

***The Natural* by Bernard Malamud**

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Roy Hobbs is a small-town teenage pitching prodigy on the fast-track to major league baseball. However, his career is stalled when he is shot and seriously wounded by a psychotic woman, beginning a series of events that constantly deny Roy of his greatest ambitions. An embittered Hobbs eventually claws his way back to the big leagues by his mid thirties, only to be ruined by recklessly trying to claim the social and financial laurels that he is convinced should have been his long ago.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: “How do adversity and environment influence an individual’s behavior and identity?”

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12