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my Perspectives
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



my Perspectives

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Importance of Literature

As individuals we are the sum of the stories that we tell ourselves about ourselves—about love, about fear, about life, about longing. We are drawn to those stories outside of classrooms because those stories tell us something about ourselves. They affirm something inside of us. They help us learn more about ourselves and others. That to me is a part of a larger humanity's education. It's understood that part of learning is about learning to become more human, what it means to be a part of the human family. And there's no discipline that's more central to that enterprising education than the teaching of literature.

As long as we continue to live and grow and struggle on the planet, we're going to be drawn to these stories, and they provide a perfect context for us to do two crucial things that are important in education: One is to help young people learn more about themselves and be proud of who they are. The other is to learn about others and understand that differences can be powerful and positive and that we're not so different as we think we are.

—Dr. Ernest Morrell, *myPerspectives* Texas Author



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myPerspectives Texas ensures that students read and understand a variety of complex texts across multiple genres such as poetry, realistic fiction, adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, humor, myths, fantasy, science fiction, and short stories.

These texts have been carefully selected to enable students to encounter multi-genre texts that are traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse.

Student Edition Thematic Units

Grade 6 4

Grade 7 8

Grade 8 12

Multi-Genre List

Grade 6 18

Grade 7 20

Grade 8 22

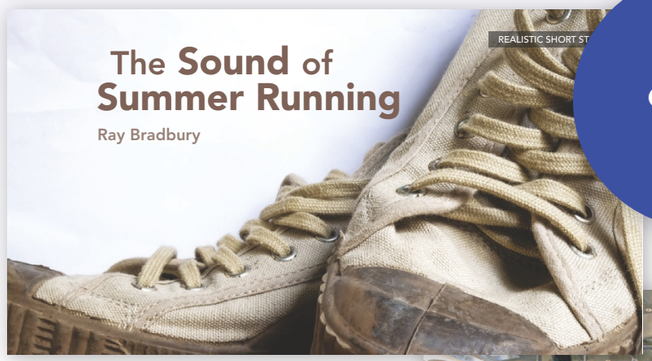
Engaging



Cartoon 1: Ghosts

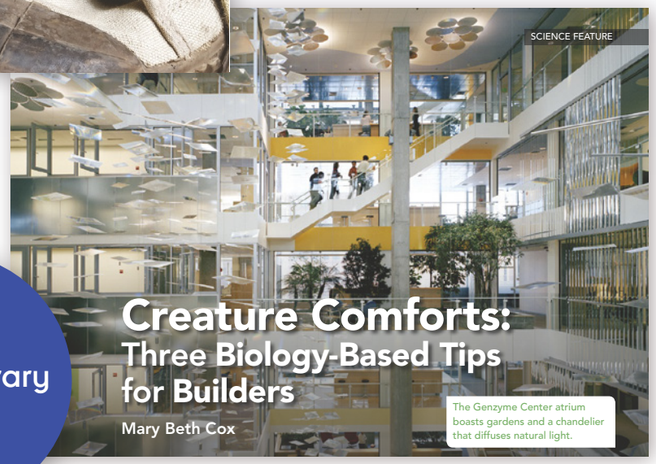
Grade 6, *Calvin and Hobbes*

Classic



Grade 6, *The Sound of Summer Running*

Contemporary



Grade 7, *Creature Comforts*



Student Edition Thematic Units

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
GRADE 6 UNIT 1: GROWING UP **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What are some of the challenges and triumphs of growing up? **WRITING MODE:** Nonfiction Narrative			BOOK CLUB • *Raymie Nightingale* (790L) by Kate DiCamillo • *Bud, Not Buddy* (950L) by Christopher Paul Curtis					
Mentor Text: Wagon Train at Dusk		Personal Narrative			●	740	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
from *Brown Girl, Dreaming*	Jacqueline Woodson	Memoir			●	NP	●	
Gallery of Calvin and Hobbes Comics	Bill Watterson	Media: Comic Strip	●	●			●	
The Sand Castle	Alma Luz Villanueva	Science Fiction		●		740	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
from *Bad Boy*	Walter Dean Myers	Memoir			●	1000	●	
The Moth Presents: Aleeza Kazmi		Media: Oral Storytelling	●	●			●	
Comparing Within Genre								
Prince Francis	Roddy Doyle	Fiction		●		240	●	
The Sound of Summer Running	Ray Bradbury	Fiction		●		860	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
from *Peter Pan*	J.M. Barrie	Fantasy		●		800		●
Poetry Collection								
Oranges	Gary Soto	Poem		●		NP		●
I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid	Alma Luz Villanueva	Poem		●		NP		●
The Boy Nobody Knew	Faith Ringgold	Personal Essay			●	820		●
Eleven	Sandra Cisneros	Realistic Fiction		●		980		●
Raymond's Run	Toni Cade Bambara	Realistic Fiction		●		1200		●
GRADE 6 UNIT 2: NATURAL ALLIES **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How do animals and people interact? **WRITING MODE:** Informational Essay			BOOK CLUB • *The Magician's Elephant* (730L) by Kate DiCamillo • *Where the Red Fern Grows* (700L) by Wilson Rawls					
Mentor Text: Reading Buddies		Informational Essay			●	890	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
from *My Life With the Chimpanzees*	Jane Goodall	Autobiography			●	860	●	
Comparing Within Genre								
How Smart Are Animals?	Dorothy Hinshaw Patent	Nonfiction			●	1110	●	
So What Is a Primate?	Faith Hickman Brynie	Nonfiction			●	970	●	

BOOK CLUB Recommended novels align to the unit theme. Includes a Study Guide and TEKS-aligned activities.

Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 6

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Poetry Collection								
Predators	Linda Hogan	Poem		●		NP	●	
The Naming of Cats	T.S. Eliot	Poem		●		NP	●	
Nikita	Alberto Ríos	Poem		●		NP	●	
The Tale of the Hummingbird	Pura Belpré	Myth		●		740	●	
Black Cowboy, Wild Horses	Julius Lester	Biography		●		710	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
A Blessing	James Wright	Poetry		●		NP		●
The Secret Life of the Dog	BBC Video	Media: Video	●		●			●
All the Pretty Ponies	Oscar Casares	Reflective Essay			●	1220		●
The Girl Who Gets Gifts From Birds	Katy Sewall	Informational Text			●	830		●
Pet Therapy: How Animals and Humans Heal Each Other	Julie Rovner	Informational Text			●	1190		●
GRADE 6 UNIT 3: TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY **ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Is technology helpful or harmful to society?** **WRITING MODE: Argument**			BOOK CLUB • *Sky Jumpers* (860L) by Peggy Eddleman • *A Wrinkle in Time* (740L) by Madeline L'Engle					
Mentor Text: That's Not Progress!		Argument			●	910	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Feathered Friend	Arthur C. Clarke	Science Fiction		●		1100	●	
Comparing Across Genre								
The Biometric Body	Kathiann M. Kowalski	Informational Text			●	970	●	
Biometrics Are Not Better	Reuben Lorre	Argument			●	1240	●	
The Internet of Things	IBM Social Media	Media: Video	●		●		●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Is Our Gain Also Our Loss?	Cailin Loesch	Reflective Essay			●	1180	●	
The Black Hole of Technology	Leena Khan	Persuasive Essay			●	980	●	
The Fun They Had	Isaac Asimov	Science Fiction		●		750	●	
Mexico's Abandoned Railways and the SEFT-1	Ivan Puig and Andrés Padilla Domene	Media: Photo Essay	●		●		●	
Bored . . . and Brilliant? A Challenge to Disconnect From Your Phone	NPR	Media: Podcast	●		●		●	

Lexiles are indicated if available. NP= Non Prose.

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
7-Year-Old Girl Gets a New Hand From 3-D Printer	John Rogers	News Article			●	860		●
High-Tech Backpacks Open World of Whales to Deaf Kids	Associated Press	News Article			●	1260		●
Poetry Collection								
All Watched Over By Machines of Loving Grace	Richard Brautigan	Poem		●		NP		●
Sonnet, Without Salmon	Sherman Alexie	Poem		●		NP		●
Teen Researchers Defend Media Multitasking	Sumathi Reddy	News Article			●	1370		●
GRADE 6 UNIT 4: THE POWER OF IMAGINATION **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What is the purpose of imagination? **WRITING MODE:** Fictional Narrative			BOOK CLUB • *Bridge to Terabithia* (810L) by Katherine Paterson • *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (810L) by Roald Dahl					
Mentor Text: The Great Universal Undo		Fiction		●		670	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
The Phantom Tollbooth, Act I & II	Susan Nanus	Drama		●		NP	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
from *The Misadventures of Don Quixote*	Miguel de Cervantes, retold by Tom Lathrop	Retelling		●		940	●	
Comparing Within Genre								
Jabberwocky from *Through the Looking Glass*	Lewis Carroll	Narrative Poem		●		NP	●	
Media Connection: Alice in Wonderland		Media: Video	●	●			●	
The Mock Turtle's Song	Lewis Carroll	Poem		●		NP	●	
The Importance of Imagination	Esha Chhabra	Reflective Essay			●	890	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*	L. Frank Baum	Fantasy		●		1030		●
Poetry Collection								
Our Wreath of Rose Buds	Corinne	Poem		●		NP		●
Fantasy	Gwendolyn Bennett	Poem		●		NP		●

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Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 6

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
The Shah of Blah from *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*	Salman Rushdie	Novel Excerpt		●		1060		●
from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*	Lewis Carroll	Fantasy		●		1080		●
GRADE 6 UNIT 5: EXPLORATION **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What drives people to explore? **WRITING MODE:** Research			BOOK CLUB • *Navigating Early* (790L) by Clare Vanderpool • *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (450L) by Jules Verne					
Mentor Text: What on Earth is Left to Explore?		Informational Text			●	950	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
from *A Long Way Home*	Saroo Brierley	Memoir			●	1030	●	
BBC Science Club: All About Exploration	narrated by Dara Ó Briain	Media: Video	●		●		●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Ada and the Thinking Machines	Kathleen Krull	Biography		●		960	●	
The King of Mazy May	Jack London	Adventure Story		●		1170	●	
Comparing Across Genres								
from *Sacajawea*	Joseph Bruchac	Historical Fiction		●		790	●	
from *Lewis and Clark*	Nick Bertozzi	Media: Graphic Novel	●		●		●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
To the Top of Everest	Samantha Larson	Blog Post			●	1040		●
from *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*	Jennifer Armstrong	Nonfiction Narrative			●	1110		●
Barrington Irving, Pilot and Educator	National Geographic	Magazine Article			●	1110		●
The Legacy of Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson	James Mills	Informational Article			●	1240		●
The Hero Twins	Author Dan Jolley; Illustrator David Witt	Media: Graphic Novel	●	●				●

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SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
GRADE 7 UNIT 1: CROSSING GENERATIONS **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What can one generation learn from another? **WRITING MODE:**			BOOK CLUB • *The Fourteenth Goldfish* (550L) by Jennifer L. Holm • *Esperanza Rising* (750L) by Pam Muñoz Ryan					
Mentor Text: Grounded		Personal Narrative			●	640	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Two Kinds from *The Joy Luck Club*	Amy Tan	Realistic Short Story		●		870	●	
The Case of the Disappearing Words	Alice Andre-Clark	Feature Article			●	1130	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Tutors Teach Seniors New High-Tech Tricks	Jennifer Ludden	Human Interest Story			●	1020	●	
Media Connection: Cyber-Seniors		Media: Documentary	●		●		●	
Compare Across Genres								
from *Mom & Me & Mom*	Maya Angelou	Memoir			●	610	●	
Learning to Love My Mother	Maya Angelou with Michael Maher	Media: Television Interview Video	●		●		●	
Mother-Daughter Drawings	Mica and Myla Hendricks	Media: Image Gallery	●		●		●	
Poetry Collection								
Abuelita Magic	Pat Mora	Poem		●		NP	●	
Mother to Son	Langston Hughes	Poem		●		NP	●	
To James	Frank Horne	Poem		●		NP	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Poetry Collection								
Lineage	Margaret Walker	Poem		●		NP		●
Family	Grace Paley	Poem		●		NP		●
"Gotcha Day" Isn't a Cause for Celebration	Sophie Johnson	Opinion Piece			●	1090		●
Bridging the Generational Divide Between a Football Father and a Soccer Son	John McCormick	Digital Storytelling			●	1120		●
Water Names	Lan Samantha Chang	Realistic Fiction		●		900		●
An Hour With Abuelo	Judith Ortiz Cofer	Realistic Fiction		●		840		●

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Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 7

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
GRADE 7 UNIT 2: IMAGINING THE FUTURE **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** Should humanity's future lie among the stars? **WRITING MODE:** Argument			BOOK CLUB • *MiNRS* (620L) by Kevin Sylvester • *James and the Giant Peach* (870L) by Roald Dahl					
Mentor Text: Leaving Main Street		Argument			●	1060	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Compare Across Genres								
Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed	Ray Bradbury	Fiction		●		490	●	
Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed	Michael McDonough	Media: Radio Play	●	●			●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Poetry Collection								
Science-Fiction Cradlesong	C. S. Lewis	Poem		●		NP	●	
First Men on the Moon	J. Patrick Lewis	Poem		●		NP	●	
The Last Dog	Katherine Paterson	Science-Fiction Adventure		●		820	●	
Compare Within Genre								
Mars Can Wait. Oceans Can't.	Amitai Etzioni	Persuasive Essay			●	1400	●	
from *Packing for Mars*	Mary Roach	Persuasive Essay			●	1020	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Future of Space Exploration Could See Humans on Mars, Alien Planets	Nola Taylor Redd	News Article			●	1250		●
Media Connection: 100-Year Starship		Media: Promotional Video	●	●				●
Danger! This Mission to Mars Could Bore You to Death!	Maggie Koerth-Baker	Magazine Article			●	1290		●
Neil deGrasse Tyson on the Future of U.S. Space Exploration After Curiosity	Neil deGrasse Tyson and Keith Wagstaff	Interview			●	930		●
Ellen Ochoa: Director, Johnson Space Center	Ellen Ochoa	Media: Video Biography	●		●			●
GRADE 7 UNIT 3: TRANSFORMATIONS **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** Can people really change? **WRITING MODE:** Short Story			BOOK CLUB • *Lost in the Sun* (700L) by Lisa Graff • *Stargirl* (590L) by Jerry Spinelli					
Mentor Text: The Golden Windows	Laura E. Richards	Short Story		●			●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Compare Across Genres								
A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, Act I & Act II	Drama based on the novel by Charles Dickens	Drama		●		NP	●	
from *A Christmas Carol*	Charles Dickens	Fiction		●			●	

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SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
Media Connection: from *Scrooge*		Media: Video	●	●			●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Thank You, M'am	Langston Hughes	Realistic Short Story		●		800	●	
Learning Rewires the Brain	Alison Pearce Stevens	Science Journalism			●		●	
Compare Within Genre								
Trying to Name What Doesn't Change	Naomi Shihab Nye	Poem		●			●	
I Myself	Ángel González	Poem		●			●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Little Things Are Big	Jesús Colón	Reflective Essay			●	1150		●
The Story of Victor d'Aveyron, the Wild Child	Eloise Montalban	Historical Narrative			●	980		●
A Retrieved Reformation	O. Henry	Realistic Fiction		●		850		●
The Grandfather and His Little Grandson	Leo Tolstoy	Fable		●		870		●
GRADE 7 UNIT 4: LEARNING FROM NATURE **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What is the relationship between people and nature? **WRITING MODE:** Research			BOOK CLUB • *Hoot* (760L) by Carl Hiaasen • *Hatchet* (1020L) by Gary Paulsen					
Mentor Text: Rethinking the Wild		Research-Based Essay			●	960	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
from *Silent Spring*	Rachel Carson	Descriptive Essay			●	1080	●	
Compare Within Genre								
How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun	Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac	Fiction		●		600	●	
How Music Came to the World	Dianne De Las Casas	Fiction		●		810	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Poetry Collection								
Turtle Watchers	Linda Hogan	Poem		●		NP	●	
Jaguar	Francisco X. Alarcón	Poem		●		NP	●	
The Sparrow	Paul Laurence Dunbar	Poem		●		NP	●	
Urban Farming Is Growing a Greener Future	Hillary Schwei	Media: Photo Gallery	●		●		●	
Creature Comforts: Three Biology-Based Tips for Builders	Mary Beth Cox	Science Feature			●	840	●	
He–y, Come On Ou–t!	Shinichi Hoshi translated by Stanleigh Jones	Magical Realism		●		870	●	

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Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 7

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
from *My Side of the Mountain*	Jean Craighead George	Adventure Story		●		820		●
from *An American Childhood*	Annie Dillard	Reflective Essay			●	1050		●
A Young Tinkerer Builds a Windmill, Electrifying a Nation	Sarah Childress	Feature Article			●	1020		●
from *Of Wolves and Men*	Barry Lopez	Nature Writing			●	1010		●
GRADE 7 UNIT 5: FACING ADVERSITY **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How do we overcome obstacles? **WRITING MODE:** Informational			BOOK CLUB • *The Tequila Worm* (830L) by Viola Canales • *The Cay* (860L) by Theodore Taylor					
Mentor Text: Against the Odds		Informational Essay			●	800	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Compare Across Genres								
Black Sunday: The Storm That Gave Us the Dust Bowl	Erin Blakemore	Nonfiction			●	1060	●	
from *The Grapes of Wrath*	John Steinbeck	Fiction		●		600	●	
Media Connection: The Dust Bowl		Media: Documentary Videoo	●		●		●	
High School Teammates Carry On	Tom Rinaldi	Sports Profile			●	850	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Compare Across Genres								
The Circuit	Francisco Jiménez	Fiction		●		730	●	
How This Son of Migrant Farm Workers Became an Astronaut	Jose Hernández and Octavio Blanco	Nonfiction			●	860	●	
A Work in Progress	Aimee Mullins	Oral History			●	930	●	
from *The Story of My Life*	Helen Keller	Autobiography			●	970	●	
Media Connection: How Helen Keller Learned to Talk	Helen Keller with Anne Sullivan	Media: Video Interview	●		●		●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
"Four Skinny Trees" from *The House on Mango Street*	Sandra Cisneros	Lyric Poetry		●		NP		●
The Girl Who Fell From the Sky	Juliane Koepcke	Journalism			●	790		●
Profile: Malala Yousafzai	BBC	Biography			●	1330		●
from *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*	Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton	Memoir			●	800		●
Rikki-tikki-tavi	Rudyard Kipling	Short Story		●		1010		●

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SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
GRADE 8 UNIT 1: RITES OF PASSAGE **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What are some challenges of growing up? **WRITING MODE:** Narrative Nonfiction			BOOK CLUB • *Ghost* (730L) by Jason Reynolds • *The Outsiders* (750L) by S. E. Hinton					
Mentor Text: Red Roses		Personal Narrative		●		560	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
The Medicine Bag	Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve	Realistic Short Story		●		920	●	
Media Connection: Apache Girl's Rite of Passage	National Geographic	Media: Video	●		●		●	
The Banana Tree	James Berry	Adventure Story		●		810	●	
Comparing Within Genre								
Bird	Liz Berry	Poem		●		NP	●	
Ode to Teachers	Pat Mora	Poem		●		NP	●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
from *The Song of Hiawatha*	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Epic Poem		●		NP	●	
Comparing Within Genre								
You Are the Electric Boogaloo	Geoff Herbach	Blog			●	760	●	
Just Be Yourself!	Stephanie Pellegrin	Blog			●	680	●	
The Setting Sun and the Rolling World	Charles Mungoshi	Realistic Short Story		●		800	●	
Media Connection: Stories of Zimbabwean Women	Hear Africa Foundation	Media: Video	●		●		●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
From I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Autobiography			●	1030		●
Quinceañara Birthday Bash Preserves Tradition, Marks Passage to Womanhood	Natalie St. John	News Article			●	1290		●
The Winter Hibiscus	Minfong Ho	Realistic Fiction		●		990		●
Childhood and Poetry	Pablo Neruda	Reflective Essay			●	910		●
GRADE 8 UNIT 2: LEARNING FROM HISTORY **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What can we learn from the past? **WRITING MODE:** Informational Essay			BOOK CLUB • *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (810L) by Betty Smith • *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* (970L) by Phillip Hoose					
Mentor Text *The Grand Mosque of Paris*		Informational Text			●	990	●	

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Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 8

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Comparing Across Genre								
The Diary of Anne Frank, Act I & Act II	Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett	Drama		●		NP	●	
Frank Family and World War II Timeline		Media: Infographic	●		●		●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*	Anne Frank	Diary			●	1010	●	
from *Acceptance Speech for the Nobel Peace Prize*	Elie Wiesel	Speech			●	770	●	
from *Maus*	Art Spiegelman	Media: Graphic Novel	●	●			●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Saving the Children	Bob Simon	Television Transcript			●	740		●
Irena Sendler—Rescuer of the Children of Warsaw	Chana Kroll	Informative Article			●	1130		●
Quiet Resistance from *Courageous Teen Resisters*	Ann Byers	Historical Article			●	910		●
Remembering a Devoted Keeper of Anne Frank's Legacy	Moni Basu	News Article			●	950		●
I'll Go Fetch Her Tomorrow from *Hidden Like Anne Frank*	B. Emden with Marcel Prins	Autobiographical Account			●	800		●
GRADE 8 UNIT 3: WHAT MATTERS **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** When is it right to take a stand? **WRITING MODE:** Argument			BOOK CLUB • *Among the Hidden* (800L) by Margaret Peterson Haddix • *Girl in the Blue Coat* (720L) by Monica Hesse					
Mentor Text: Freedom of the Press?		Argument			●	1000	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
The Horned Toad	Gerald Haslam	Realistic Short Story		●		980	●	
Comparing Within Genre								
Three Cheers for the Nanny State	Sarah Conly	Nonfiction			●	1180	●	
Ban the Ban!	Sidney Anne Stone	Nonfiction			●	930	●	
Soda's a Problem, But...,	Karin Klein	Nonfiction			●	1250	●	
Media Connection: NY Judge Overturns Bloomberg's Soda Ban	NPR	Media: Radio Broadcast	●		●		●	

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PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Comparing Within Genre								
Briar Rose	Brothers Grimm	Fiction		●		860	●	
Awake	Tanith Lee	Fiction		●		880	●	
Words Do Not Pay	Chief Joseph	Persuasive Speech			●	830	●	
The Bystander Effect: Why You Don't Stand Up When You Should	Courtney Lindstrand	Advice Column			●	1090	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Translating Grandfather's House	E. J. Vega	Lyric Poem		●		NP		●
from *Through My Eyes*	Ruby Bridges	Memoir			●	860		●
The Scholarship Jacket	Marta Salinas	Realistic Fiction		●		760		●
from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*	Ann Petry	Biography			●	1000		●
from *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*	Doris Pilkington	Memoir			●	1160		●
GRADE 8 UNIT 4: HUMAN INTELLIGENCE **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How do we know what we know? **WRITING MODE:** Informational–Research			BOOK CLUB • *The Maze Runner* (770L) by James Dashner • *A Mango-Shaped Space* (770L) by Wendy Mass					
Mentor Text: The Human Brain		Informational			●	1120	●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Flowers for Algernon	Daniel Keyes	Science Fiction		●		830	●	
A Computer in Your Head?	Dr. Eric Chudler	Science Feature			●	1020	●	
Media Connection: Building Your Brain	BBC	Media: Science Article Video	●		●		●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
from *Blue Nines and Red Words* from *Born on a Blue Day*	Daniel Tammet	Memoir			●	1200	●	
Comparing Across Genres								
Gut Math		Nonfiction			●	1030	●	
The Theory of Multiple Intelligences	Howard Gardner	Media: Infographic	●		●		●	
Two Entries from an Encyclopedia of Logic	Staff Writer	Reference Materials			●	NP	●	

BOOK CLUB Recommended novels align to the unit theme. Includes a Study Guide and TEKS-aligned activities.

Student Edition Thematic Units: Grade 8

SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	MEDIA	FICTION	NON FICTION	LEXILE	PRINT AND DIGITAL	DIGITAL ONLY
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Is Personal Intelligence Important?	John D. Mayer, Ph.D.	Argument			●	1230		●
Why is Emotional Intelligence Important for Teens?	Divya Parekh	Blog			●	1120		●
The More You Know, the Smarter You Are?	Jim Vega	Informational Essay			●	1190		●
From The Future of the Mind	Michio Kaku	Informational Essay			●	1190		●
GRADE 8 UNIT 5: PUSHING BOUNDARIES **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** Why are inventions necessary? **WRITING MODE:** Short Story			BOOK CLUB • *Uglies* (770L) by Scott Westerfeld • *The Time Machine* (1070L) by H. G. Wells					
Mentor Text: One Weekend in the Real World		Fiction		●			●	
WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING								
Uncle Marcos	Isabel Allende	Magical Realism		●		1420	●	
To Fly from *Space Chronicles*	Neil DeGrasse Tyson	Historical Essay			●	1220	●	
Media Connection: When I Look Up	Neil DeGrasse Tyson	Media: Video	●		●		●	
PEER-GROUP LEARNING								
Comparing Across Genre								
Nikola Tesla: Greatest Inventor of All?	Vicky Baez	Nonfiction			●	860	●	
From The Invention of Everything Else	Samantha Hunt	Fiction		●		880	●	
Welcome to Origami City	Nick D'Alto	Technology Feature Article			●		●	
Media Connection: Buildings That Can Change Over Time	BBC	Media: Documentary	●		●		●	
Icarus and Daedalus	retold by Josephine Preston Peabody	Myth		●		1100	●	
INDEPENDENT LEARNING								
Fermented Cow Dung Air Freshener Wins Two Students Top Science Prize	Kimberley Mok	Technology Article			●	1460		●
Scientists Build Robot That Runs, Call It "Cheetah"	Rodrique Ngowi	Technology Article			●	1380		●
Sounds of a Glass Armonica	William Zeitler	Media: Video	●		●			●
from *The Time Machine*	H. G. Wells	Science Fiction		●		830		●

Lexiles are indicated if available. NP= Non Prose.



Multimodal

Grade 7, *Learning to Love My Mother*



Relevant

Grade 7, *How This Son of Migrant Farm Workers Became an Astronaut*



Diverse and Multicultural

Grade 8, *Uncle Marcos from the House of Spirits*

Multi-Genre List

GRADE 6

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Autobiography	from *My Life With the Chimpanzees*	Jane Goodall	2
Adventure Story	*The King of Mazy May*	Jack London	5
Argument	*That's Not Progress!*		3
Argument	*Biometrics Are Not Better*	Reuben Lorre	3
Biography	*Black Cowboy, Wild Horses*	Julius Lester	2
Biography	*Ada and the Thinking Machines*	Kathleen Krull	5
Blog Post	*To the Top of Everest*	Samantha Larson	5
Drama	*The Phantom Tollbooth, Act I & II*	Susan Nanus	4
Fantasy	from *Peter Pan*	J.M. Barrie	1
Fantasy	from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*	L. Frank Baum	4
Fantasy	from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*	Lewis Carroll	4
Fiction	*The Great Universal Undo*		4
Fiction	*Prince Francis*	Roddy Doyle	1
Fiction	*The Sound of Summer Running*	Ray Bradbury	1
Historical Fiction	from *Sacajawea*	Joseph Bruchac	5
Informational Article	*The Legacy of Arctic Explorer Matthew Henson*	James Mills	5
Informational Essay	*Reading Buddies*		2
Informational Text	*The Girl Who Gets Gifts From Birds*	Katy Sewall	2
Informational Text	*Pet Therapy: How Animals and Humans Heal Each Other*	Julie Rovner	2
Informational Text	*The Biometric Body*	Kathiann M. Kowalski	3
Informational Text	*What on Earth is Left to Explore?*		5
Magazine Article	*Barrington Irving, Pilot and Educator*	National Geographic	5
Media: Comic Strip	*Gallery of Calvin and Hobbes Comics*	Bill Watterson	1
Media: Graphic Novel	from *Lewis and Clark*	Nick Bertozzi	5
Media: Graphic Novel	*The Hero Twins*	Author Dan Jolley; Illustrator David Witt	5
Media: Oral Storytelling	*The Moth Presents: Aleeza Kazmi*		1
Media: Photo Essay	*Mexico's Abandoned Railways and the SEFT-1*	Ivan Puig and Andrés Padilla Domene	3
Media: Podcast	*Bored . . . and Brilliant? A Challenge to Disconnect From Your Phone*	NPR	3
Media: Video	*The Secret Life of the Dog*	BBC Video	2
Media: Video	*Media Connection: Alice in Wonderland*		4
Media: Video	*The Internet of Things*	IBM Social Media	3
Media: Video	*BBC Science Club: All About Exploration*	narrated by Dara Ó Briain	5
Memoir	from *Brown Girl, Dreaming*	Jacqueline Woodson	1

Multi-Genre List: Grade 6

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Memoir	from *Bad Boy*	Walter Dean Myers	1
Memoir	from *A Long Way Home*	Saroo Brierley	5
Myth	*The Tale of the Hummingbird*	Pura Belpré	2
Narrative Poem	*Jabberwocky* from *Through the Looking Glass*	Lewis Carroll	4
News Article	*7-Year-Old Girl Gets a New Hand From 3-D Printer*	John Rogers	3
News Article	*High-Tech Backpacks Open World of Whales to Deaf Kids*	Associated Press	3
News Article	*Teen Researchers Defend Media Multitasking*	Sumathi Reddy	3
Nonfiction	*How Smart Are Animals?*	Dorothy Hinshaw Patent	2
Nonfiction	*So What Is a Primate?*	Faith Hickman Brynie	2
Nonfiction Narrative	from *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*	Jennifer Armstrong	5
Novel Excerpt	*The Shah of Blah* from *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*	Salman Rushdie	4
Personal Essay	*The Boy Nobody Knew*	Faith Ringgold	1
Personal Narrative	*Wagon Train at Dusk*		1
Persuasive Essay	*The Black Hole of Technology*	Leena Khan	3
Poem	*Oranges*	Gary Soto	1
Poem	*I Was a Skinny Tomboy Kid*	Alma Luz Villanueva	1
Poem	*Predators*	Linda Hogan	2
Poem	*The Naming of Cats*	T.S. Eliot	2
Poem	*Nikita*	Alberto Ríos	2
Poem	*All Watched Over By Machines of Loving Grace*	Richard Brautigan	3
Poem	*Sonnet, Without Salmon*	Sherman Alexie	3
Poem	*The Mock Turtle's Song*	Lewis Carroll	4
Poem	*Our Wreath of Rose Buds*	Corinne	4
Poem	*Fantasy*	Gwendolyn Bennett	4
Poetry	*A Blessing*	James Wright	2
Realistic Fiction	*Raymond's Run*	Toni Cade Bambara	1
Realistic Fiction	*Eleven*	Sandra Cisneros	1
Reflective Essay	*All the Pretty Ponies*	Oscar Casares	2
Reflective Essay	*Is Our Gain Also Our Loss?*	Cailin Loesch	3
Reflective Essay	*The Importance of Imagination*	Esha Chhabra	4
Retelling	from *The Misadventures of Don Quixote*	Miguel de Cervantes, retold by Tom Lathrop	4
Science Fiction	*The Sand Castle*	Alma Luz Villanueva	1
Science Fiction	*Feathered Friend*	Arthur C. Clarke	3
Science Fiction	*The Fun They Had*	Isaac Asimov	3

GRADE 7

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Adventure Story	from *My Side of the Mountain*	Jean Craighead George	4
Argument	*Leaving Main Street*		2
Autobiography	from *The Story of My Life*	Helen Keller	5
Biography	*Profile: Malala Yousafzai*	BBC	5
Descriptive Essay	from *Silent Spring*	Rachel Carson	4
Digital Storytelling	*Bridging the Generational Divide Between a Football Father and a Soccer Son*	John McCormick	1
Drama	*A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, Act I & Act II*	Drama based on the novel by Charles Dickens	3
Fable	*The Grandfather and His Little Grandson*	Leo Tolstoy	3
Feature Article	*The Case of the Disappearing Words*	Alice Andre-Clark	1
Feature Article	*A Young Tinkerer Builds a Windmill, Electrifying a Nation*	Sarah Childress	4
Fiction	*Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed*	Ray Bradbury	2
Fiction	from *A Christmas Carol*	Charles Dickens	3
Fiction	*How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun*	Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac	4
Fiction	*How Music Came to the World*	Dianne De Las Casas	4
Fiction	from *The Grapes of Wrath*	John Steinbeck	5
Fiction	*The Circuit*	Francisco Jiménez	5
Historical Narrative	*The Story of Victor d'Aveyron, the Wild Child*	Eloise Montalban	3
Human Interest Story	*Tutors Teach Seniors New High-Tech Tricks*	Jennifer Ludden	1
Informational Essay	*Against the Odds*		5
Interview	*Neil deGrasse Tyson on the Future of U.S. Space Exploration After Curiosity*	Neil deGrasse Tyson and Keith Wagstaff	2
Journalism	*The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*	Juliane Koepcke	5
Lyric Poetry	*"Four Skinny Trees"* from *The House on Mango Street*	Sandra Cisneros	5
Magazine Article	*Danger! This Mission to Mars Could Bore You to Death!*	Maggie Koerth-Baker	2
Magical Realism	*He–y, Come On Ou–t!*	Shinichi Hoshi translated by Stanleigh Jones	4
Media: Documentary	*Media Connection: Cyber-Seniors*		1
Media: Documentary Videoo	*Media Connection: The Dust Bowl*		5
Media: Image Gallery	*Mother-Daughter Drawings*	Mica and Myla Hendricks	1
Media: Photo Gallery	*Urban Farming Is Growing a Greener Future*	Hillary Schwei	4
Media: Promotional Video	*Media Connection: 100-Year Starship*		2
Media: Radio Play	*Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed*	Michael McDonough	2
Media: Television Interview Video	*Learning to Love My Mother*	Maya Angelou with Michael Maher	1
Media: Video	*Media Connection:* from *Scrooge*		3
Media: Video Biography	*Ellen Ochoa: Director, Johnson Space Center*	Ellen Ochoa	2
Media: Video Interview	*Media Connection: How Helen Keller Learned to Talk*	Helen Keller with Anne Sullivan	5

Multi-Genre List: Grade 7

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Memoir	from *Mom & Me & Mom*	Maya Angelou	1
Memoir	from *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*	Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton	5
Nature Writing	from *Of Wolves and Men*	Barry Lopez	4
News Article	*Future of Space Exploration Could See Humans on Mars, Alien Planets*	Nola Taylor Redd	2
Nonfiction	*Black Sunday: The Storm That Gave Us the Dust Bowl*	Erin Blakemore	5
Nonfiction	*How This Son of Migrant Farm Workers Became an Astronaut*	Jose Hernández and Octavio Blanco	5
Opinion Piece	*"Gotcha Day" Isn't a Cause for Celebration*	Sophie Johnson	1
Oral History	*A Work in Progress*	Aimee Mullins	5
Personal Narrative	*Grounded*		1
Persuasive Essay	*Mars Can Wait. Oceans Can't.*	Amitai Etzioni	2
Persuasive Essay	from *Packing for Mars*	Mary Roach	2
Poem	*Abuelita Magic*	Pat Mora	1
Poem	*Mother to Son*	Langston Hughes	1
Poem	*To James*	Frank Horne	1
Poem	*Lineage*	Margaret Walker	1
Poem	*Family*	Grace Paley	1
Poem	*Science-Fiction Cradlesong*	C. S. Lewis	2
Poem	*First Men on the Moon*	J. Patrick Lewis	2
Poem	*Trying to Name What Doesn't Change*	Naomi Shihab Nye	3
Poem	*I Myself*	Ángel González	3
Poem	*Turtle Watchers*	Linda Hogan	4
Poem	*Jaguar*	Francisco X. Alarcón	4
Poem	*The Sparrow*	Paul Laurence Dunbar	4
Realistic Fiction	*Water Names*	Lan Samantha Chang	1
Realistic Fiction	*An Hour With Abuelo*	Judith Ortiz Cofer	1
Realistic Fiction	*A Retrieved Reformation*	O. Henry	3
Realistic Short Story	*Two Kinds* from *The Joy Luck Club*	Amy Tan	1
Realistic Short Story	*Thank You, M'am*	Langston Hughes	3
Reflective Essay	*Little Things Are Big*	Jesús Colón	3
Reflective Essay	from *An American Childhood*	Annie Dillard	4
Research-Based Essay	*Rethinking the Wild*		4
Science Feature	*Creature Comforts: Three Biology-Based Tips for Builders*	Mary Beth Cox	4
Science Journalism	*Learning Rewires the Brain*	Alison Pearce Stevens	3
Science-Fiction Adventure	*The Last Dog*	Katherine Paterson	2
Short Story	*The Golden Windows*	Laura E. Richards	3
Short Story	*Rikki-tikki-tavi*	Rudyard Kipling	5
Sports Profile	*High School Teammates Carry On*	Tom Rinaldi	5

GRADE 8

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Adventure Story	*The Banana Tree*	James Berry	1
Advice Column	*The Bystander Effect: Why You Don't Stand Up When You Should*	Courtney Lindstrand	3
Argument	*Freedom of the Press?*		3
Argument	*Is Personal Intelligence Important?*	John D. Mayer, Ph.D.	4
Autobiographical Account	*I'll Go Fetch Her Tomorrow* from *Hidden Like Anne Frank*	B. Emden with Marcel Prins	2
Autobiography	from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*	Maya Angelou	1
Biography	from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*	Ann Petry	3
Blog	*You Are the Electric Boogaloo*	Geoff Herbach	1
Blog	*Just Be Yourself!*	Stephanie Pellegrin	1
Blog	*Why is Emotional Intelligence Important for Teens?*	Divya Parekh	4
Diary	from *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*	Anne Frank	2
Drama	*The Diary of Anne Frank, Act I & Act II*	Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett	2
Epic Poem	from *The Song of Hiawatha*	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	1
Fiction	*Briar Rose*	Brothers Grimm	3
Fiction	*Awake*	Tanith Lee	3
Fiction	*One Weekend in the Real World*		5
Fiction	from *The Invention of Everything Else*	Samantha Hunt	5
Historical Article	*Quiet Resistance* from *Courageous Teen Resisters*	Ann Byers	2
Historical Essay	*To Fly* from *Space Chronicles*	Neil DeGrasse Tyson	5
Informational	*The Human Brain*		4
Informational Essay	from *The Future of the Mind*	Michio Kaku	4
Informational Essay	*The More You Know, the Smarter You Are?*	Jim Vega	4
Informational Text	*The Grand Mosque of Paris*		2
Informative Article	*Irena Sendler—Rescuer of the Children of Warsaw*	Chana Kroll	2
Lyric Poem	*Translating Grandfather's House*	E. J. Vega	3
Magical Realism	*Uncle Marcos*	Isabel Allende	5
Media: Documentary	*Media Connection: Buildings That Can Change Over Time*	BBC	5
Media: Graphic Novel	from *Maus*	Art Spiegelman	2
Media: Infographic	*Frank Family and World War II Timeline*		2
Media: Infographic	*The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*	Howard Gardner	4
Media: Radio Broadcast	*Media Connection: NY Judge Overturns Bloomberg's Soda Ban*	NPR	3
Media: Science Article Video	*Media Connection: Building Your Brain*	BBC	4
Media: Video	*Media Connection: Apache Girl's Rite of Passage*	National Geographic	1
Media: Video	*Media Connection: Stories of Zimbabwean Women*	Hear Africa Foundation	1

Multi-Genre List: Grade 8

GENRE	SELECTION TITLE	AUTHOR	UNIT
Media: Video	*Media Connection: When I Look Up*	Neil DeGrasse Tyson	5
Media: Video	*Sounds of a Glass Armonica*	William Zeitler	5
Memoir	from *Through My Eyes*	Ruby Bridges	3
Memoir	from *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*	Doris Pilkington	3
Memoir	from *Blue Nines and Red Words from Born on a Blue Day*	Daniel Tammet	4
Myth	*Icarus and Daedalus*	retold by Josephine Preston Peabody	5
News Article	*Quinceañara Birthday Bash Preserves Tradition, Marks Passage to Womanhood*	Natalie St. John	1
News Article	*Remembering a Devoted Keeper of Anne Frank's Legacy*	Moni Basu	2
Nonfiction	*Three Cheers for the Nanny State*	Sarah Conly	3
Nonfiction	*Ban the Ban!*	Sidney Anne Stone	3
Nonfiction	*Soda's a Problem, But...,*	Karin Klein	3
Nonfiction	*Gut Math*		4
Nonfiction	*Nikola Tesla: Greatest Inventor of All?*	Vicky Baez	5
Personal Narrative	*Red Roses*		1
Persuasive Speech	*Words Do Not Pay*	Chief Joseph	3
Poem	*Bird*	Liz Berry	1
Poem	*Ode to Teachers*	Pat Mora	1
Realistic Fiction	*The Winter Hibiscus*	Minfong Ho	1
Realistic Fiction	*The Scholarship Jacket*	Marta Salinas	3
Realistic Short Story	*The Medicine Bag*	Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve	1
Realistic Short Story	*The Setting Sun and the Rolling World*	Charles Mungoshi	1
Realistic Short Story	*The Horned Toad*	Gerald Haslam	3
Reference Materials	*Two Entries from an Encyclopedia of Logic*	Staff Writer	4
Reflective Essay	*Childhood and Poetry*	Pablo Neruda	1
Science Feature	*A Computer in Your Head?*	Dr. Eric Chudler	4
Science Fiction	*Flowers for Algernon*	Daniel Keyes	4
Science Fiction	from *The Time Machine*	H. G. Wells	5
Speech	from *Acceptance Speech for the Nobel Peace Prize*	Elie Wiesel	2
Technology Article	*Fermented Cow Dung Air Freshener Wins Two Students Top Science Prize*	Kimberley Mok	5
Technology Article	*Scientists Build Robot That Runs, Call It "Cheetah"*	Rodrique Ngowi	5
Technology Feature Article	*Welcome to Origami City*	Nick D'Alto	5
Television Transcript	*Saving the Children*	Bob Simon	2



my Perspectives

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