

***Brian's Song* by William Blinn**

English Language Arts, 8th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Two men, Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo, are fierce competitors for the same position on the professional football team, the Chicago Bears. This nonfiction screenplay walks readers through their lives together through their friendship, struggles with racial tensions, and beyond. Sayers and Piccolo's friendship is a true story about the significance of brotherhood both on and off the football field.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Relationships**
 - Essential Question: How does effective communication impact our relationships and understanding of the people and world around us?

- **Unit 3: Human Spirit**
 - Essential Question: How can a person's point of view impact their understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them?

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- RL. 8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- RI. 8.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RL. 8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- RL. 8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- RI. 8.8.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

