

## English Language Arts 2014 ©

| Eighth Grade                                                                                      |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Unit / Core Text                                                                                  | Essential Questions                                                                                                          | Academic Vocabulary                                                                                                                         | Embedded Assessments                                                                      | Unit Goals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Unit 1</b><br><b>The Challenge of Heroism</b>                                                  | What defines a hero?<br><br>How does the Hero's Journey archetype appear in stories throughout time?                         | context<br>technique<br>synonyms<br>antonyms<br>concise<br>function<br>negation                                                             | EA 1: Writing a Hero's Journey Narrative<br><br>EA 2: Writing a Definition Essay          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create an original illustrated narrative based on the Hero's Journey archetype</li> <li>To analyze and synthesize a variety of texts to develop an original definition of <i>hero</i></li> <li>To analyze and evaluate expository texts for ideas, structure, and language</li> <li>To develop expository texts using strategies of definition</li> </ul>                                                                                                           |
| <b>Unit 2</b><br><b>The Challenge of Utopia</b><br><br><i>The Giver or Fahrenheit 451</i> (Novel) | To what extent can a perfect society exist?<br><br>What makes an argument effective?                                         | compare/contrast<br>utopia<br>dystopia<br>universal<br>seminar<br>Socratic<br>argument<br>debate<br>controversy<br>research<br>search terms | EA 1: Writing an Expository Essay<br><br>EA 2: Writing an Argumentative Essay             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To analyze a novel for archetype and theme</li> <li>To analyze and evaluate a variety of expository and argumentative texts for ideas, structure, and language</li> <li>To develop informative/explanatory texts using the compare/contrast organizational structure</li> <li>To understand the use of active voice and passive voice</li> <li>To develop effective arguments using logical reasoning, relevant evidence, and persuasive appeals for effect</li> </ul> |
| <b>Unit 3</b><br><b>The Challenge to Make a Difference</b><br><br><i>Novels of the Holocaust</i>  | Why is it important to learn about the Holocaust?<br><br>How can one person make a difference?                               | communication<br>resume'<br>euphemism<br>slogan<br>media<br>media channels<br>target audience<br>evaluate                                   | EA 1: Presenting Voices of the Holocaust<br><br>EA 2: Presenting a Multimedia Campaign    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions</li> <li>To analyze the development of a theme or central idea of a text</li> <li>To research an issue of national or global significance</li> <li>To create an informative and persuasive multimedia presentation</li> <li>To strengthen writing through the effective use of voice and mood</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Unit 4</b><br><b>The Challenge of Comedy</b><br><br><i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Drama)   | How do writers and speakers use humor to convey truth?<br><br>What makes an effective performance of a Shakespearean comedy? | juxtaposition<br>caricature<br>derision<br>denounce                                                                                         | EA 1: Writing an Analysis of a Humorous Text<br><br>EA 2: Performing Shakespearean Comedy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To analyze how a variety of authors create humor in print and non-print texts</li> <li>To analyze how humor is used to reveal a universal truth (theme)</li> <li>To write a well-developed analysis of a humorous text</li> <li>To analyze and perform a scene from a Shakespearean comedy</li> <li>To understand verbals and how they are used in writing</li> </ul>                                                                                                  |

| KEY TEXTS                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                    | STRATEGIES FOCUS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                |
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| Texts representative of themes and rigorous reading experiences in the level<br>(Note: this is just a sample of the texts included in the level) |                                                                                                    | Explicit teaching of effective strategies that provide scaffolding for all students while moving toward independent learning                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Novel Excerpt:</b>                                                                                                                            | <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , by Madeleine L’Engle                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self Editing</li><li>• Peer Editing</li><li>• TP-CASTT</li><li>• Free Writing</li><li>• Socratic Seminar</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fishbowl</li><li>• Debate</li><li>• SOAPSTone</li><li>• RAFT</li><li>• TWIST</li></ul> |
| <b>Short Story:</b>                                                                                                                              | “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,” by Ray Bradbury                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Narrative Poetry:</b>                                                                                                                         | From the <i>Odyssey</i> , by Homer                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Poetry:</b>                                                                                                                                   | “Sonnet 116,” by William Shakespeare                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Poetry:</b>                                                                                                                                   | “O Captain! My Captain!,” by Walt Whitman                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Funeral Sermon:</b>                                                                                                                           | “On the Death of Abraham Lincoln,” by Dr. Phineas D. Gurley                                        | <b>LANGUAGE AND WRITER’S CRAFT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Essay:</b>                                                                                                                                    | “Grant and Lee: A Study in Contrasts,” by Bruce Catton                                             | Instruction that provides grammar support and instruction in the context of actual reading and writing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Short Story:</b>                                                                                                                              | “Harrison Bergeron,” by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Novel:</b>                                                                                                                                    | The Giver, by Lois Lowry                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Novel:</b>                                                                                                                                    | Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Article:</b>                                                                                                                                  | “Cellphones and driving: As dangerous as we think?” by Matthew Walberg                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Memoir:</b>                                                                                                                                   | Excerpt from <i>Night</i> , by Elie Wiesel                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Speech:</b>                                                                                                                                   | from Elie Wiesel’s Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Informational Text:</b>                                                                                                                       | from <i>Do Something! A Handbook for Young Activists</i>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Article:</b>                                                                                                                                  | “Famine as a Weapon: It’s Time to Stop Starvation in Sudan” by George Clooney and John Prendergast |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Essay:</b>                                                                                                                                    | “I've got a few pet peeves about sea creatures,” by Dave Barry                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Poetry :</b>                                                                                                                                  | “They Have Yarns,” by Carl Sandburg                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Film:</b>                                                                                                                                     | <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i>                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Play:</b>                                                                                                                                     | Excerpts from <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> , by William Shakespeare                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revising and Editing</li><li>• Verbs and Mood</li><li>• Transitions and Quotations</li><li>• Embedding Direct Quotations</li><li>• Active and Passive Voice</li><li>• Choosing Mood</li><li>• Shifts in Voice and Mood</li><li>• Using Voice and Mood for Effect</li><li>• Reviewing Participial Phrases</li><li>• Reviewing Clauses</li><li>• Verbals</li><li>• Using Verbals</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                |