



**ELA Virtual Learning**

# **English IV**

**April 29, 2020**



Lesson: Wednesday, April 29th

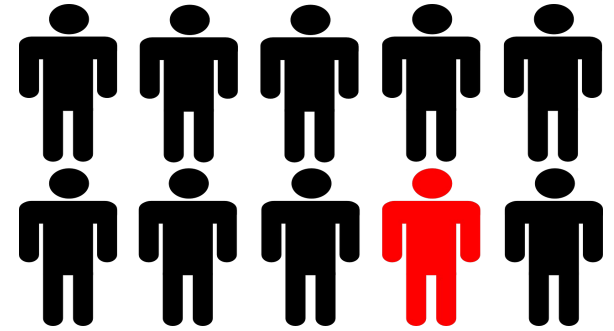
## Objective/Learning Target:

- Students will read and analyze a selection of literature to draw conclusions, make inferences, and use specific textual evidence to support analysis.
- Students will evaluate author's word choice and syntax and how it contributes to overall meaning, tone, and aesthetic impact.

## Bell Ringer:

What makes people stay quiet or speak out?  
What drives people to act like others, even if they personally disagree? This short clip defines the term “conformity bias.” After watching the clip, answer the quick write prompt in your notebook, on notebook paper, or on a Google Doc that you will use for other tasks during this lesson.

### Conformity Bias



#### Quickwrite:

- Can you name one example of conformity bias?
- Have you seen an example of a person or know of a person who spoke up for themselves, even though it wasn't popular?
- How did others respond?

## Background Info:

- Award-winning author E. Lily Yu's short fiction has appeared in many international publications.
- This story, which was selected for *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy 2017*, asks readers what it truly means to be human.
- In “The Wretched and the Beautiful,” E. Lily Yu presents human reactions to aliens who are both different from us and similar to us, exploring the choices the humans make.
- In this lesson, you will be reading a fictional selection that focuses on society, elements of science fiction and fantasy, as well as the ideas of conformity, ethics, and bias.

## Background cont.:

- You will need to make several inferences which are assumptions or ideas readers gather from a text that are not directly stated. In other words, we have to “read between the lines.”
- We will also analyze word choice, author’s use of sentence variety (syntax), and determine how all of these contribute to our understanding of the theme, or message, of the story.
- First, let’s review some basic literary elements and terms.
- Please review the info on the next slide.

## Learn:

Below are some common literary terms and devices. Review these terms and refer back to them frequently while analyzing today's selection by E. Lily Yu.

1. Bias→ prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair
2. Inference→ info not directly stated in a text; must read between the lines
3. Word choice→ diction; specific words and phrases used by the writer to convey a particular tone, mood, or motif
4. Theme→ author's message, life lesson, or moral to the story; central idea

## Practice:

- Read: [The Wretched and the Beautiful](#) and annotate, stopping along the way to clarify, question, visualize, connect to, and predict (comprehension strategies).
- As you read, take notes on how the people are reacting to the visitors, and consider what *message* the author reveals about society.
- Try to answer the questions of "How does fear drive action?", "What are the effects of prejudice?", and "How can fear be used to manipulate?"
- Answer the questions on the next slides using complete sentences and evidence from the selection when necessary.
- Write your responses on your paper or on a Google Doc.

1. What do paragraphs 62-64 suggest about the humans' response to the suffering of the aliens?
  - a. They care more about their comfort and ease than the pain of others.
  - b. They care more about easing the pain of others than their own comfort.
  - c. They ignore the pain of others, especially when others have done bad things.
  - d. They ignore the pain of others, especially when others are richer than they are.



# Answer Key:

1. What do paragraphs 62-64 suggest about the humans' response to the suffering of the aliens?
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  - c. They ignore the pain of others, especially when others have done bad things.
  - d. They ignore the pain of others, especially when others are richer than they are.

Explanation: Humans care more about their own comfort and ease as evidenced by the following, “The cameras stopped there, at that glorious scene, and all of us, warm and satisfied with our participation in history . . .” Being “warm” and “satisfied” implies comfort and feelings of ease or normalcy, and definitely not pain. Therefore, “a” is the best choice.

2. What does the humans' reaction to the "beautiful aliens" communicate about the humans?

- a) It is easy to believe someone or something that is mysterious.
- b) People are quick to believe in someone or something that feels familiar.
- c) People are quick to believe in someone or something that makes them sad.
- d) It is difficult to believe in someone or something that is similar to our enemies.

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Explanation: Again, feelings of ease, normalcy, and familiarity are a human's natural inclination to something that is comfortable. Clearly, the beautiful ones are most comfortable to the humans. Therefore, "b" is the best choice.

# If you want to learn more . . . Additional Resources:



- *What are the experiences of these immigrants?*
- *In what ways are these immigrants' experiences similar to the experiences of "the wretched"?*
- *What should be done to make sure immigrants and refugees are safe and cared for?*

- *As Venezuela's economy began to collapse, refugees began trekking to Columbia for safety.*
- *In addition to safety and medical needs, immigrants were not welcomed; they had no place to call home and nowhere to live in La Guajira.*
- *With this video, you can learn about the daily experience of immigrants, as well as their varying needs.*

[Venezuela-Colombia Border: Refugees, Crime and Despair](#)