

2018/2019 8th Grade Literature & Language Arts Unit Overview

Unit & Focus	Essential Questions	Featured Text	Summative Assessments
Reviews (mini-unit)	<p><i>How do writers create authentic reviews?</i>  <i>What is “style”?</i> (tone, audience, diction)</p>	Assorted reviews-formal and blogs	Review Annotations and responses
Fiction with a focus on Dystopian Literature (Science Fiction)	<p><i>What keeps a society or community together?</i>  <i>How is science fiction cautionary?</i>  <i>How free are we to make our own decisions?</i>  <i>How important is it for people to have choices?</i>  <i>In a perfect world, is fair equal?</i></p>	<p>Book club novels including: <i>Ship Breaker</i>, <i>Across The Universe</i>, <i>Scythe</i>, <i>The Hunger Games</i>, <i>Ready Player One</i>, <i>The Uglies</i>, <i>1984</i>, “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson                      “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury                      “Examination Day” By Henry Sleser</p>	<p>Literary Analysis                      Annotated Bibliography                      Speaking and Listening</p>
Non-Fiction, Argument & Research focusing on Social Justice	<p><i>Does our justice system serve all people fairly?</i>  <i>How does our justice use evidence?</i>  <i>What does power have to do with fairness and justice?</i></p>	<p>Serial podcast                      Related materials</p>	<p>Note-taking                      Mock Trial                      Research                      Vocabulary                      Speaking and Listening                      Grammar                      Assessment</p>
Poetry	<p><i>How does poetry contribute to personal expression?</i>  <i>How does an author create voice?</i>  <i>How does reading poetry teach us about myself and others?</i>  <i>In communicating with others, how do we use literal and figurative language to write, speak, and present effectively?</i>  <i>How does the use of voice empower an individual?</i></p>	<p><i>Louder than a Bomb</i> - Documentary                      Young Chicago Authors - in house teaching artists (3-day workshop)                      Assorted modern and classic poems</p>	<p>Literary Analysis (Poetry Portfolio)                      Writing of poetry                      Figurative Language                      Speaking and Listening</p>

<p>Memoir, fiction, historical fiction-Genocide</p>	<p><i>Am I my brother's keeper?</i>  <i>How can I recognize human integrity?</i>  <i>What are my responsibilities to understanding history and making connections to the past?</i>  <i>What is community? How are decisions made about who belongs and who is excluded?</i>  <i>What choices do people make in the face of injustice? (These questions kind of come back to our first unit!)</i>  <i>What is the purpose of remembering? What are the consequences of forgetting?</i>  <i>What can we, as individuals, groups and nations, do to prevent massive acts of violence in the future?</i></p>	<p>Various novel studies including:  <i>Berlin Boxing Club</i>  <i>The Book Thief</i>  <i>Between Shades of Gray</i>  <i>A Long Way Gone</i>  <i>What is the What</i>  <i>Broken Memory</i>  <i>Forgotten Fire</i>  <i>Never Fall Down</i></p>	<p>Research  Collaborative digital writing and publishing  Speaking and Listening</p>
<p>Fiction &amp; Research - Culture and Identity</p>	<p><i>What can I learn about myself and others from the books I read?</i>  <i>Do I see myself in the books I read?</i>  <i>Am I accurately portrayed?</i>  <i>Do I see people who are different from me in the books I read? Are they accurately portrayed?</i>  <i>How can we make connections to other cultures in order to better understand our own identity?</i>  <i>How have some people and groups had to struggle to maintain their identities?</i></p>	<p>Various novel studies including:  <i>Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel</i>  <i>Piecing Me Together</i>  <i>Far From the Tree</i>  <i>All American Boys</i>  <i>The Hate U Give</i>  <i>I'll Give You the Sun</i>  <i>The Sun Is Also a Star</i>  <i>All We Have Left</i>  <i>The First Rule of Punk</i></p>	<p>Literary Analysis  Research  PSA Project  Vocabulary  Reading Rubrics  Speaking and Listening</p>
<p>Fiction in the form of short stories, myths, and traditional tales</p>	<p><i>Why do authors adapt traditional tales?</i>  <i>What do traditional tales teach us about a culture's beliefs?</i>  <i>In what ways do stories illustrate the belief systems and customs of the cultures that create them?</i>  <i>What influence do "traditional stories" have on our literature today?</i>  <i>How and why have "traditional" stories changed and been adapted?</i></p>	<p>"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been" by Joyce Carol Oates  Various stories by The Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Andersen, Charles Perrault, and others.</p>	<p>Literary Analysis  Narrative Writing - genre study  Speaking and Listening  Grammar Assessment</p>
<p>Grammar - done throughout each unit.</p>		<p>Sentence Variety  Comma, semicolon, colon  Active/Passive Voice  Appositives/Dash  Mood – Verbals  etymology  MLA citation  common spelling errors</p>	<p>Formative assessments and quizzes throughout the units. Trimester assessment for all 8th graders at the end of trimester</p>