

Textbase Structure

Textbase Information

Textbase: C:\Users\eric\Documents\JANET\Janet'sStuff\group6\group6_literature
Created: 10/17/2010 5:13:13 PM
Modified: 10/17/2010 5:13:13 PM

Field Summary:

1. Radio piece ID: Automatic ID, Term
Validation: required, single-only
2. Title: Text, Word
Validation: required
3. Creator: Text, Word
Validation: required
4. Topic: Text, Term
Validation: required, valid-list
5. Grade Level: Text, Word
Validation: required
6. Tag: Text, Word
Validation: required
7. Length in minutes: Number, Term
Validation: required
8. Review: Text, Word
Validation: required
9. Rating: Number, Term
Validation: required
10. Notes: Text, Word
11. URL: Text, Word
Validation: required
12. Images: Image, Word
13. Thesaurus: Text, Word
Validation: required, valid-list

Log file enabled, showing 'Radio piece ID'

Leading articles: a an the

Stop words: a an and are as at by com for from I in is it of on or that the
to with www

XML Match Fields:

1. Radio piece ID

Textbase Defaults:

Default indexing mode: SHARED IMMEDIATE

Default sort order: <none>

Textbase passwords:

Master password = 'GROUP6'

0 Access passwords:

No Silent password

Radio piece ID 1

Title Elsewhere

Creator Hillary Frank

Topic Literature

Grade Level 6-12

Tag Science Fiction, utopia, The Giver, Lois
Lowry, banned book, young adult

Length in minutes 5

Review This piece caught my eye because the producer talks with the Lois Lowry, the author of the book "The Giver". I have read this book and wanted to hear what the author had to say. The author told a story about a time she went to Hartford, CT in which the town was doing a "town read" of her book. Everywhere in the town, statues were shown reading "The Giver". A group of visiting Russian Librarians were horrified when they saw this-they thought everyone was being "forced" into reading this book, just like what they would have experienced in Russia in an earlier time. I thought that was a great story. I can imagine the librarians being appalled. I thought the producer did a nice job of relating her personal experiences to the story, but I really enjoyed hearing the author more.

Rating 3

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/1992>

Thesaurus Prohibited books

Radio piece ID 2

Title I Sit and Look Out

Creator David Grimes

Topic Literature

Grade Level 6-12

Tag poetry, Walt Whitman, 19th century American
Literature, anger, abuse, I Sit and Look Out

Length in minutes 3

Review Wow, this was an incredibly moving and emotional piece. It's gut-wrenchingly sad. And it's just as relevant today as it was when it was written in the 1850's. I'm embarrassed to admit that I had never heard of this poem and until now. I don't think I've ever read a Walt Whitman poem. The music complements this poem very well. The music is haunting and beautiful at the same time. You know when you first hear the music that it's not going to be a happy piece. The music is contemplative. However, in the last half of the piece, the music changes and it sounds as if there might be a "happy ending". A very strange ending is you hear children playing. I don't think the sound of children playing fits this piece. I think the ending would have been more powerful if it just ended with the last line of the poem.

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/19492>

Thesaurus Poetry

Radio piece ID 3

Title The Big Read: To Kill A Mockingbird

Creator Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Radio
Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag To Kill A Mockingbird, racism, Atticus,
Harper Lee, Pulitzer prize, 20th century
American Literature, historical fiction,
Alabama,

Length in minutes 30

Review This book is one of my all-time favorites.
It's such a powerful story. This piece looks
at why the book, written in 1960, and also
the movie, which was made only 2 years later,
are still so popular. This piece interviews
Charles Shields, who wrote a biography on
Harper Lee. An interesting item that I
didn't know is that the story is based on her
life growing up. Atticus is her father,
Scout is Harper Lee, even Boo Radley was man
named Arthur who lived down the street. She
grew up in Monroeville, Alabama. She dropped
out of law school and moved to New York. Ten
years after moving to New York she wrote "To
Kill A Mockingbird". This piece was very
informative, giving lots of "behind the
scenes" information. The actress that
played Scout, Mary Badham, is also
interviewed. One item that I found
interesting is that the film producers
specifically looked for non-professional
actors to play the kids because they wanted
true Southern actors. After listening to
this piece, I will watch the movie. I would
recommend this piece to anyone who is curious
about, or has enjoyed either the book or the
movie, or both.

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/25241>

Thesaurus History in Literature

Radio piece ID 4

Title KERA Commentary: Huckleberry Finesse

Creator Sam Baker

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag mark twain, huckleberry finn, tom sawyer,
racism, south, slavery, 19th century american
literature, classic, Samuel Langhorne Clemens

Length in minutes 0:03

Review This piece is short and powerful. When I
first heard it, I was surprised because the
commentator, Tom Dodge, sounds like a
stereotypical red neck. He's not though.
The experiences as a English teacher he
shared were touching. He discusses a
controversy in a Texas high school in which
an English teacher was discussing The
Adventures of Huckleberry Finn with his high
school class. He was using the district

approved study guide. He wrote the "n" word on the blackboard, much to the dismay of the lone black boy in his class. A controversy ensued and the boys parents wanted the book banned. The commentator goes on to tell some of his experiences teaching Huck Finn and also about teaching the risks of prejudice. He has a very compelling analogy that he uses. I would recommend this piece as a "must read" to everyone and especially teachers.

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/22233>

Thesaurus Huckleberry Finn

Radio piece ID 5

Title Thom Steinbeck Shares His Father John
Steinbeck's Ways of Encouraging Reading

Creator National Endowment for the Arts/Robert Kessler

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag john steinbeck, reading, classic american
literature, 20th century american literature,

Length in minutes 1

Review I thought this piece was going to be one hour, so you can imagine my surprise when it was only one minute. I was disappointed! I was hoping to get a deeper look into the life of John Steinbeck. However, the one minute piece was very good. I like how he got his kids to read the classics-this piece is highly recommended, especially since it is only 1 minute long! My only complaint is that it wasn't one hour.

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/24593>

Thesaurus Authors, American

Radio piece ID 6

Title Sandra Day O'Connor Discusses Justice in "To
Kill a Mockingbird"

Creator National Endowment for the Arts/Robbert Kessler

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag To Kill A Mockingbird, Sandra Day O'Connor,
justice, Atticus, lawyer, inspiring, law
school, 20th century American literature,
historical fiction, Harper Lee

Length in minutes 1

Review Again, I thought this piece was going to be one hour. It was only one minute. Since this book is one of my favorites, I was hoping to get some more insight into the book. That isn't possible with only 1 minutes of audio. I was disappointed with this piece. The title is not correct. The main subject was about a law clerk that Sandra Day O'Connor had who had been inspired by the book to become a lawyer.

This piece is worth listening to, but it needs a more fitting title.

Rating 2

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/24563>

Thesaurus intellectual freedom

Radio piece ID 7

Title Ed Harris Reads from John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" -- with Commentary from Richard Rodriguez

Creator National Endowment for the Arts/Robbert Kessler

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag john steinbeck, reading, classic american literature, 20th century american literature, Grapes of Wrath, dust bowl, 1930's, California, migrants, farm workers

Length in minutes 2

Review Ok, I won't be surprised again. Why did I think this piece was going to be 1 hour and 30 minutes? It was only 1 minute and 30 seconds. Although, I am glad of this. I don't know if I would have had the patience to sit through 1 1/2 hours of a piece. Ed Harris does a superb job of reading a passage from the book. The second half of this piece gives a brief overview of the book, enough to pique interest. A book can really come alive when it is read by a talented narrator. I have come to really love listening to audio books. I looked on amazon.com to see if there is an audio version available of The Grapes of Wrath. There is an audio cd of a LA theater company's live production of The Grapes of Wrath. I might look into seeing if I can get this from the library. I read this book over 20 years ago, and remember liking it, but I don't remember the specifics. This piece has inspired me to either hear it for the first time or read it again.

Rating 4

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/24625>

Thesaurus Oral Interpretation

Radio piece ID 8

Title Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner

Creator New Letters on the Air

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag Khaled Hosseini, The Kite Runner, friendship, historical fiction, Afghanistan, taliban, Kabul, boys, guilt, contemporary fiction

Length in minutes 29

Review Physician and writer Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner, talks about his fictional book set in his native Afghanistan. The piece starts out with Dr. Hosseini reads the first chapter of his book. The author then

discusses the book. I have already read some interviews about this book. I thought I would know most of what he would say. I was wrong. I learned a lot about the book and the background for him writing this book. It is so nice to know more about a book than what we read. Listening to the author of *The Kite Runner* gives us this insight. There was one burning question I had (is this book a memoir?) that was answered in this piece. I'm so glad just to know this one answer!

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/4293>

Thesaurus American Literature-Minority Authors

Radio piece ID 9

Title *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

Creator Vermont Public Radio

Topic Literature

Grade Level 5-7

Tag *Maniac Magee*, Jerry Spinelli, young adult, Newbery Medal, friendship, homelessness, orphans, racism, fiction, 20th Century American Literature

Length in minutes 29

Review This piece is an excerpt from *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. I didn't know anything about this book. I've just heard it mentioned a lot. After listening to this piece, I realize that it's probably not something a high school English teacher would use to help her teach her lectures. I think high school kids would think this book is too "young" for them. I could be wrong, but I don't think so. I do think if high school kids were willing to have an open mind, they could learn more about acceptance and understanding from this book. However, there are probably more relevant books for that age group. This book would be good to use in a 5th-7th grade classroom. One of the excerpts from the book was eerily familiar to me. When I was living with my older sister in Venice Beach the summer I was 16, I had a local person yell at me "Go home" every time I went past their apartment. This also happened to *Maniac Magee*. That scene alone makes me want to read the book in its entirety to find out how that played out.

Rating 2

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/6786>

Thesaurus Newbery Medal

Radio piece ID 10

Title *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen

Creator Vermont Public Radio

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag *Hoot*, Carl Hiaasen, young adult, environment,

Newbery honor, mystery, owls, fiction,
conservation, Florida, endangered species

Length in minutes 29

Review This piece is an excerpt from Hoot by Carl Hiaasen. It is his first young adult novel. After listening to this piece, I think it would be a good piece for most high school english teachers to use as an additional piece to complement their lectures. However, I don't think it's a good fit for our hypothetical English teacher because I don't think it relates to the American classics that are taught in the Junior grade. The book sounds very intriguing. I do imagine high school kids being interested in this book because it seems like a good mystery. I liked this piece, and I am now interested in reading it, but I don't think it's a good fit for our hypothetical teacher.

Rating 2

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/644>

Thesaurus young adult fiction

Radio piece ID 11

Title Maya Angelou & Guy Johnson - Mother and Son
Poets become themselves

Creator West Coast Live - Sedge Thomson

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag Maya Angelou, Poet, poetry, activist, food,
mother, son, motherly love, 20th Century
American Literature

Length in minutes 45

Review This is a piece featuring Maya Angelou and Guy Johnson. Guy Johnson talks first and then Maya Angelou talks. The piece discusses their love for each other, and how. Her son read a few of his poems. They are so gut-wrenching! He was so emotional reading his poems. It was very touching. This piece was funny too. The stories that they shared about each other were heart-warming and funny at the same time. I don't think a high school group would necessarily appreciate their relationship and their stories. Based on that, I don't think this piece would be a good choice for a High School English teacher. I did like one thing Maya Angelou said "I shall die, but that's all I will do for death". How...poetic!

Rating 2

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/8243/reviews>

Thesaurus American Literature-African American Authors

Radio piece ID 12

Title RN Documentary: Imagination is the Instrument
of Compassion

Creator David Swatling

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag September 11, tragedy, Imagination,
Compassion, empathy, fiction, Jonathan
Safran Foer, New York, Extremely Loud &
Incredibly Close, 20th Century American
Literature

Length in minutes 29

Review I didn't like this piece. I kept on trying
to connect to it, but couldn't. It was too
"out there" for me. I don't think this is a
good piece for a high school english teacher
to use to supplement her lectures. It was
yet another piece, albeit a weak one, about 9-
11. I have read and/or heard a lot of worthy
pieces about 9-11. The excerpts from the
book didn't appeal to me at all. The
interviews with the author were more
interesting, but not much more. I would not
recommend this piece.

Rating 1

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/5916>

Thesaurus Historical fiction

Radio piece ID 13

Title Rudolfo Anaya Discusses Oral Tradition in
Light of His Novel, "Bless Me, Ultima"

Creator David Schulman

Topic Literature

Grade Level 10-12

Tag cuentos, storytelling, 20th Century American
Literature, Bless Me Ultima

Length in minutes 1

Review Part of the "Literary Moments" series, this
piece is very short, but it would make a
useful opening device for a lesson focusing
on the importance and continuing influence of
the oral tradition in the work of Anaya and
other Chicano and Latino writers. Students
are engaged by the sound of the actual voice
of the author they are reading; when a
recording is available it is a valuable
addition to a lesson plan

Rating 4

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/24596>

Thesaurus Storytelling

Radio piece ID 14

Title The Peabody Sisters: an interview with
biographer Megan Marshall on ThoughtCast

Creator Jenny Attiyeh

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11-12

Tag Transcendentalism, individualism, Hawthorne,
Thoreau, Horace Mann, Concord, Sophia Peabody
Hawthorne, Elizabeth Peabody, Mary Peabody
Mann, 19th Century American Literature,
Peabody Sisters

Length in minutes 29

Review This informative discussion with the author

of a fascinating biography gives students a new view of a central era in US literary history. The discussion presents the contrasting lives of Elizabeth Peabody, brilliant early feminist and scholar who played a crucial role in the development of 19th Century American thought, and her two more traditionally feminine sisters, who became the wives of Elizabeth's literary associates, providing a much-needed female perspective on the legendary Concord literary scene.

Rating 5

Notes Good to split over 2 class days

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/9222>

Thesaurus Transcendentalism (New England)

Radio piece ID 15

Title This I Believe - Azar Nafisi

Creator Jay Allison and Dan Gediman with John Gregory, Viki Merrick and Ellen Silva

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11-12

Tag Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, empathy, racism, 19th Century American literature, Azar Nafisi, This I Believe

Length in minutes 4

Review This piece is a goldmine for the high school English teacher. It features Nafisi, whose work, *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, is often used in high school literature classes in conjunction with *The Great Gatsby*. It also focuses on the development of empathy, often a major thematic focus at this grade level. Nafisi's rich voice and personal background will enlarge the value of the presentation, which unfortunately is currently available as text only.

Rating 4

Notes 1. Use text in conjunction with the Nafisi interview so students can hear her voice. 2. Audio promised soon.

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/10585>

Thesaurus Twain, Mark, 1835-1910

Radio piece ID 16

Title Revisiting Literary Lives: William Faulkner and Zelda Fitzgerald

Creator Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Radio

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11-12

Tag *The Sound and the Fury*, Absalom, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Southern fiction, Yoknapatawpha county, Jazz Age, 1920's, 20th Century American Literature, Faulkner, Fitzgerald

Length in minutes 29

Review Two separate features share one program. The first puts forth the theory that Zelda

Fitzgerald's mental illness may have been caused by medication she routinely took for eczema, and also attributes her schizophrenia to her life in the shadow of Fitzgerald's genius. The first theory, though interesting to scholars, is probably not very useful for high school discussion; the second makes a reappearance after going out of scholarly fashion since its heyday in the early years of feminism. Karen Tatum, who presents the research, has a very irritating voice, which would surely provide a distraction in the classroom! The second portion focuses on Faulkner's year as visiting writer at the University of Virginia. UVA professor Steve Railton walks readers through the opening pages of *The Sound and the Fury* in a way which will earn him the gratitude of high school juniors. The piece includes a wonderful brief clip of Faulkner answering audience questions at the school.

Rating 4

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/25937>

Thesaurus Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940

Radio piece ID 17

Title Joe Gores Discusses Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon"

Creator NEA/David Schulman

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag hardboiled, hard-boiled, Sam Spade, detective, mystery, crime, noir, The Big Read, 20th Century American Literature, The Maltese Falcon

Length in minutes 2

Review The NEA packs a lot of content into its Literary Moments. As many towns used The Maltese Falcon for "The Big Read", some schools have adopted it for their school-wide read. This short piece would make a good writing prompt for all grade levels, introducing the values of the hardboiled antihero.

Rating 4

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/24580>

Thesaurus Detective and mystery stories

Radio piece ID 18

Title August Wilson

Creator New Letters on the Air

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11-12

Tag Fences, The Piano Lesson, Ma Rainey, African American, griot, storytelling, racism, 20th Century American Literature, August Wilson

Length in minutes 29

Review August Wilson's own voice, and his compelling

description of how his characters speak to him and divulge the details of their plots, will surely intrigue students meeting his plays for the first time. Especially because there is a shortage of video of Wilson's plays, this piece is a perfect example of the way an author's own voice, its accent, cadences, and breaths, can illuminate for students the experience of reading the work.

Rating 5

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/6345>

Thesaurus American Literature-African American Authors

Radio piece ID 19

Title Ralph Waldo Emerson

Creator David Miller

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11

Tag Transcendentalism, Thoreau, Concord, individualism, 19th Century American Literature, Emerson,

Length in minutes 59

Review This is generally an excellent piece, and especially useful for a high school classroom as it makes numerous connections between Emerson's world view and the current world, drawing analogies between his concept of the "Oversoul" and the webbed-up world of research and socialization on the Internet. Christopher Lydon's narration also restores Emerson from archetypal "Dead White Guy" to the passionate revolutionary extremist figure students should know and might love.

Rating 5

Notes Teacher should listen ahead and note logical breaks--too long for the attention span and typical time use in one class.

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/5752>

Thesaurus Philosophy

Radio piece ID 20

Title Azar Nafisi Interview

Creator Eric Wayne/Sandip Roy

Topic Literature

Grade Level 11-12

Tag Reading Lolita in Tehran, Nabokov, Tehran, Iran, Islamic Republic, The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald, This I Believe, tolerance, Azar Nafisi

Length in minutes 20

Review Much of this interview provides Nafisi's general thoughts on life in Iran under the Islamic Republic, but there are very good segments on The Great Gatsby, when the main character is tried as an immoral capitalist in Nafisi's class in Tehran, and segments about the value and nature of reading, both of which would be very effective in the classroom.

Rating 4

Notes Use in conjunction with Nafisi's This I Believe essay

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/136>

Thesaurus The Great Gatsby

Radio piece ID 21

Title Mean Streets USA: A Collection of Short Crime Fiction

Creator KCRW-Santa Monica

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag The Big Read, hardboiled, hard-boiled, Los Angeles, Philip Marlowe, detective, mystery, crime, Raymond Chandler, I'll be Waiting, Ross Macdonald, The Angry Man, Elmore Leonard, Karen Makes Out, Walter Mosley, Silver Lining, Jim Fusilli, Serpent's Dance, Andrew Vachss, It's a Hard World, Sue Grafton, The Parker Shotgun, George P. Pelecanos, The Dead Their Eyes Implore Us, Dick Lochte, A Tough Case to Figure, Michael Connelly, Cielo Azul, noir, The Big Read, 20th Century American Literature

Length in minutes 417

Review This is a well-chosen collection of 7 hardboiled mystery short stories. I listened to the Walter Mosley story, which was well performed by Meschach Taylor, and has suitably noir-ish musical accompaniments. Excerpts I listened to from several other stories were of similar quality. Students could use these in podcast or audio form in conjunction with printed versions.

Rating 4

Notes Good for all levels as part of school Big Read of The Maltese Falcon or similar crime novel

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/10415>

Thesaurus Hardboiled fiction

Radio piece ID 22

Title Mark Twain

Creator Catie Talarski

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Huckleberry Finn, 19th Century American Literature, Mark Twain

Length in minutes 2

Review This is a brief piece which is not broadly useful for the classroom. It does bring up the question of the value of the preservation of literary sites, in this case Mark Twain's Connecticut home, a museum which is in financial jeopardy, and also has a brief snippet of Hal Holbrook performing as Twain.

Rating 2

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/27284>

Thesaurus American literature-19th century

Radio piece ID 23
Title English: Alona on Emily Dickinson
Creator Alona Suvorova
Topic Literature
Grade Level 9-12
Tag poetry, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Amherst,
19th Century American Literature
Length in minutes 2
Review This is basic biographical information about
Emily Dickinson delivered on the poet's
birthday by a Russian presenter--the program
is also available in Russian, This is a weird
little piece and not particularly useful,
though students who are studying Dickinson
might like to hear, in Alona's thick Russian
accent, about Dickinson's "nice deep and
sensitive poems about love, nature, and death".

Rating 1

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/7699>

Thesaurus Literature

Radio piece ID 24

Title The Face of Poetry

Creator David Kates

Topic Literature

Grade Level 9-12

Tag poetry, photography, Margaretta K. Mitchell,
Lunch Poem Series, Czeslaw Milosz, 20th
Century American Literature

Length in minutes 4

Review This is a description of a photo exhibit at
USC, which paired a famous series of photos
of poets, taken after their readings at the
UC Berkeley Lunch Poems Series, with scrolls
containing a poem by that poet. USC curators
Andrew Wulf and Tyson Gaskill, discuss the
choice, which seems obvious but was
apparently uncommon, to display the photo
alongside the poetry. A poem by Czeslaw
Milosz is well-performed.

Rating 4

Notes Get the book and use in conjunction: The Face
of Poetry (Lunch Poems Reading). Robert Haas,
Zach Rogow, Margaretta K. Mitchell. The book
also contains a CD of many of the readings.

URL <http://www.prx.org/pieces/19084>

Thesaurus Poetry