



ELA Virtual Learning

English I

May 8th, 2020



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Lesson: May 8th, 2020

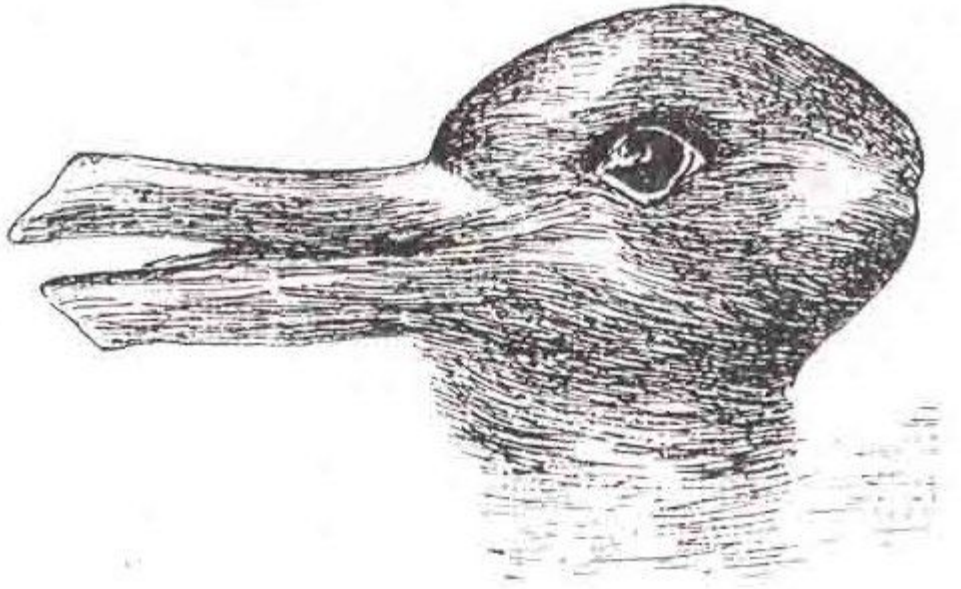
Objective/Learning Target:

I can compare how works in different media express ideas about a similar topic

I can explain my thinking about a challenging idea in writing

Do Now

Observe the image to the right. What animal do you see?



Do Now, cont.

Some people will see a duck, while others will see a rabbit. In psychology, this is called a Gestalt Switch. You can see a duck, and you can see a rabbit, but it's very difficult, almost impossible, to see both at the same time.

In 2015, an ambiguously colored dress went viral. Some viewers saw black and blue, while others saw white and gold. A similar event happened with the [Laurel/Yanny audio clip in 2018](#). These are all examples of this problem of perception.

Two-Day Focus

Yesterday we began working with ideas related to perception and reality. We read *The Emperor's New Clothes* and watched a TEDed video about Plato's *Allegory of the Cave*. We will continue that work today.

Overview

Images like the Duck/Rabbit from the Do Now are one reason why this philosophical question has been so resonant for so many years. When we view that image we can see a duck, and we can see a rabbit. So, what is it a picture of? What is it meant to be? Or is the meaning of the picture determined by the observer? What if there were a way to make someone perceive something as true that had never actually happened?

Lesson: Exploring how texts in different media explore the same theme

The image is one example of content created to play with ideas related to perception and reality. The Laurel/Yanny clip is another.

As we continue to explore themes related to these ideas, consider how in different situations, speakers, writers, and artists will use different tools to cause us to think about these themes.

Activity: Read text, Watch TED Talk, Charts

For our work today we will look at two different texts in two different media, both of which touch on, either directly or indirectly, the conflict between appearance and reality.

The first is Chapter 3 of *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne. The second is a TED Talk by Julia Shaw about false memories.

Activity: Read text, Watch Video, Chart

- Follow [this link](#) to read *Winnie the Pooh Chapter 3*.
 - Use the Comment feature in Google Docs to annotate the text.
 - Write your thoughts, questions, confusions, connections, inferences, and summary details as you read.
- After reading the chapter, [click here](#) to watch Julia Shaw's TED Talk (~16 min).
 - Feel free to take notes on the TED talk with [this Doc](#).
- Once you've viewed the video, [click here](#) to access the handout for this assignment. If you worked on this yesterday, you can use the same handout.
- You'll need to go File-Make a Copy in order to work with *Winnie the Pooh*, the TED Talk Notes page, and the handout.
 - Replace "Copy of" with your name.

Activity: Writing

Choose one of the prompts below:

- 1) Why couldn't Pooh and Piglet see the truth about the tracks they were following?
- 2) React to what Julia Shaw says about hacking memories. What are your thoughts?
- 3) Is there a difference between perception and reality? Explain your thinking.

Activity: Writing, ex.

1) Pooh and Piglet couldn't see the truth about the tracks that they were following because they were too close to those tracks to be able to see them clearly. Christopher Robin was perched in a tree above them, and could clearly see the truth. I think this relates to how, when we are too close to a problem, or a situation, sometimes we can't trust our perception of that situation. Think about a relationship or friendship that has problems. Both people in the situation have their own version of why there are problems, and both are convinced they are right. I think this is because they are both involved in the situation. They are too close, and have all kinds of emotions wrapped up in what is happening. Plus there is the problem of defensiveness, and caring about how others view you. That is why couples therapy exists. An outside perspective is sometimes necessary.

Extension

If you're fascinated by the implications of Julia Shaw's work (like I was) here's [a clip from NOVA](#) where she discusses it in a little more depth (~5 minutes).

If you're interested in False Confessions, here are a couple more TED talks about those:

[Who would confess to a murder they didn't commit? Maybe you.](#) (~19 minutes).

[Why teens confess to crimes they didn't commit](#) (~15 minutes)