

English Language Arts 8

Finding Identity and Belonging through Literature \Unit # 4

Unit Overview

Get ready to dive into *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton—a powerful story about teenagers trying to figure out who they are and where they belong in a world that often divides people into groups.

In this unit, you'll explore big questions like:

- What makes up your identity?
- What does it mean to truly belong?
- How do things like loyalty and friendship shape who we are?

As we read, we'll look closely at how the author builds the characters, creates conflict, and explores themes like social class and growing up. You'll take part in meaningful discussions, write about what you discover, and think deeply about how the struggles in the book connect to real life. By the end of the unit, you'll write a literary essay that shows your understanding of the story and the powerful messages behind it.

Significant Concept and Skills

Students will explore essential questions such as:

- What is a literary essay, and how can writing one help us better understand and appreciate a story?
- How do stereotypes and social labels influence our choices?

Reporting Categories with learner outcomes:

Writing: I can develop and organize a literary essay that is appropriate to task, audience, and purpose.

Reading: I can identify a theme and analyze how an author develops the theme throughout the text.

Reading: I can discuss characterization and analyze how an author develops a character throughout the text.

Speaking and Listening: I can prepare and practice reading a passage from the book so I can read it clearly and confidently in front of the class.



Speaking and Listening: I can share my thoughts and ideas about the book clearly and respectfully, and I can listen to and build on what others say during discussions.

Language: I can edit my writing, so the final product uses standard English conventions (grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling) correctly.

Assessments & Pacing

In addition to the ongoing feedback-focused assessments that will help guide students' progress throughout the unit, there will be four key assessments:

1. Reading Comprehension Checks (throughout the unit)
2. Prepared and Practiced Read Alouds (throughout the unit)
3. Group and Class Discussions (throughout the unit)
4. Literary Analysis Essay (mid-May)

Should I have any questions or concerns about your child's progress during this unit, I will contact you. Should you have questions or concerns, please email at jdelao@acsamman.edu.jo (Ms. de la O) or abailey@acsamman.edu.jo (Ms. Bailey).