## ESSENTIAL COURSE OF STUDY: GRADE 8 (DRAFT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>LITERATURE</th>
<th>NONFICTION AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL</th>
<th>WRITING (bold faced samples are placed into red folders)</th>
<th>SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA</th>
<th>AVAILABLE DIAGNOSTICS/ ASSESSMENTS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| August 28- November 2 | RW: Plot and Conflict  
* Raymond’s Run  
* The Ransom of Red Chief  
* The Clean Sweep  
* The Hitchhiker  
  • Plot  
  • Inferences  
  • Conflict  
  • Predict  
  • Sequence  
  • Foreshadowing  | * My First Free Summer  
  • Memoir  
  • Cause-effect  | Personal Narrative  | Staging a Scene  | Student Self –Assessment  
  (Reading and Writing)  
  Informal Reading Inventory  
  (administer individually/ single passage)  
  Close Test  
  (group administration/ single passage)  
  Writing Sample  
  (group administration)  
  Reading Check  
  (in Resource Manager)  
  Selection Tests  
  (A – striving reader ??;  
  B/C – on or above ??;  
  selection specific)  
  Unit Tests  
  (A and B/C versions - new passages)  
  Benchmark Tests  
  (4 times a year - cumulative)  
  Grammar Pretests, Mid-point Tests, and Mastery Tests |
| Unit 1     | RW: Character and Point of View  
* The Treasures of Lemon Brown  
* Rules of the Game Flowers for Algernon  
  • Point of View  
  • Inferences  
  • Conclusions  
  • Character traits  | * Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad  
  • Characterization  
  • Monitor  
  • Main idea and details  
  • Biography  | | | |
| Unit 2     | | | | | |
| Unit 3 | RW: Setting and Mood  
The Drummer Boy of Shiloh  
The Monkey’s Paw  
Mi Madre/Canyon de Chelly  
- Setting  
- Inferences  
- Mood  
- Predict  
- Imagery  
- Speaker  | The Story of an Eyewitness/Letter from New Orleans Leaving Desire  
- Scope  
- Purpose for reading  | Comparison-Contrast Essay |  |
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<td>Quarter 2 November 5- January 18</td>
<td>LITERATURE</td>
<td>NONFICTION AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL</td>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA</td>
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| Unit 4 | RW: Theme and Symbol  
Gil’s Furniture Bought and Sold  
Pandora’s Box  
The Old Grandfather and His Little Grandson/The Wise Old Woman  
The Diary of Anne Frank  
- Symbol  
- Inferences  
- Theme  
- Universal Theme  
- Purpose for Reading | A Diary from Another World/The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank  
- Synthesize  
- Generalizations  | Short Story |  |
| Unit 5 | RW: Appreciating Poetry  
Lineage  
Simile: Willow and Ginko  
Macavity: The mystery Cat/Vermin  
We Alone  
Speech to the Young: Speech to the …/Mother to Son  
On the Grasshopper |  |  |  |
| Quarter 3  |  |  |  |
| January 22- March 20 | LITERATURE | NONFICTION AND INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL | WRITING | SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND MEDIA |
| **Unit 6** | RW: Style, Voice and Tone  
 New York Day Women  
 The Lady, or the Tiger?  
 Roughing It  
 • Style  
 • Sequence  
 • Tone  
 • Paraphrase  
 • Voice  
 • Monitor | **Us and Them**  
 • Irony  
 • Evaluate  
 Literary Analysis | Online Database |
| **Unit 7** | RW: History, Culture and the Author  
 The Snapping Turtle  
 Out of Bounds  
 • Author’s Background  
 • Compare and contrast  
 • Cultural conflict  
 • Inferences | **One Last Time**  
 **Dreams from My Father**  
 **Out of Many, One**  
 • Author’s perspective  
 • Autobiography  
 • Cause-effect  
 • Treatment  
 • Compare and contrast  
 Cause-Effect Essay | Multimedia presentation |
| Unit 9 | RW: Argument and Persuasion  
Zoos: Myth.../Zoos Connect Us...  
Position on Dodge Ball.../The Weak Shall inherit...  
The Sanctuary of the School Educating Sons/The First Americans  
- Argument  
- Fact and opinion  
- Persuasion  
- Author’s Purpose  
- Compare/contrast  
- Historical context | Persuasive Essay | Persuasive Speech |
|---|---|---|---|
| Quarter 4  
March 31-  
June 5 | LITERATURE | NONFICTION AND  
INFORMATIONAL  
MATERIAL | WRITING | SPEAKING,  
LISTENING,  
AND MEDIA |
| Unit 8 | RW: Reading Informational Text  
The Spider Man Behind Spider-Man  
Interview with a Song catcher  
Kabul’s Singing Sensation  
- Text features  
- Summarize  
- Fact and opinion  
- Main ideas and details | | |
| Unit 10 | Research Strategies Workshop | Research Report  
(flexible due date completed by May 31, 2007) | Web Site |
| Student Resources Handbook | Reading Handbook  
- Reading informational texts  
- Reading persuasive texts | Writing Handbook | |