

Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	xi
Discussions—collaborative classroom activities for promoting discussion	1
The Sixty Second Game	3
Fishbowl	5
Read, Reread, Close Read	9
Put the Question	12
It’s Time We Talked	15
Reverse Entropy	18
Debate	21
Leader, Skeptic, Scribe	23
Essentials—classic literary exercises everyone should try	27
The Blow Up	29
The Cut Up	31
The One-Liner	35
The New Title	37
The Descriptive Word	39
The Common Thread	41
Stories—narrative, plot, setting, structure, character, point of view, beginnings, endings, ethics	45
The Six-Word Story	47
Narrative Rounds	49
Splicing	52
Is It in Your Body?	55
Mapmaker	58

vi | Contents

Diagram This	61
Bridges	63
Intersectional Reading	66
Proust Questionnaire	70
Understanding Point of View	75
Flip the Script	78
First Paragraphs	81
Script Doctor	85
Alternate Endings	87
The Great Debate	90
<i>Stories: Further Exercises</i>	93
Poems—content, form, language, sound, meter	95
Let’s Get Heretical	97
Great (and Not So Great) Expectations	100
Piece by Piece	102
Form and Content	105
Sonnet Sampler	109
Dramatic Monologue	112
Parts of Speech	115
Tenor and Vehicle	118
Be Pedantic	122
Karaoke Poetry	127
Explode the Poem	130
Close Listening	132
Don’t Get Stressed by Meter	135
Your Line	138
Versification	140
<i>Poems: Further Exercises</i>	145
Plays—interpretation, genre, character, staging, performance, context	147
Vote with Your Feet	149
Statues	151
Dramatic Scansion in Everyday Life	155
Playing with Genre	158

Whose Line Is It, Anyway?	161
We've Got the Beat	164
Talk Show Host	167
Set Design	170
Staging the Scene	173
Adaptation	177
Soliloquy	181
Director's Cut	184
Moving Scenes	187
Reading the Reviews	189
Spin the Globe, Shakespeare	192
<i>Plays: Further Exercises</i>	195
Genres—identifying, rethinking, and switching genres	197
Introduction to Genre Fiction	199
How to Read a Bookstore	202
Translating Sonnets	204
Updating a Classic	207
Mixtape Maker	209
Social Media Meets Classic Literature	212
To Thine Own Tweet Be True	215
<i>Genres: Further Exercises</i>	218
Canons—using, debating, and building canons	219
What Is “Literature”?	221
Is This Book Literature?	223
Putting a Face to a Name	226
Literature Class Band	229
Judge a Book by Its Cover	231
The Blank Syllabus	233
Build-A-Canon	236
<i>Canons: Further Exercises</i>	239
Words—understanding, defining, and relating words	241
Keywords	243
Vocabulary Bites	246

viii | Contents

Le Mot Juste	248
Word Clouds	251
Aphorisms	253
Fill in the Blanks	256
The Fascination of What’s Difficult	260
<i>Words: Further Exercises</i>	262
Styles—naming, describing, and imitating styles	263
First Things First	265
Dramatic Echoes	267
The Forgers’ Circle	270
One-Sentence Pastiche	273
Imitate This	275
Convolution	278
Punctuation Matters	281
<i>Styles: Further Exercises</i>	284
Pictures—drawing, printing, and viewing pictures	285
Draw Me a Picture	287
Island Mapping	290
Reverse Ekphrasis	292
Novel Portraits	296
Close Reading Comics	299
Making It Graphic	302
Digital Literacy	305
<i>Pictures: Further Exercises</i>	308
Objects—touching, making, and interpreting objects	309
Reading without Reading	311
Poetry Broadside Gallery	313
Making Manuscripts	316
Online Commonplace Book	318
Object Lesson	321
The Things Inside Books	325
Chekhov’s Gun	328
<i>Objects: Further Exercises</i>	332

<i>About the Editors</i>	333
<i>Contributors</i>	335
<i>Four Cross-Indexes to Help You Plan Ahead</i>	339
<i>General Index</i>	341