

YEAR AT A GLANCE: ELA GRADE 8 2022 - 2023 (updated Dec 2022)

Timing	September-October	October-November	December-January	January-February
Unit	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Title/Genre	“Where I’m From”	Reading & Thinking Deeply	Journalism Writing	Drama
Unit Length	4 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks	6 weeks
Summative Task	“Where I’m From”: a Narrative Poem	Book Club & Book Club Graphic Organizer	Journalism Article	Thematic Essay
Enduring Understandings	<p>People, places and experiences shape who we are.</p> <p>Writers use imagery to evoke responses in readers</p>	<p>Strong readers use reading strategies and think deeply about literary elements to grow their reading brains.</p> <p>Books contain universal themes.</p> <p>Characters change throughout the course of a novel.</p> <p>Characters, like real people, are flawed.</p>	<p>We can learn from immersing ourselves in the writing of others.</p> <p>Research is an integral part of producing an article.</p>	<p>The world is an unjust place.</p> <p>Writers write to change the world.</p> <p>Everyone has a bias.</p> <p>There are societal and individual reasons people are incarcerated.</p> <p>The criminal justice system is flawed because people are flawed.</p> <p>Through the close reading of a text, from beginning to end, a</p>

				reader can determine and prove a theme.
Essential Questions (What do we want students to think about?)	<p>Who are the people, places and experiences that have shaped who you are today?</p> <p>How have they shaped you?</p> <p>How can we use imagery to reveal aspects of ourselves?</p>	<p>How can the time and place of a novel impact the characters and events in a story?</p> <p>How can characters grow as the result of different experiences?</p> <p>How do authors develop a central idea throughout the course of a novel?</p> <p>How can we use story elements to find bigger ideas?</p> <p>How can writing about reading deepen our understanding of our reading?</p>	<p>How can we use our interests to guide our writing?</p> <p>How can writers organize, write and lay out information to teach and entertain their reader?</p> <p>How can you take information from sources and make it your own?</p> <p>How can you discriminate among sources of information?</p>	<p>How do bias and prejudice affect how a person sees the world?</p> <p>How do characters teach us lessons?</p> <p>How do we use examples to support our ideas in a formal writing piece?</p>

Timing	February- March	March-April	May-June
Unit	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7
Title/Genre	Science Fiction	Whole Class Novel: <i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> Finding Clues to Big Ideas in a Novel (<i>Inside Out & Back Again</i>)	Argument
Unit Length	5 weeks	7 weeks	6 weeks
Summative Task	CQE with an introduction and conclusion *Sci-Final Presentation: Science Fiction Becomes Science Fact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students identify an emerging technology and discuss how it could harm or help society.</i> 	Literary Essay	Argument Paper
Enduring Understandings	Literature can be both a mirror that reflects who we are and a window that shows us a world of who we might become. Writers can use literary elements (foreshadowing, irony, character) and language to set a mood.	Home can be a place, objects, people and experiences. We often learn who we are through challenging life experiences. Refugees face challenges finding home. Refugees can change a community.	An informed opinion/position on an issue comes from examining/considering multiple sources and perspectives. Sources need to be evaluated for credibility. Information must be attributed to research and/or experts. A convincing argument uses logic and emotion, and relies on a credible

	<p>Writers use evidence from a text to support an idea.</p> <p>Specific characters serve as symbols that reveal a work's central idea.</p>	<p>Authors drop clues to lead readers to their bigger ideas about people/society/life</p> <p>Writers use figurative language to give a story or an object or a setting a deeper meaning than what is on the surface.</p>	<p>speaker.</p> <p>A convincing argument must present a convincing counterclaim and refute it</p>
<p>Essential Questions (What do we want students to think about?)</p>	<p>How can science-fiction novels and short stories be both a mirror and a window?</p> <p>How do writers convey a message in their work?</p> <p>How can science-fiction writers look to the future to warn us about our present?</p>	<p>How can an object hold symbolic value?</p> <p>How can the meaning of home change?</p> <p>What is home?</p> <p>What is a refugee?</p> <p>How do critical incidents reveal character?</p> <p>What common themes unify the refugee experience?</p>	<p>How do you become informed on a topic?</p> <p>How do you persuade someone to agree with you?</p> <p>How do you use ethos, logos and pathos to persuade?</p> <p>How can addressing an opponent's argument strengthen yours?</p>

September - June

UNIT 6

Independent Reading Life

40 Weeks

**Independent Reading Projects:
Spreading the love of reading**

Goal setting is an important part of planning and maintaining an independent reading life throughout the year.

Making good choices about the books we read will impact how much we read.

Daily reading helps build fluency and improve comprehension.

Sharing what we have read with others is a good way to get new ideas for books.

How do the choices we make about books and independent reading help us to grow as readers?

How do we set realistic weekly and long-term goals for our reading and hold ourselves accountable to those goals?

How do we maintain this level/pace of reading throughout the year?

How do we make meaning from what we read?