

When strong students start a unit they review the "unit questions" they will consider. They think about which of the unit questions seems most confusing, interesting, or important, and Why? They wonder how they might answer the questions and how different people might answer these questions differently. Today you will do this as you read the unit overview, consider and discuss the different unit questions.

**Today we are starting a fascinating unit on perseverance.**



At the end of the unit, you are going to write a paper explaining how the texts we read caused you to (re)think about why some people overcome enormous odds and persevere over adversity.

Along the way, you are going to choose non-fiction texts, choose poetry, read 2 class texts, engage in discussions, and use MINDOMO to track your ideas.

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## UNIT QUESTIONS:

How do people motivate themselves to persevere over seemingly enormous odds?

How do we stay motivated when all our best efforts do not seem to pay off in the way we hoped?

How do we balance a powerful drive to succeed in the competition of life, with a sense of empathy and caring for others?

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## We are going to Read and Analyze

Poems Drawn From [Maya Angelous's "Still I Rise,"](#) [D. H. Lawrence's "Self Pity,"](#) [Gwendolyn Brooks "Kitchenette Building,"](#) [Lucille Clifton's "won't you celebrate with me,"](#) [Jack Gilbert's "Failing and Flying,"](#) [Audre Lorde "A Litany for Survival,"](#) [Yusef Komunyakaa's "Facing It,"](#) ["The Ghost Of Tom Joad"](#) by [Bruce Springsteen,](#) songs such as [Fragile](#) by [ErynAllen Kane,](#) [Keep Ya Head Up](#) by [Tupac,](#) and selected Gospel Music referenced in texts we read including: ["Lord You Brought Me From a Long Ways Off" "Mighty Long Way You've Brought Me",](#) ["Some Cold, Rainy Day",](#) ["The Old Ship of Zion"](#)

[Non-Fiction Readings, Podcasts, and Artwork](#) (password="greatjournals") as well as [Toni Cade Bambara's Raymond's Run,](#) [Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea,](#) and [Langston Hughes' Sonny's Blues](#)



Along the way we are going to look at:

How different texts suggest different answers to the same question.

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How the texts connect to ideas and politics in the world.

The “Hemingway” style of writing.

**We are going to practice the 21st Century Skill of**



Conducting Socratic seminars within your work group.

Collaboration ACROSS WORKGROUPS

Anticipating the needs of an audience you are not in direct contact with.



Skills You will Practice Include:

This unit blends the different skills we already practiced and asks you to demonstrate them together. For this unit we are going to focus on:



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1. I can identify the feelings conveyed by specific sections of a text and articulate the way these feelings help me consider larger ideas in the text.
6. I can articulate the way my thoughts on a text were deepened, pushed, or challenged. by the thoughts of others.
7. I can transfer my ideas from informal writing to formal body paragraphs in an essay
8. I can meet deadlines and/or come to an agreement with my teachers in advance when I need an extension. (10% of your grade).

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