

## **Lesson Plan: “Narrative Threads: Designing from Literature”**

**Location:** London College of Fashion Library

**Duration:** 3 hours (Run twice in one day, splitting year two menswear in half)

**Cohort:** Year 2 BA Menswear Students

**Team:** BA Menswear Lecturer: Rory Parnell-Mooney, Course Librarian: Louise Johnstone.

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### **Aims**

- To empower students to interpret a wide and varied array of sources as a conceptual foundation for design.
  - To promote inclusive and critical engagement with global, diverse narratives, and international stories, allowing students to express or engage with their positionality.
  - To equip students with research tools and references to deepen their design thinking.
  - To introduce accessible and supportive resources including videos, glossaries, audiobooks, podcasts, and film/television adaptations.
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### **Outcomes**

By the end of the session, students will:

1. Select and contextualise a novel from the reading list for design development.
  2. Use library tools to gather diverse visual and historical references.
  3. Create a personal glossary of themes, terms, and cultural references.
  4. Access inclusive digital learning resources to support independent research.
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## Pre-Workshop Preparation

- Students choose a **shortlist of 2–3 books** from the 30-book reading list.
  - Students complete a **brief questionnaire** (via Moodle) on reading habits, accessibility needs, and preferred learning styles.
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## Lesson Breakdown

### 20mins | Introduction & Context

- Unpacking the project brief.
- Discussion on **why we are designing from literature**: identity, narrative, empathy, and character.
- deck showcasing **diverse fashion designers** inspired by text-based concepts (e.g., Grace Wales Bonner, Craig Green, Thebe Magugu, Noir Kei Ninomiya).

**Inclusive support tip:** Use visual slides with captions; offer handouts in large print; explain terminology.

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### 40 mins | Workshop Part 1: “Mapping the Text”

- Students break into small groups (3–4).
- Each group selects a book and uses tools like:
  - LCF Library Search
  - JSTOR/BOB (Box of Broadcasts)
  - Fashion and Race Database
  - Vogue Archive, WGSN

- Task: Create a map linking the book's themes to:
  - Visual references (film, fashion, art)
  - Historical or cultural events
  - Keywords for further research

**Resource provided:** *"Research Mapping Template" handout*

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## 15 min Break

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## 45 mins | Workshop Part 2: Student Glossary Building

- Each student begins a personal **project glossary** based on:
  - Key literary themes
  - Cultural or regional references
  - Historical figures or events
  - Fashion terms or design vocabulary

**Resource provided:** Printable *"My Project Glossary" template*

**Inclusive support:** A bank of **video explainers** (3–5 mins each) on:

- Postcolonial theory basics
  - Gender representation in fashion
  - Visual storytelling from literature  
(*Uploaded to Moodle with subtitles and transcripts.*)
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### 30 mins | Peer to Peer sharing

- Each group presents a few of their reference discoveries.
  - Open feedback and discussion: How can these themes be **translated into design**?
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### 2:30–3:00 | Wrap-Up & Resource Pack Launch

- Recap of tools, glossaries, and video bank.
  - Moodle launch of the **Learning Resource Pack** including:
    - Workshop slides
    - Project glossary template
    - Suggested films/artists per novel
    - Access to BOB playlists
    - Inclusive design reading PDFs (e.g., Decolonising Fashion, Fashioning Masculinities)
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### Assessment Links

This session supports the following areas of assessment:

- Concept development and depth of research
  - Use of narrative and visual references
  - Inclusive and personal response to literary source material
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## Follow-Up Activities

- 1:1 tutorials for deeper research support (via librarian sign-up sheet)
- Online forum for peer reference sharing
- Optional zine-making workshop: *“Book to Body: Visual Storytelling”*