

## LCCS 8th Grade ELA Curriculum Overview

Month	Unit
September-October	Unit 1: The Outsiders & NWT
October-November	Unit 2: NF Book/ Investigative Podcast & RST
December-January	Unit 3: Civil Rights Lit Circles & LAT Writing
February-April	Unit 4: Romeo & Juliet & ELA Skills Review
April-May	Unit 5: Poetry & Music & Poetry Slam
May-June	Unit 6: Speech Writing & PSA Project

### Unit 1: The Outsiders & NWT

**Overview:** In this unit, students are learning about identity, setting, and text analysis. Students will create cliques, write a continuation chapter, and distinguish what makes each character behave in certain ways.

Novels: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

**Timeline:** 24 Days

### Unit 2: NF Book/ Investigative Podcast & RST

**Overview:** In this unit, students are learning about research strategies, argumentative writing, podcast production, as well as media literacy and how to avoid contemporary problems such as misinformation and confirmation bias.

Novels: *Happiness Advantage* by Shawn Achor, *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollen, and *Semi-Famous* by Josh Sundquist

**Timeline:** 30 Days

### Unit 3: Civil Rights Lit Circles & LAT Writing

**Overview:** In this unit, students will learn about the Civil Rights Movement through both a wide view of the entire era and a close examination of one specific text. There are three different texts assigned to separate groups which offer a deep dive into key players in the Civil Rights Movement.

With these books, students will read independently and craft materials to share during meetings with their reading groups, or “Lit Circles.” Each student will have a different role in their group which focuses on their strengths and interests. The class will also work together in a whole class setting and learn about other elements of the era and develop writing and discussion skills.

Novels: *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals, *March* by John Lewis, and *Chasing King's Killer* by James L Swanson

**Timeline:** 28 Days

#### Unit 4: Romeo & Juliet & ELA Skills Review

**Overview:** In this unit, students will learn about identity, drama, playwriting, and text analysis through the world of Shakespeare. The class will read *Romeo and Juliet*, analyze themes, and create modern adaptations of scenes from the play. There will also be an ELA skills review in preparation for NJSLA testing.

Novels: *Romeo and Juliet*

**Timeline:** 30 Days

#### Unit 5: Poetry & Music & Poetry Slam

**Overview:** In this unit, students will examine different types of poems, and the larger idea that poetry is a medium free from normal “rules” and restrictions, thus granting the writer a huge amount of creative freedom and space for expression. Additionally, students will read a diverse collection of poems and gain a deeper appreciation. Finally, students will write poems for a poetry portfolio and also craft slam poems to be delivered in a performance.

**Timeline:** 12 Days

#### Unit 6: Speech Writing & PSA Project

**Overview:** In this unit, students will reflect on their time at LCCS and write graduation speeches. They will also read a variety of speeches and analyze elements of a successful speech. In addition to this, they will work on public speaking skills, create resumes, and conclude the year with a small group public service announcement video project.

**Timeline:** 22 Days