

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 & Spoken Word
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, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, 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. Students will plan and host a Romeo and Juliet wedding. There will also be an ELA skills review in preparation for NJSLA testing.

Novels: *Romeo and Juliet*

Timeline: 30 Days

Unit 5: Poetry & Music & Spoken Word

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

