

Emergency Plans

AP English Literature and Composition

Week 1

Mr. Byrnes

Existentialism and Camus' "The Myth of Sisyphus" and *The Stranger*

Note: Lessons are designed in conjunction with handouts, an essay, and a novel distributed to students prior to a long-term school closing.

Day 1

1. Read the handout on the tenets of existentialism, highlighting key concepts and ideas of philosophical interest.
2. Examine the cartoon from *The Wizard of Id*. In two well-constructed paragraphs, analyze any two aspects of the king's behavior that exhibit existential thinking.
3. Read the handout on Albert Camus, highlighting information germane to Camus' view of existence, particularly its existential absurdity.
4. Read and annotate Camus' essay "The Myth of Sisyphus," adhering to guidelines for annotations utilized throughout the year.

Day 2

Construct an essay on Camus' "The Myth of Sisyphus" that reflects a keen understanding of the following:

Sisyphus is condemned to perform the same monotonous action throughout eternity, yet Camus concludes that, for Sisyphus, "all is well." Focusing on the existential principle that a man is always free, analyze *how* Camus depicts Sisyphus as a man who is free to choose. Analyze two key points, supporting your contentions with evidence from the text.

Day 3

Read and annotate Part I of Camus' *The Stranger*, examining Meursault as the existential hero. Focus on aspects of Meursault's thinking and behavior that illustrate his existentialism. Also, consider the roles of Meursault's mother, Raymond, Marie, Salamano, and the Arab in the existential fabric of Meursault's world.