GRADE 8 ELA CURRICULUM SNAPSHOT
2025-2026

3 WEEKS	~6 WEEKS 10-Week Marking Period Ends November 14th	~8 WEEKS 20-Week Marking Period Ends January 30th

Class overview/ opening of year activities/ rituals & routines	**Unit 1: Everyone Loves a Mystery**
	Essential Question: What attracts us to the mysterious?
	
	Lessons:
	• The Tell-Tale Heart
	• The Big Idea
	• Monster
	• The Lottery
	• The Graveyard Book
	• The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem
	• The Monkey's Paw
	
	*Omit: Let 'Em Play God, Sympathy, Ten Days in a Mad-House (Chapter IV), Phineas Gage, A Gruesome but True Story of Brain Science
	
	Optional: Vocabulary Review/Self-Selected Reading/End-of-Unit Assessment
	
	Assessment: StudySync Extended Writing Project and Grammar- Writing a Suspenseful Narrative **OR** End of Unit Assessment
		Unit 2: Past and Present (The Outsiders)
		Essential Question: What makes you, you?
		
		Lessons:
		• The Big Idea
		**Refer to Unit 2 for Unit Overview and Novel Study OR create lessons for the following unit skills while reading the book:
		  o Plot
		  o Character Traits
		  o POV
		  o Compare/Contrast
		  o Conflict
		  o Symbolism
		  o Theme
		  o Foreshadowing
		  o Evaluating
		  o Prediction
		  o Inferencing
		  o Citing Evidence (short-answer response questions every two chapters
		
		Assessment: Argumentative Essay- Was Johnny wrong to murder Bob? Should Johnny go to jail? (Four paragraphs, at least four pieces of textual evidence)
		**This can be done after Chapter 4 OR End of Unit Assessment

Assessments: AIMSweb/i-Ready/Essay/CFAs		

~7 WEEKS 30-Week Marking Period Ends April 17th (Spring Break March 30th-April 10th)	~6 WEEKS 40-Week Marking Period Ends June 19th
Unit 3: No Risk, No Reward Essential Question: Why do we take chances? **Lessons:** • The Big Idea • The Vanishing Island • A Night to Remember • Address to the Nation on the Explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger • A Kenya Teen's Discovery: Let There Be Lights to Save Lions • Mother to Son • Learning to Read • Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave • The Day I Saved a Life (Optional for time) • The Call of the Wild (Optional for time) • Cocoon (Optional for time) **Optional:** Vocabulary Review/Self-Selected Reading **Assessment:** Informative Essay (uses 3 of the texts): What happens when we take risks? **OR** End of Unit Assessment	**Unit 5: Trying Times (Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl- 176 Pages)** Essential Question: Who are you in a crisis? **Lessons:** • The Big Idea • Teen Mogul • Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl • The Diary of Anne Franke: A Play **Refer to Unit 5 for Unit Overview and Novel Study **OR** create lessons for the following unit skills while reading the book: o Characterization o Conflict o Theme o Setting o Symbolism o Foreshadowing o Tone/Mood o Irony o Dialogue **Optional:** Vocabulary Review/Self-Selected Reading/End-of-Unit Assessment **Assessment:** StudySync Extended Writing Project and Grammar- Oral Presentation Process: Plan. How do you advocate a position? **OR** End of Unit Assessment
Assessments: AIMSweb/i-Ready/Essay/CFAs/NYS Exams/Regents	

Optional Units:

~ 5 WEEKS	~ 5 WEEKS
Unit 4: Hear Me Out Essential Question: How do you choose the right words? **Lessons:** • The Big Idea • /HUG • Gaming Communities • Denee Benton: Broadway Princess • Cover Letter to LucasArts • Speech to the Ohia Women's Conference: Aint I a Woman? • Across Five Aprils • To America • Letters of a Civil War Nurse • The Adventures of Tow Sawyer (Chapter 2) • Blind • Vocabulary Review **Optional:** Self-Selected Reading/End-of-Unit Assessment/ Extended Writing Project and Grammar	**Unit 6: Beyond Reality** Essential Question: What do other worlds teach us about our own? **Lessons:** • The Big Idea • Manuel and the Magic Fox • The Dark Is Rising • There Will Come Soft Rains (poem) • There Will Come Soft Rains (short story) • The War of the Worlds • Everybody Out (from 'What If') • Spaceships • Universal Declaration of Human Rights • How Hare Drank Boiling Water and Married the Beautiful Princess • Children of Blood and Bone • Vocabulary Review **Optional:** Self-Selected Reading/End-of-Unit Assessment/ Extended Writing Project and Grammar
Assessments: AIMSweb/i-Ready/Essay/CFAs/Regents	