

Unit 3: Defining Our Communities

"Critical thinking requires us to use our imagination, seeing things from perspectives other than our own and envisioning the likely consequences of our position."
- bell hooks, American author and social activist



Throughout this 2-part unit, we will be using a variety of texts to collaboratively discuss the role of media in various means within our society. Students will explore real life topics to examine how the role of media intertwines with how we continue to read the world. Additionally, we'll be exploring the many themes in Samira Ahmed's young adult novel, *Hollow Fires* - the insidious nature of racism, the terrible costs of unearthing hidden truths, and the undeniable power of hope. As a learner, we will be working to answer meaningful questions to uncover new ways to think about what's happening in both our communities and in our world.

Unit Essential Questions

- What is a community?
- Who defines a community?
- What defines a community?
- What are some issues that impact communities?

About Our Unit Book



Safiya Mirza dreams of becoming a journalist. And one thing she's learned as editor of her school newspaper is that a journalist's job is to find the facts and not let personal biases affect the story. But all that changes the day she finds the body of a murdered boy.

Jawad Ali was fourteen years old when he built a cosplay jetpack that a teacher mistook for a bomb. A jetpack that got him arrested, labeled a terrorist—and eventually killed. But he's more than a dead body, and more than "Bomb Boy." He was a person with a life worth remembering.

Driven by Jawad's haunting voice guiding her throughout her investigation, Safiya seeks to tell the whole truth about the murdered boy and those who killed him because of their hate-based beliefs.

This gripping and powerful book uses an innovative format and lyrical prose to expose the evil that exists in front of us, and the silent complicity of those who create alternative facts to bend the truth to their liking.

Unit Pursuits

IDENTITY

Part 1	Students will examine their role and interaction with digital spaces in an effort to build a critical lens.
Part 2	Students will examine and challenge their own values and beliefs as they think about major themes found throughout the novel and research experiences.

SKILLS

Part 1	1. Students will explore the role of mass communication, popular culture, and new technologies has on our understanding of the world around us.
Part 2	2. Students will evaluate text through reader response, using connections, inferences, summarizing, predictions, and questions. Students will also use a variety of digital tools to construct a multimodal awareness campaign.

INTELLECT

Part 1	1. Students will analyze various media spaces and construct new meanings, curiosities, and discussions connected to these analyses.
Part 2	2. Students will participate in student-driven dialogue about the various texts to demonstrate an understanding of learning, connections, and various perspectives.




CRITICALITY





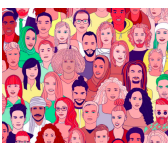
Part 1	1. Students will critically examine the power of media messaging. Additionally, students will work to build critical lenses that address misinformation, disinformation, propaganda and spin.
Part 2	2. Students will critically examine real life themes such as racism, hidden truths, standing up for what's right, and the power of hope.. Students will create authentic questions to drive research.

Unit Resources

Class Website *All resources are located under "Unit 3" of the class website	Unit 3 Before We Start	Lesson/Challenge #1
Lesson/Challenge #2	Lesson/Challenge #3	Lesson/Challenge #4
Lesson/Challenge #5	Détournement Examples	Detournement Organizer
Detournement Guidelines	Part 2 Anchor #1	Part 2 Anchor #2
Part 2 Anchor #3		

Unit Glossary

WORD	IMAGE	DEFINITION
Anchor Activities		Anchor activities serve as learning experiences that connect our readings to bigger ideas related to media and the role of media today. Students will make connections from their own chosen text for this unit and the material provided related to the current media climate.
Spin (or Media Spin)		Spin in media refers to "a form of propaganda, achieved through knowingly providing a biased interpretation of an event or campaigning to influence public opinion about some organization or public figure." (Britannica, 2020)
Propaganda		Any media text whose primary purpose is to openly persuade an audience of the validity of a particular point of view.

Audience		The group of consumers for whom the media text was constructed as well as anyone else who is exposed to the text.
Censorship		The practice of suppressing a text or part of a text that is considered objectionable according to certain standards.
Critical		A reflective position on the meaning, biases or value messages of a text.
Mass Media		Mass media refers to those media that are designed to be consumed by large audiences through the agencies of technology.
Representation		The process by which a constructed media text stands for, symbolizes, describes or represents people, places, events or ideas that are real and have an existence outside the text.

Unit Calendar - Part 1

CW = class work

WEEK 1 11/28-12/2	Monday 11/28	Tuesday 11/29	Wednesday 11/30	Thursday 12/1	Friday 12/2
Morning Class	Reading Monday & Chair Chats	CW: Review Human Library post guidelines and reflection WORKSHOP: Unit 2 Human Library project blog post	CW: Introduction to Unit 3 Part 1 Critical Media Literacy VIDEO: What is Media Literacy? And talking about what you noticed	WORKSHOP: Posting your collage on your blog page with brief reflection CLASS DISCUSSION: What did you discover about yourself in this work? What	Weekly email & grade check Finish CHALLENGE #1: Constructing a safe space for everyone in class - collaborative infographic

			WORKSHOP: Before we start task "Exploring Media Media Messages and Ourselves"	do you notice about others? LESSON #1: Oh! The Questions We'll Ask (start)	CLASS DISCUSSION: What do we need in order to create a safe space?
Afternoon Class	Unit 2 Human Library Project check-in and Joyful Monday	CW: Unit 2 Human Library project blog post *working on missing Unit 2 work, if needed	WORKSHOP: Continue before we start task "Exploring Media Media Messages and Ourselves" Collage and word choice will be due by tomorrow morning	Continue LESSON #1: Oh! The Questions We'll Ask CHALLENGE #1: Constructing a safe space for everyone in class - collaborative infographic	Continue CLASS DISCUSSION (from this morning, if needed): What do we need in order to create a safe space? VIDEO: Begin watching Untold
Due Dates	Unit 2 Human Library videos are due tomorrow	Unit 2 Human Library Project blog post is due today			Weekly email and grade check due today; Complete challenge work Be ready for Chair Chats on Monday!

<i>Unit Calendar - Part 1</i>					CW = class work
WEEK 2 12/5-12/9	Monday 12/5	Tuesday 12/6	Wednesday 12/7	Thursday 12/8	Friday 12/9
Morning Class	Reading Monday & Chair Chats	UNIT 3 Challenge #1: Constructing a safe space MINI LESSON: Reviewing the guidelines and getting into groups	WINTER MAP TESTING - MORNING ONLY		

		WORKSHOP: Constructing a safe space for everyone in class - collaborative infographic			
Afternoon Class	UNIT 3 Lesson #1: Oh! The Questions We'll Ask (game) Participating in our first Lesson and beginning our challenge work	CONTINUE & FINISH WORKSHOP: Constructing a safe space for everyone in class - collaborative infographic	<p style="text-align: center;">Documentary Viewing <i>UNTOLD: The Girlfriend Who Didn't Exist</i> Plus weekly email and grade reflection</p>		
Due Dates		Collaborative infographic from Challenge #1 will be due by the end of the day			All emails, grade reflections, and Challenge 1 infographic will be due today Chair Chats on Monday!

<i>Unit Calendar - Part 1</i>			CW = class work		
WEEK 3 12/12-12/16	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16
Morning Class	Reading Monday & Chair Chats	Continue with Lesson/ Challenge #2	Share out Challenge #2 summary blogs; begin Lesson #3 and watching the TED talk	Share our reflections and graphic organizers - what did you notice? Lesson #4 understanding connotation vs. denotation and reading the Ad Fontes Media chart	Weekly email and 2nd quarter grade checks Finish and share our Challenge #4 blog post
Afternoon Class	Begin Lesson/Challenge #2 related to critical questions	Work with Challenge #2 and your small groups Post your \$0.10 summary to your blog page	Start Challenge #3 by choosing partners and texts Continue with graphic organizer Post your organizer and blog reflection	Begin Challenge #4 by getting into partners or groups of 3, choosing topics, and searching out headlines. Groups will be responsible for examining headlines using a graphic organizer	Begin Lesson #5 by playing Snake Oil and Spin Debrief discussion - what works did you choose to sell to others? How does this connect?
Due Dates		Challenge 2 due tomorrow	Challenge 3 due tomorrow	Challenge 4 due tomorrow	Challenge 5 is done in class

Unit Calendar - Part 1

CW = class work

WEEK 4 12/19-12/21	Monday 12/19	Tuesday 12/20	Wednesday 12/21	WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL THE REST OF THE WEEK
Morning Class	Reading Monday & Chair Chats	Make up work and challenge 5 simulations "What Would You Post?"	Movie and early dismissal	
Afternoon Class	Make up work and challenge 5 simulations "What Would You Post?"	Make up work and challenge 5 simulations "What Would You Post?"		
Due Dates		ALL quarter work needs to be finished		

WINTER BREAK

12/21/2022 - 1/5/2023

Unit Calendar - Part 2

CW = class work

WEEK 1 1/6-1/13	Friday 1/6	Monday 1/9	Tuesday 1/10	Wednesday 1/11	Thursday 1/12	Friday 1/13
Morning Class	<p>Welcome back from break!</p> <p>Community building activities</p>	<p>3RD QUARTER CHAIR CHATS BEGIN</p> <p>WEEK 1 BEGINS CW:Begin reading weekly reading - Chapters 1- Start anchor activities Week 1</p>	<p>WEEK 1: CW:Continue Week 1 anchor activities</p> <p>CW: Continue reading</p>	<p>WEEK 1: CW:Continue Week 1 anchor activities</p> <p>CW: Continue reading</p>	<p>WEEK 1: CW:Continue Week 1 anchor activities</p> <p>CW: Continue reading</p>	<p>Weekly email & grade check</p> <p>WEEK 1: CW: Continue Week 1 anchor activities</p> <p>Continue reading</p>
Afternoon Class	<p>Getting organized, signing up for Chair Chats, learning more about our upcoming book</p>	<p>CW: Continue reading and anchor work</p>	<p>CW: Group discussions, sticking points, and more time for anchors</p>	<p>CW: Group discussions, sticking points, and more time for anchors</p>	<p>CW: Group discussions, sticking points, and more time for anchors</p>	<p>WEEK 1: FINISH Week 1 anchor activities</p> <p>Continue reading</p>
Due Dates	<p>Make sure you've signed up for Chair Chats!</p>					<p>Week 1 Anchors are due today; make sure to finish your weekly email and grade check</p>

Unit Calendar - Part 2

CW = class work

WEEK 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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1/16-1/20	1/16	1/17	1/18	1/19	1/20
Morning Class	NO SCHOOL MLK, Jr. Observance	WEEK 2 BEGINS: CW: Begin reading weekly reading - Chapters CW: Start Week 2 anchor activities CW: Continue reading and anchor work	WEEK 2: CW: Continue Week 2 anchor activities CW: Continue reading	WEEK 2: CW: Continue Week 2 anchor activities CW: Continue reading	Weekly email & grade check CW: Continue Week 2 anchor activities CW: Continue reading
Afternoon Class		CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work
Due Dates					Week 2 Anchors are due on Monday 1/23; make sure to finish your weekly email and grade check Be ready for Chair Chats on Monday!

<i>Unit Calendar - Part 2</i>					CW = class work
WEEK 3 1/23-1/27	Monday 1/23	Tuesday 1/24	Wednesday 1/25	Thursday 1/26	Friday 1/27
Morning Class	CW: FINISH Week 2 anchor activities Continue reading	WEEK 3 BEGINS: CW: Begin reading weekly reading - Chapters CW: Start Week 3 anchor activities CW: Continue reading and anchor work	WEEK 3: CW: Continue Week 3 anchor activities CW: Continue reading	WEEK 3: CW: Continue Week 3 anchor activities CW: Continue reading	Weekly email & grade check WEEK 3: CW: Continue Week 3 anchor activities CW: Continue reading
Afternoon Class	CW: FINISH Week 2 anchor activities & Joyful Monday	CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work	CW: Continue reading and anchor work

Due Dates	Week 2 Anchors are due today by the end of the afternoon class				Week 3 Anchors are due on Monday 1/30; make sure to finish your weekly email and grade check *Be ready for Chair Chats on Monday!
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<i>Unit Calendar - Part 2</i>						CW = class work	
WEEK 4 1/30-2/3	Monday 1/30	Tuesday 1/31	Wednesday 2/1	Thursday 2/2	Friday 2/3		
Morning Class	CW: FINISH Week 3 anchor activities Continue reading	Extra room for anchoring and reading Making up Unit 3 assignments	CW: Introduction to Unit 4 - Protest Art What it is and isn't, examples from last year, brainstorming your own ideas	CW:	Weekly email and grade reflection		
Afternoon Class	CW: FINISH Week 3 anchor activities Joyful Monday			CW:	CW:		
Due Dates	Week 3 Anchors are due today by the end of the afternoon class						