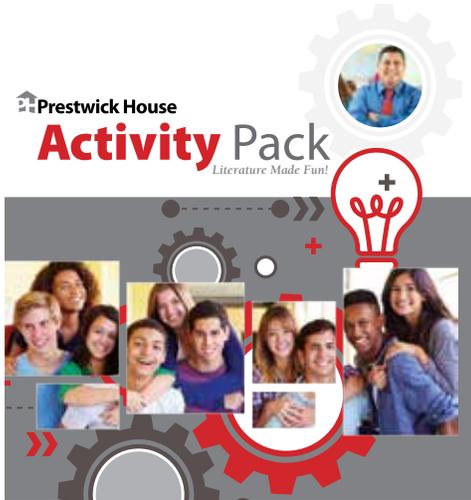




Prestwick House  
Activity Pack™

# Sample



Click here  
to learn more  
about this  
Activity Pack!



Click here  
to find more  
Classroom Resources  
for this title!



## Prestwick House

*More from Prestwick House*

### Literature

Literary Touchstone Classics  
Literature Teaching Units

### Grammar and Writing

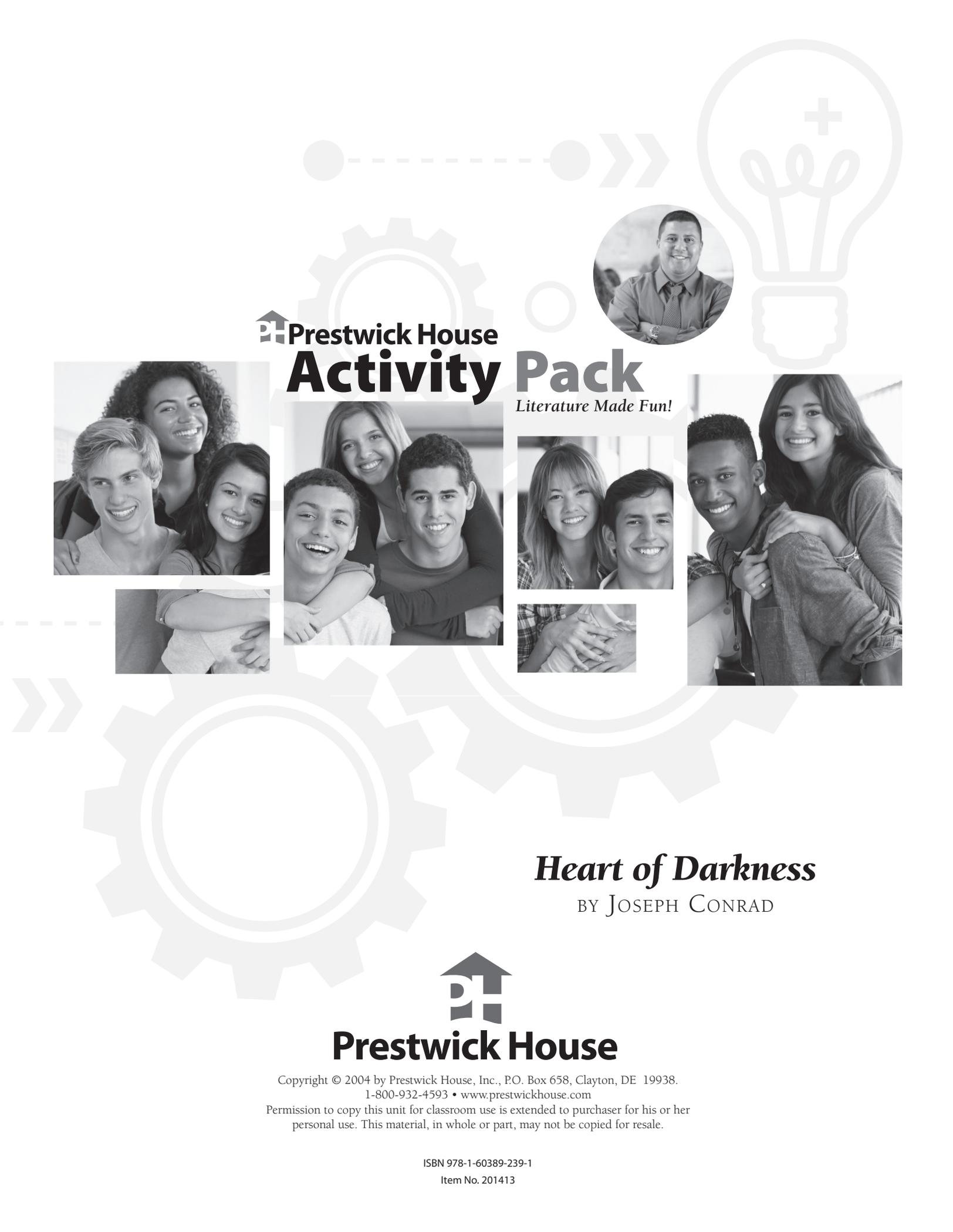
College and Career Readiness: Writing  
Grammar for Writing

### Vocabulary

Vocabulary Power Plus  
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

### Reading

Reading Informational Texts  
Reading Literature



 **Prestwick House**  
**Activity Pack**  
*Literature Made Fun!*



***Heart of Darkness***  
BY JOSEPH CONRAD



**Prestwick House**

Copyright © 2004 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.  
1-800-932-4593 • [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)  
Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-60389-239-1  
Item No. 201413

## Table of Contents

### Pre-Reading

Author's Resume .....	4
Research and Presentation.....	10
Anticipation and Persuasion .....	14

### Chapters 1 – 3

Alternative Readers' Theatre.....	18
Writing Diary Entries .....	22
Plot Review: Round-Robin Reading Check.....	24

### Chapter 1

An Illustrated Summary .....	28
Context Clues: Magic Squares.....	30
Characterization: Choosing Character Traits .....	36
Analyzing the Text.....	38
Frame Story .....	42
Identifying Style .....	46
Reading Check: Crossword Puzzle.....	58

### Chapter 2

Art: Creating a Collage .....	60
Identifying Literary Devices .....	62
Identifying Literary Devices in <i>Heart of Darkness</i> .....	66
Writing Literary Devices.....	78
Characterization: An Interview .....	86
Postcards.....	88
Symbolism: Identifying Symbolism in <i>Heart of Darkness</i> .....	90
Reading Check: Explaining Quotations .....	94

### Chapter 3

Writing a Will .....	98
Characterization: Spidergrams .....	100
Identifying Motifs, Thematic Concepts, and Themes in <i>Heart of Darkness</i> .....	110
Theme: A Literary Analysis .....	114
Theme: Essay Revision .....	116
Reading Check: Plot Events .....	118

### Wrap-Up

Independent Project .....	120
Book Review .....	124

## Appendices

Terms and Definitions .....	126
Dramatization of Scenes in the Novel .....	130
Directions for Interviews .....	131
Newspaper .....	132
Outline.....	134
Small Group Learning .....	135
Procedures for Small Group Work .....	137
Small Group Evaluation Sheet.....	138
Student Roles in Group Discussions .....	139

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press® edition of *Heart of Darkness*, copyright 2004.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Reading

### Author's Resume

**Objectives:** Understanding an author's motivation for writing a literary text  
Writing a resume  
Researching biographical information using electronic and print materials

### Activity

Joseph Conrad, born Teodor Jozef Konrad Korzeniowski, earned his living as a seaman and author. He spent more than twenty-five years of his life as a sailor. When he was a child, he dreamed of sailing to the Congo. By realizing this dream and sailing around the world, he gained knowledge and experiences to change careers and become a writer. In the second half of his lifetime, he wrote of his sailing experiences in his novels, which were quite successful. An orphan who was obsessed with money, he led an intriguing life participating in gambling, gun smuggling, and other criminal activities.

Research the life and writings of Joseph Conrad using resources in the library and on the Internet. Make notes on the following information:

- Educational background
- Career
- Skills
- Other writings
- Recognition and awards

Then, compile the information to create a resume for Joseph Conrad. Use the Sample Resume that follows as a model.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapters 1 – 3

### Writing Diary Entries

**Objectives:** Composing a series of diary entries for a character  
Inferring character traits through dialogue and narration  
Understanding a character's thoughts, actions, and motivations

#### Activity

Joseph Conrad kept a journal and wrote many letters during his years at sea. He later used these journal entries to remember specific events in his travels, which he used as events in his various writings.

Your assignment is to create a journal or diary for Marlow. You will compose at least 8 dated entries based on his journey to the Congo. Pretend you are Marlow and use first person point of view. You will comment on the major events of the plot and **MUST** comment on the following:

- Any meeting Marlow has with other characters
- Any changes in Marlow's character, especially psychological changes
- Any important event in the novella
- Marlow's relationship with other characters
- Marlow's thoughts about Kurtz
- Marlow's theories about colonialism and imperialism

Begin creating your dates in the late 1800s (such as 1875 – 1890). Be sure to mention other characters in each diary entry, if possible, and remember to pretend you are Marlow and are experiencing the trip to the Congo. Here is a sample journal entry for him based on the events in Chapter 1:

May 12, 1882

Today, I went to the Company's office to sign my employment contract. I had no trouble locating the office; it was the biggest building in town. I found two women knitting black wool at the entrance. The slim woman showed me to the waiting room where I examined a colorful map that showed various areas of the world. I became excited when I found the yellow area where I was going. The river was so fascinating; it looked like a deadly snake and beckoned me to it. A doctor then examined me, which was a puzzling encounter. He measured my pulse and skull size and remarked that he measures everyone who leaves for the Congo. I found it strange, however, that he said he never got a chance to measure each person's skull when they returned. Why would he go to the trouble to measure everyone's skulls when they left but not when they returned? What's the point? He also talked about psychological changes and madness, which really irritated me. Why did he think this was his business?

Try to write in the style in which Marlow speaks in the novella. Revise for grammatical errors. Be creative!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 2****Characterization: An Interview**

- Objectives:** Identifying factors that influence the changes in a dynamic character  
 Responding to literature by composing interview questions addressing the main character and writing his or her likely responses  
 Working cooperatively to plan and/or carry through a group assignment  
 Listening to understand the major points of a group's presentation

**Activity**

Pretend that you have the opportunity to interview Marlow after the death of the helmsman. In small groups, think of questions you would like to ask Marlow. Then, write Marlow's answer using first person point of view with the pronoun "I." Include the following three questions in your list and add 5 – 7 more questions of your own.

1. After the helmsman dies, why do you immediately change your socks and shoes instead of crying or mourning his death?

---



---



---



---

2. After you change your socks and shoes, you don't seem disappointed at the helmsman's death, yet you remark, "And by the way, I suppose Mr. Kurtz is dead as well by this time." What did you mean by this comment?

---



---



---



---

Ask Marlow more questions about anything you have read so far in the novel and formulate his answers. You will present your interview to your classmates. Prepare your presentation, choosing one of the following techniques:

- a one-on-one interview between a reporter and Marlow
- a news talk show with two or three interviewers and Marlow
- a newspaper article with a concise title and answers to the questions: who, what, when, why, where, and how
- an evening news report about the interview with Marlow

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3

### Theme: A Literary Analysis

**Objectives:** Analyzing literature by writing an essay on theme  
Composing an essay using correct grammar, usage, and mechanics  
Writing in third person  
Organizing writing to include a thesis statement, topic sentences, and supporting details  
Citing evidence from a novella to support a thee  
Using technology to create and organize an essay

### Activity

Select a theme from *Heart of Darkness* from the previous Activity and write a multi-paragraph essay to support it. Here is a suggested format: Organize your essay to include an introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion. In your introduction, briefly describe the text in general and present your chosen theme in the thesis statement. In each body paragraph, include quotations from the text to support your theme. For example, you can include quotes from Chapter 1 in your first body paragraph, quotes from Chapter 2 in your second body paragraph, and quotes from Chapter 3 in your third body paragraph. Finish your essay with a conclusion. Type your finished essay in a word processing program. Be sure to follow these guidelines when writing your essay:

- Use information from the previous Activity on theme.
- Include well-organized paragraphs.
- Include a thesis statement in your introduction.
- Choose a compelling title.
- Write in third-person point of view, using he, she, and other third person terminology.
- Cite and explain at least one incident from the text in each paragraph.
- Each paragraph must begin with a topic sentence.
- Each paragraph must contain supporting details.
- Include evidence from the novella in the form of quotations and paraphrased material.
- Quotes should not stand alone; incorporate them into your own sentences.
- Provide parenthetical citations for direct quotes.
- Restate the main ideas of your essay in the conclusion.
- Incorporate transitional words and phrases between paragraphs and ideas.
- Have a classmate help revise and proofread your essay before submitting it for grading.