

# Teacher Note: Echoes of October – Grade 9–10

This lesson is designed to align with the Ontario Language Curriculum (2023) and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) cross-curricular competencies in Language Arts, Media Literacy, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

## Grade Level:

Grade 9–10

## Curriculum Connections

This activity supports:

-  Ontario Language Curriculum:
  - - Reading: Understanding point of view and narrator’s bias (A2.1, A2.3)
  - - Writing: Using descriptive language and reflective writing (B1.3, B2.3)
  - - Media Literacy: Identifying bias, framing, and the purpose of a message (D1.2, D2.1, D2.3)
-  TDSB Cross-Curricular Priorities:
  - - Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Encouraging emotional insight and personal reflection
  - - Well-being: Safe space for discussion of trauma-informed storytelling

## Why Echoes of October Fits Into Your Year Plan

Unit	Curriculum Tie	Echoes of October Use
Narrative Voice & Perspective	Language – Reading (A2.1), Writing (B1.1)	Four characters narrate the same events differently (Rashomon effect)
Media Bias & Critical Thinking	Media Literacy (D1.2, D2.2)	Students compare real news articles and headlines from multiple outlets
Personal Memoir / Identity	Writing (B1.4), SEL	Draw and write about emotional or identity shifts since October 7
Global Awareness / Conflict Studies	Social Studies / Language	Graphic novel contextualizes complex geopolitical issues for age-appropriate audiences
Visual Literacy	Media Literacy (D3.1)	Use of symbols, color, and metaphor in illustrated and student-created content

# Before & After October 7 – Reflection Worksheet (Grade 9-10)

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This worksheet helps you think about how your thoughts or feelings have changed because of recent events. You'll use drawing, descriptive words, and reflection to explore this topic.

## Part 1: Draw and Describe

In the spaces below, draw or describe two different scenes or feelings.

← Before – How did things feel before? What were you thinking about?

→ After – How do things feel now? What's changed in your world?

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## Part 2: Use Descriptive Words

Write at least 5 adjectives and 5 adverbs that match each time period. These help describe your feelings and reactions.

Before – Adjectives:

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Before – Adverbs:

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After – Adjectives:

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After – Adverbs:

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## Part 3: Reflect in Words

Write a short paragraph (4–6 sentences) to reflect: “What have you noticed about yourself or the world since Before & After October 7? How has your thinking changed?”

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## “Echoes of October – Integrated Grade 9–10”

Here is a rubric specifically designed for the Before & After October 7 Reflection Worksheet, aligned with:

- Ontario Grade 9–10 Language Curriculum
- TDSB Media Literacy, Visual Literacy, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) goals

## Assessment Rubric:

### Before & After October 7 – Grade 9–10 Reflection

Curriculum Expectation	Level 1 (Limited)	Level 2 (Developing)	Level 3 (Proficient)	Level 4 (Exceptional)
<b>A2.1 / A2.3</b>				
Point of View / Interpretation				
Student identifies personal and social change	Identifies vague or superficial change	Notes a personal or emotional change with basic explanation	Clearly explains a thoughtful shift in thinking or perspective	Demonstrates deep reflection on self/world with emotional and intellectual clarity
<b>B1.3 / B2.3</b>				
Descriptive Language (Adjectives/Adverbs)				
Use of language to convey tone/emotion	Uses few or generic descriptive words	Uses some appropriate vocabulary, but with limited variety	Uses a variety of adjectives/adverbs that enhance emotional tone	Uses rich and nuanced vocabulary that enhances insight and evokes empathy
<b>D1.2 / D2.1 / D2.3</b>				
Media Awareness & Emotional Framing				
Demonstrates awareness of how events are presented or framed	Shows minimal understanding of media impact or framing	Acknowledges media framing but without clear analysis	Identifies tone, perspective, or emotional influence in media	Insightfully critiques media's emotional tone, symbolism, and narrative framing
<b>SEL – Emotional Insight</b>				
Ability to reflect meaningfully and maturely on emotional impact	Writes vague or off-topic reflection	Writes simple reflection with personal connection	Offers a clear and emotionally grounded reflection	Demonstrates strong self-awareness, maturity, and emotional nuance

 **Teacher Use Suggestions:**

- Use after completion of the visual + written worksheet
  - May be adapted for journal reflection, oral sharing, or group debrief
  - Encourages empathy-building and media self-awareness
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