

hello!

START HERE

1. Check your order

We've made every effort to pack your collection carefully.
Please take a moment to make sure you've received everything you ordered.

CONTACT US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IF ANYTHING IS MISSING OR INCORRECT.

2. Get to know your collection

The following unboxing sheets will give you a brief introduction
to each component of your collection.

IMPORTANT: Carefully read the teacher and student
information in the front of each guide.

3. Browse the schedules

The *Suggested Yearly Schedule* is just that, a suggestion. Our materials are designed
to adapt to your schedule, your teaching style, and your student's learning style.

The *Weekly Literature Schedule* is also a suggestion, but over many years,
this approach has proven to be a great tool in helping students succeed and flourish.

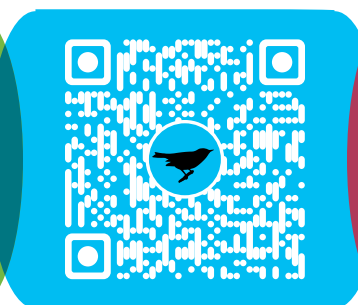
4. Explore our support resources:

Parent/Teacher Info



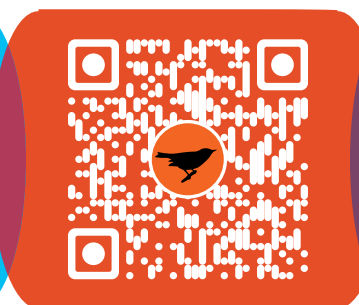
[blackbirdandcompany.com/
information-for-parents-and-teachers](https://blackbirdandcompany.com/information-for-parents-and-teachers)

Answer Keys



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Free Resources



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Videos



[blackbirdandcompany.com/
video-collection/](https://blackbirdandcompany.com/video-collection/)

Thank you for choosing a Grade Level Collection!

Please take a moment to make sure you have received everything included in your order.

Your Grade Level Collection contains the following items:

LITERATURE/WRITING • Level 4 Genre survey.

6 Workbooks & Novels:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Eggs | <input type="radio"/> Homeless Bird | <input type="radio"/> The Outsiders |
| <input type="radio"/> The Giver | <input type="radio"/> I, Juan de Pareja | <input type="radio"/> Skellig |

COMPOSITION • The Essay Volume 4: Little Worlds

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Student Workbook | <input type="radio"/> Little Worlds: A Collection of Short Stories for the Middle School |
|--|--|

VOCABULARY • Operation Lexicon: Flannery O'Connor

- ☐ Student Workbook

GRAMMAR/STYLE • The Writer's Toolbox

- ☐ The Writer's Toolbox Book

The following will help you become familiar with each piece of your collection.

Literature Discovery Guides: Level 4 Genre Survey

In your box you will have received 6 Level Four guides and accompanying novels. In the 9th grade, students will read a variety of genres including pure fiction, magical realism, historical fiction, and fantasy, including tales from America, Britain, India, and Spain. Everything you will need as an instructor is contained within the student guide. Taking time to carefully read through this material, as well as the student journal, will help you to understand what is expected of your student along the way. It will also provide strategies to support and inspire. Finally, spend some time reading through the student instructions for the Section 5 culminating essay and creative project. Once you are familiar with the week-by-week format, you'll be able to help your student successfully complete the guide for each of the novels.

Ultimately, when it comes to language arts learning, much of the exceptional work that students accomplish will be subjective in nature, tied to their ideas. As we value the ideas of the student—their discoveries from reading, their observations—and challenge them to write these ideas well, the outcome, over time, is that literacy skills soar.



The Essay Volume 4: Little Worlds

This intermediate unit is developed to teach students how to translate a BIG idea tied to a little story into an essay. Through 5 lessons over the course of 10 weeks, students will craft 5 literary essays tied to great writers—Flannery O'Connor, Ernest Hemingway, and more.



Operation Lexicon: Flannery O'Connor

A lexicon is the collected vocabulary utilized by a writer. Over the course of 26 weeks, students will explore a cluster of words from the lexicon of Flannery O'Connor. Using these words in an original way, with inspiration from her many short stories and letters, will help the budding wordsmith recognize the plasticity of language and delight in its beauty.

1. Everything for the teacher is included in the front of the student guide. Begin by reading the *Introduction* followed by the *How to use this Guide*—3 short pages! Encourage your student to read along.
2. Read, together with your student the information about Flannery O'Connor
3. With your student, look through the *Story Starters* and the *Day 3 micro-story example* before beginning the work.
4. Each week contains three days of lessons. These lessons are guided by a built-in-mentor for your student to be guided in the work. Familiarizing yourself with one week will help you to better support your student. Day 1 and 2 will take about 15 minutes each, while Day 3 may take a bit longer, 30 minutes to an hour, because it involves application of the words and a bit of creativity.

Finally, here is an encouragement from Flannery O'Connor:

A story is a way to say something that can't be said any other way, and it takes every word in the story to say what the meaning is.



The Writer's Toolbox

Help your students recognize rhetoric and appreciate the well-turned phrase. *The Writer's Toolbox* teaches students to identify, appreciate, and use rhetorical devices. Every lesson begins with a simple explanation of one of the rhetorical devices, along with examples from literature, oratory, and real life. The lesson closes with suggestions on the best way to begin using the device. After each lesson are exercises that encourage students to recognize and use the tool for themselves. Recommended as a once or twice a week activity.



Grade Level Collection | **Suggested Schedules**

1 = Week Number

 = 1 Week in Workbook

 = Review or Complete

 = No Assignment

Use 4 weeks to complete the journal activities. Use week 5 for essay writing and project. Use week 6 if needed to extend writing and/or projects

The Essay Volume 4: Little Worlds • 90 minutes/week spread over 1, 2, or 3 days • 10 Weeks

Operation Lexicon: Flannery O'Connor • 3 days/week, 15–30 minutes/day • 25 Weeks

[illegible]

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Preliminary WEEKS 1-4 Sections 1-4	Complete Section 1 reading before beginning Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Character</i> - <i>Themes, Symbols, Motifs</i> - <i>Vocabulary</i> - <i>Quotes</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Character</i> - <i>Themes, Symbols, Motifs</i> - <i>Vocabulary</i> - <i>Quotes</i> • Write <i>150 Word Synopsis</i> rough draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Character</i> - <i>Themes, Symbols, Motifs</i> - <i>Vocabulary</i> - <i>Quotes</i> • Edit and complete <i>150 Word Synopsis</i> final draft • Write <i>300 Word Reflection</i> rough draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edit <i>300 Word Reflection</i> and conference with an adult • Write <i>300 Word Reflection</i> final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section due • Begin reading for next section
WEEK 5 Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin <i>Section 5 Essay</i> • Begin <i>Section 5 Project</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue <i>Section 5 Essay</i> • Continue <i>Section 5 Project</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue <i>Section 5 Essay</i> • Continue <i>Section 5 Project</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue <i>Section 5 Essay</i> • Continue <i>Section 5 Project</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5 Essay and Project due • Begin reading for next grade



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READ WELL • WRITE WELL • THINK WELL

LANGUAGE ARTS
MATERIALS



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LIVE/ONLINE
CLASSES



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