This document demonstrates the many ways in which educators can use the Poetry & Short Story Reference Center (PSSRC) to achieve the curriculum goals described in the Common Core State Standards. PSSRC is specifically geared toward high school and junior college language arts students; therefore, this document does not cover elementary school standards.

**What is Poetry & Short Story Reference Center?**

- A comprehensive database of poems and short stories of varying reading levels and degrees of text complexity from different source types including anthologies, reference books, journals and periodicals.
- A collection of informational texts on numerous poetic themes, techniques, schools and movements, as well as critical essays on specific works.
- A resource for educators which includes lesson plans to help guide classroom discussion and student projects.
- A multimedia resource with thousands of audio and video recordings of writers reading or discussing their works, which helps students to contextualize the content.

**CCSS and Language Arts**

The primary objective of CCSS for a language arts curriculum is to ensure students can competently read, cite and analyze a variety of text types. Below are the specific ways in which these standards can be applied using the content provided by PSSRC.

**Key Ideas and Details:**

- Determine when a text makes an explicit statement and when a statement is implied (9-10/11-12.1)
- Determine a poem/short story’s basic themes and how they develop throughout the work (9-10/11-12.2)
- Objectively summarize a text (11-12.2)
- Provide textual evidence to substantiate any claims made (9-10/11-12.1)
- Examine the author’s use (if any) of setting and character, and how those elements develop over the course of the work (9-10/11-12.3)

**Text Complexity:**

- Read and comprehend poetry and short stories in the grades 9-12 complexity bands independently and proficiently (9-10/11-12.10)

**Text Types:**

- Primary sources, like:
  - Classic and contemporary poems and short stories
  - Letters and personal essays by and between celebrated authors
- Secondary sources, including:
  - Biographies of major and minor poets and other writers
  - Essays on literary themes, movements, forms, and famous poems
  - Articles from top literary journals, magazines, and newspapers
- Multimedia content:
  - Videos from MacNeil/Lehrer, Academy of American Poets, and the Poetry Foundation
  - Audio recordings of poets reading both other poets’ and their own works
  - Images of significant literary figures
**Craft and Structure:**
- Analyze an author’s **choice of words**, including figurative and connotative meanings, and determine the **impact** of those words on the poem’s overall style and substance (9-10/11-12.4, 6)
- Analyze the author’s choices in **structuring** a poem or short story (9-10/11-12.5)
- Analyze the **viewpoint** of both American and international poems and short stories (9-10/11-12.6)

**Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:**
- Analyze the ways in which a writer uses, repurposes, and interacts with an earlier source work or a work from a different artistic medium (9-10.7, 9/11-12.7)
- Achieve a solid knowledge of key works of American literature from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries (11-12.9)
- Compare themes as expressed and interpreted by poems and short stories by different authors (9-10/11-12.9)

**How Poetry & Short Story Reference Center Can Help**

**Text complexity:**
- Identify appropriate level of text complexity using **Lexile values** available on most content.
- Search result lists can be filtered to a specified text complexity range by using the advanced search feature and choosing a Lexile range, by typing in a specific Lexile value, or by limiting the result list by clicking “Show More” under the “limit to” area of the “Refine Results” tool.

**Text Types:**
- Find specific **text types** (called “Source Types” on Poetry & Short Story Reference Center) by choosing specified Document type(s) and Publication type(s) under the Advanced Search option.
- Result lists can also be limited using the “Source Types” limiter available under the “Refine Results” tool.

**Resources:**
- **Most Studied Poems collection:** more than 7,000 poems by international classic and contemporary authors representing the most relevant poems for today’s classroom
- **Enhanced indexing** of literary techniques, forms, and themes in most studied poems
- **Literary Contexts essays** examining themes, techniques, and forms as they are used throughout classic and contemporary English and American poems, as well as hundreds of explications of key poems
- **Multimedia**, including
  - More than 2,300 audio recordings of poets reading their own and others’ works
  - Videos of poetry readings and interviews with top American and international poets
  - Thousands of images of leading literary figures

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**What is the Common Core?**

Common Core State Standards Initiative developed in 2013 by the National Governor’s Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State Officers:

- Provides a clear set of educational standards for educators
- Outlines major subject areas and skills the student is to develop using the specific curriculum provided at the state level
- Centers around language and mathematical literacy, analysis, and problem-solving
- Applicable across disciplines, including Social Studies and Science
- Requires a significant change in the type of content being read in the classroom
- Presents a heavy shift toward non-fiction reading and analysis in all classrooms