

Unit/ Essential Questions	Approx. Start Time	Approx. End time	Texts(s)/ Resources	Targeted Understanding (Purpose)	Content Standards	Connected Writing Assessment(s)
Understanding literary elements How are universal experiences expressed through Literature?	Sept.	Oct. 15	"Broken Chain" "The Tell-Tale Heart" "Stranger" and various others	-There are universal themes that cross cultures, societies, and time periods. - Students will understand a common language in order to read and discuss literature (literary terms).	CCSS -RL.8.1 - RL.8.2 - RL.8.3 -W.8.1 -W.8.3	- Short Story - The Follower test w/ open response
Examining individual perspectives. How does individual perspective shape our choices and actions?	Oct. 15	Nov. 25	<u>Witness</u> novel, audio version, articles/videos: kkk, 1920's.	Carefully examining the same subject from differing perspectives produces a more complex understanding, Individual perspective acts as a lense, shaping the way we view the world and form judgements...	CCSS -RL.8.1,2,6 -W.8.1,4,7 -SL;1.3.5 -L.8.1,2	-Open responses -Short research topics - Multi-paragraph essay
Exploring Literature in the context of history Can Literature act as a catalyst for change?	Dec. 1	Jan. 30	- <u>I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust</u> - oral history survivor accounts - articles	- Courage comes in different forms - Reading one person's perspective gives you a limited view of the topic/event - Freedom is a relative concept	CCSS - RI.8.1 - RI.8.2 - RI.8.3 - RI.8.7 - W.8.2 - W.8.7 - W.8.8 - W.8.9 - SL.8.1	- Perspective Writing (from another character, at least 5) - Annotated Bibliography

<p>Exploring identity, justice, and innocence.</p> <p>How can the choices we make today have far reaching consequences for ourselves and others.</p>	Feb. 1	April 1	<p><u>Monster</u> -article/video on Felony-Murder law</p>	<p>-Our choices can have far reaching consequences for ourselves and others -The concepts of justice and fairness aren't always clear or obvious - Our concepts of right and wrong often drive our choices - Our actions can cause us to lose a sense of who we are</p>	<p>CCSS RL8.1 RL 8.1 W8.1 W8.2 CCRA.R.2</p>	<p>- Multi paragraph Essay -Open Response</p>
<p>Exploring personal growth and the power of individual growth.</p> <p>How can personal expression be a way of developing internal growth and resilience.</p>	April 1	June 1	<p><u>Speak</u>-novel and movie version of Speak</p>	<p>Pain and struggle faced with honesty and courage can produce positive growth over time. Powerful personal expression is a valuable tool in coping with life's challenges.</p>	<p>CCSS -RL.8.1,2,3,4,6 -W.8.1,2,4,6 -SL.8.1,4,5 L.8.1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>-Open response -Reader responses in student journals. -Writing in preparation for seminar.</p>