

**Department:** MS ELA

**Course:** 8th Grade Literature

**Grade Level:** 8

**Length of Course:** Full Year

**Primary Resources:**

- PA CC Standards and Eligible Content
- Articles from commonlit, readworks
- Novels: "The Wave", "I Am A Star Child of the Holocaust", and "The Outsiders".
- TAGSS Graphic Organizer

**Units of Study:**

**Unit 1: Nonfiction (1st Semester)**

- *Daily bellwork that focuses on responding to nonfiction prompts, text features/text structure, and figurative language*
- *"Learning about the Holocaust" Commonlit article (building background knowledge & Main Idea/details) & "Introduction to the Holocaust" commonlit article*
- *"Anti-semitism" Edpuzzle (building background knowledge & summarizing/ text features) & "The Gradual Rise of Nazi Germany" Edpuzzle*
- *"The Wave" & "I Am A Star Child of the Holocaust" (text features, author's purpose, point of view, main idea, summarize, responding to text dependent analysis questions)*

**Unit 2: Poetry**

- **Poetry packet** that contains poems written in free verse, haiku, Ode, lyrical, Hip-hop, and blackout.
  - *Use of figurative language and descriptive language to create imagery*
  - *Practice creating own poems that reflect the poem type.*
  - *Rhyme scheme*

**Unit 3: Fiction (2nd Semester)**

- **"The Outsiders" novel by S.E. Hinton**
  - Chapters 1-2: Story Elements Overview
  - Chapters 3-4: Characterization
  - Chapters 5-6: Conflict
  - Chapters 7-8: Author's Purpose/Point of View
  - Chapters 9-10: Sequencing and Genre
  - Chapters 11-12: Theme
  - Review of all skills

**Curriculum-Based Assessments:**

Written responses via student performance measures, Study Island Benchmarks, tests, quizzes, and project-based assessments

**Standardized Assessments:** PSSA ELA Testing, Aimsweb Benchmarking

**Description of Course:**

Students in all three grade levels of literature classes will learn to read independently and fluently. They will demonstrate fluency and comprehension of all genres of literature and nonfiction writing. They will learn about story elements in fiction and use and understand text structure in nonfiction. Students will read and create poetry following guidelines, while practicing and recognizing figurative language. Students also create essays using text-dependent analysis questions based on a piece of text.