

Unit 3: Challenges and Choices

Texts for Study:

Major Work: *Catching Fire* by Alicia D. Williams ; **Short Story:** "Harrison Bergeron"; **Nonfiction:** "Dancing to Connect to a Global Tribe"; "Ain't I a Woman"; **Nonfiction:** excerpts from *Seabiscuit*; **Other Texts:** selected music for analysis and book cover for *Genesis Begins Again*.

Overview: In preparation for the transition to high school, eighth graders continue to hone their analytical reading skills while progressing from expository to argumentative writing. Students are exposed to many forms of argument. Before writing their own arguments, students study appeals and practice recognizing them in various mediums. The argumentative texts are scaffolded so that students have the opportunity to build this challenging skill. First, students analyze advertisements before moving to nonfiction and fiction and, finally, to social arguments. With each text, students engage in discussions requiring them to make claims and support them; then they write their analysis. The nine weeks culminates with an argumentative essay and a student debate. Within the nine weeks, grammatical skills are layered with the study of SAT vocabulary from the novel. Students are introduced to active and passive voice, and they quickly move into exploring its purposeful use. Other grammatical skills, such as subject-verb agreement, capitalization, and spelling, are refined throughout the nine weeks. A number of standardized test practices are embedded within the curriculum, so summative test preparation becomes a comfortable routine.

Note: DGP (daily grammar practice) is a separate grammar practice that we do every single day at the beginning of class. The 3rd 9 weeks focus is subject/verb agreement

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
WEEK 1	Vocabulary Unit 9	Analyzing Appeals in Advertising	Analyzing Appeals in Advertising	Analyzing Appeals in Advertising	Dancing to Connect to a Global Tribe
WEEK 2	DGP Test #2	Dancing to Connect to a Global Tribe	Subject Verb Agreement Practice	Types of Irony	Test: Vocabulary Unit 9
WEEK 3	Vocabulary Unit 10	Intro to <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> + Begin Reading	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Characterization and Relationships	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy
WEEK 4	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	GBA - Analyzing Music	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Test: Vocabulary Units 9-10
WEEK 5	Vocabulary Unit 11	Conflict - Theme in GBA Novel Pages 146-155	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Conflict - Theme in GBA Novel Pages 209-211 and 236-239
WEEK 6	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	Test: Vocabulary Units 9-11
WEEK 7	Vocabulary Unit 12	Reading <i>Genesis Begins Again</i> & Scaffolded Reading Strategy	GBA Closure - One-Pager	GBA Closure - One-Pager	GBA Closure - One-Pager
WEEK 8	Multiple Choice - GBA	Sojourner Truth-Charact. in Nonfiction	Sojourner Truth-Charact. in Nonfiction	Argument Essay Steps 1 and 2	Test: Vocabulary Units 10-12
WEEK 9	Concessions and Counterargument	Argument Essay	Argument Essay	Argument Essay	Argument Essay

Unit 2: Mystery & Suspense

Texts for Study:

Major Work: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson; **Short Story:** "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe **Poetry:** "The Highwayman" (Noyes); "The Shark"; **Nonfiction:** excerpt from *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*; Songs: "The Highwayman" (McKenney); "Everywhere"; Painting: *Watson and the Shark*

Overview: In preparation for their transition to high school, eighth grade students continue to hone their analytical reading and writing skills. Since eighth graders are expected to master how an author creates suspense, this nine weeks focuses on a theme of mystery and suspense. Students begin with an easily accessible lesson on mood, explore suspense in multiple texts from various genres, and then progresses to the more complex skill of analyzing tone.

Note: DGP (daily grammar practice) is a separate grammar practice that we do every single day at the beginning of class. The 2nd 9 weeks focus is participles and gerunds

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
WEEK 1	Vocabulary Unit 5	Determining Mood Through Music	Determining Mood Through Music	Tone Analysis - "The Tell-Tale Heart"	DGP Test #1
WEEK 2	Tone Analysis - "The Tell-Tale Heart"	Identifying and Writing Infinitive Phrases	Participle Practice	Intro to <i>DMJH</i> Ch. 1-2	Test: Vocabulary Unit 3-5
WEEK 3	Vocabulary Unit 6	Read Like a Detective	<i>DMJH</i> Chapters 2-4	Read Like a Detective	Visual Analysis using <i>DMJH</i>
WEEK 4	Visual Analysis using <i>DMJH</i>	Character Analysis - Two-Face Project	Character Analysis - Two-Face Project	Character Analysis: Two-Face Project	Test: Vocabulary Units 4-6
WEEK 5	Vocabulary Unit 7	Summative Test: <i>Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde</i>	Creating Suspense in Fiction- Nonfiction	Creating Suspense in Fiction- Nonfiction	Creating Suspense in Fiction- Nonfiction
WEEK 6	"The Highwayman"	"The Highwayman"	"The Highwayman"	Killgallon Style Gerund Lesson	Test: Vocabulary Units 5-7
WEEK 7	Vocabulary Unit 8	Gerund Practice	A Syntax Lesson Based on Killgallon's Sentence	Writing Commentary in "The First Betrayal"	Writing Commentary in "The First Betrayal"
WEEK 8	Verb Moods	Identifying and Writing Infinitive Phrases	"The Highwayman"	"The Highwayman"	Test: Vocabulary Units 6-8
WEEK 9	"The Highwayman"	"The Highwayman"	Using Participles to Create Suspense	*Semester Exams*	*Semester Exams*

Unit 3: Nothing New Under the Sun

Texts for Study:

Major Work: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare; **Poetry:** "When icicles hang by the wall"; "Blue Flag"; **Short Story:** "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Lamb); **Nonfiction:** "Shakespeare's Other World"; **Video:** *Why Shakespeare?*

Overview: In preparation for the transition to high school, eighth graders continue to hone their analytical reading skills while progressing to more complex literary analysis. Summative test preparation is a comfortable routine by this point. This nine weeks' big idea is that there is nothing new under the sun, which emphasizes that literature is timeless. Students learn about allusions throughout the nine weeks; however, they first encounter them in advertisements that serve as approachable texts, much like last nine weeks' approach to argument. Then students research allusions, create presentations, and teach their classmates, while simultaneously identifying allusions in the drama. The main text for this nine weeks is Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Although this drama seems ambitious for 8th grade, the short story version serves as a scaffold to the drama; since the plot is no longer a barrier, students will more readily grasp the language. The culminating assessment of the drama is an essay analyzing how the play remains relevant to readers today. A nonfiction article on dreaming enhances students' understanding of the drama and reaffirms the play's relevance. Since students have written multiple essays this year, they are given more freedom in topic choice. An in-depth analysis of "Blue Flag" and multiple choice practice serve as a review for the entire year, covering phrases, syntax, and close reading.

Note: DGP (daily grammar practice) is a separate grammar practice that we do every single day at the beginning of class.

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
WEEK 1	Vocabulary Unit 13	Analyzing Allusions	Analyzing Allusions	The Effect of Allusions	The Effect of Allusions
WEEK 2	DGP Test #3	Allusions in Advertising	Allusions in Advertising	Allusion Project	Test: Vocabulary Units 11-13
WEEK 3	Vocabulary Unit 14	Allusion Project	Allusion Project	Why Shakespeare?	Sentence Variation Models
WEEK 4	Shakespeare in Six	Shakespeare in Six	Shakespeare in Six	Shakespeare in Six	Test: Vocabulary Units 12-14
WEEK 5	Vocabulary Unit 15	Understanding Shakespeare	Understanding Shakespeare	Romantic Comedy <i>MND</i>	Romantic Comedy <i>MND</i>
WEEK 6	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act I	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act I	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act II	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act III	Test: Vocabulary Units 13-15
WEEK 7	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act III	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act IV	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act IV	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act V	Close Reading <i>MND</i> Act V
WEEK 8	Inverted Sentence Practice	"Shakespeare's Other World"	The Three Levels of Reading	The Three Levels of Reading	The Post-Mortem of a Protagonist
WEEK 9	The Post-Mortem of a Protagonist	The Post-Mortem of a Protagonist	PBL: "Blueflag"	PBL: "Blueflag"	*Semester Exams*