ginseng tea because it has caffeine.

6. S The best Korean movie is “Haeundae.”
7. _____ Prediction is about making claims about the future.
9. _____ Economics and Political Science were once a single discipline called Political Economy.
10. _____ According to the reading, the most dangerous place in the world is N. Korea.
11. _____ I think the safest place in the world to live is Christmas Island.
12. _____ Altruism is a type of behavior in which an animal sacrifices its own interest for that of another animal or group of animals.
13. _____ It is said in the lecture that, the perceived acts of altruism are nothing more than sneaky methods of utility maximization.
14. _____ In my opinion, the professor was wrong in her analysis.
15. _____ The sky is blue.
16. _____ Rainism is the best pop album of the century!
17. _____ The Gross National Product of Christmas Island is 32.2.
18. _____ Every decision made is based on utility maximization.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Read the excerpt of the biography of Barack Obama and rewrite it as if it were from your own account or autobiography. (Identifying)

Biography of Barack Obama

Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu. His father Barack Obama Sr. was from Kenya, and his mother Ann Dunham, was a white American. The couple met in the University of Hawaii where Obama's father was pursuing a degree in Russian language. Obama's parents were separated within two years of their marriage and they divorced in 1964. Obama's mother went to her parents with Obama and his father returned to Kenya. Barack Obama saw his father only once before his the latter's untimely death in a car accident in 1982. His mother married Lolo Soetoro and they shifted to Indonesia. Obama was sent to his maternal grandparents, in Hawaii for education. Obama has a half-sister, Maya Soetoro, who is a professor in Honolulu. He is married to Michelle Obama and they have two daughters, Malia and Natasha.

Obama completed his schooling from the Punahou School in Hawaii. He graduated in Political Science from Columbia University in 1983. In 1991, he pursued a degree of Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, where he was working as an editor. By the time Obama entered politics, he had been a community organizer, civil rights attorney and law professor in South Chicago. He was made a spokesperson in the Illinois General Assembly in 1997. In 2005, he became the junior U.S. Senator from Illinois. Barack Obama is now the 44th President of the United States of America. "At least on the basketball court," Obama writes about his favorite game in this autobiography, "I could find a community of sorts, with an inner life all its own."
I was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu…
**Words to Own**

Choose ten words from the list and write a short text. (Coding and decoding)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. canopy</th>
<th>2. barrels</th>
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<th>5. brick</th>
<th>6. Parent Teacher Association (PTA)</th>
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<td>28. salvage</td>
<td>29. scatter (ed)</td>
<td>30. warehouse</td>
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