ACTIVITY 2.1

Previewing the Unit

LEARNING STRATEGIES:
Quickwrite, Marking the Text, Graphic Organizer

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
Social commentary is a means of speaking out about issues in a society. It may take the form of rhetoric as well as artistic forms.

My Notes

INDEPENDENT READING LINK
In this unit, you will read literary fiction and nonfiction that explore America's commitment to freedom of speech. For independent reading, choose another play such as *Inherit the Wind* or *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* (both by Jerome Lawrence and Edwin Lee) or another play by Arthur Miller.

Learning Targets

- Preview the big ideas and vocabulary for the unit.
- Identify and analyze the skills and knowledge necessary for success in completing the Embedded Assessment.

Making Connections

Imagine you are a witness to a situation you perceive as being unjust. What is your response? Do you speak out or remain silent? Now, imagine you are an author who has witnessed an unjust situation and you decide to speak out, using the most influential forum you know—your writing. Songwriters, poets, dramatists, bloggers, Webmasters—writers and performers of all ages use **social commentary** to speak out against perceived injustices every day. Using art to advance social commentary has long been a hallmark of artistic expression.

Essential Questions

The following Essential Questions will be the focus of the unit study. Respond to both questions.

1. How can artistic expression advance social commentary?

2. How are the components of rhetoric applied to the creation and delivery of persuasive speeches?

Developing Vocabulary

Examine the Academic Vocabulary for this unit and assess your prior knowledge of the Literary Terms. Keep track of your expanding knowledge of academic language and terms specific to the study and understanding of challenging literary and non-fiction texts.

Unpacking Embedded Assesment 1

Closely read the assignment for Embedded Assessment 1.

> Your assignment is to work with a group to write and perform an original dramatic script in which you make a statement about a conflict that faces society. By doing so, you should be able to demonstrate you understanding of how Arthur Miller spoke out about a contemporary issue (persecution of suspected communists) while setting his drama in a time period with corresponding events (persecution of suspected witches).

What knowledge must you possess and what skills must you have in order to create and perform a dramatic scene that advances a social message? Create a graphic organizer that demonstrates your analysis of the assignment.

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