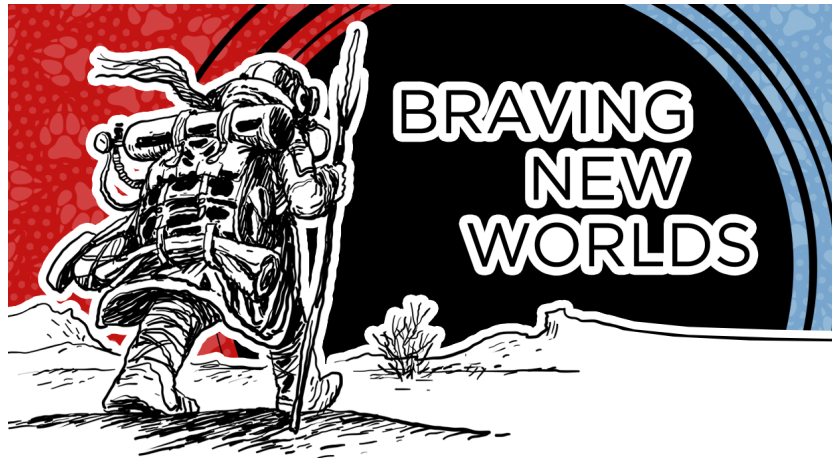




## Great Works Unit Prospectus



Throughout history, the quest for survival and a better life has driven people to explore new frontiers, whether it's migrating to different lands, adapting to challenging climates, or seeking freedom from societal constraints. In this unit, students explore the themes of survival, adaptation, and personal choice as they explore two vastly different worlds: the Arctic tundra and a dystopian future society.

Use this prospectus to gain a deeper understanding of the topics your child will be studying, including the dynamics of ecosystems, the challenges of living in extreme environments, the complexities of human decision-making, and the impacts of choices.

	WORLD	STEAM
<b>Text</b>	<b><i>The Giver</i></b> Lois Lowry	<b><i>Julie of the Wolves</i></b> Jean Craighead George
<b>Subjects</b>	Decision-making, identity formation, narrative writing, personal reflection	Biomes, ecosystems, food webs, climate change, ocean currents
<b>Projects</b>	<b><i>The Perfect Community</i></b> Students explore the concept of a thriving society by designing their own ideal community, balancing order and freedom, and representing it through visual and written formats.	<b><i>Hungry Like the Wolf</i></b> Students explore ecosystems and food webs within the tundra biome to understand the potential effects of removing wolves — apex predators — from the tundra.

### **The Power of Choice**

Students reflect on their own choices and write a short story or personal narrative about a difficult decision, exploring how choices shape identity.

### **Meltdown**

Students conduct an experiment to explore how melting ice caps affect the ocean in polar regions.

### **Overview**

In a highly controlled society, Jonas grows up in a world where emotions are suppressed, and choices are eliminated to maintain order. As he begins to experience the memories of the past through his role as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers the depth of human experience, including love, pain, and free will. This dystopian novel explores the complexity of individual choice and the cost of a society that prioritizes conformity over freedom.

Thirteen-year-old Miyax (a.k.a. Julie) lives in an Inupiaq village in the Arctic tundra. Seeking to escape an abusive relationship, she leaves her remote village and wanders, lost and alone on the tundra, until she joins a wolf pack. The pack proves essential to her survival, and through her relationship with the wolves, the novel explores interdependence between people and animals in a harsh environment.

### **Discussion Questions and Topics**

- If you lived in a society where choices are controlled, how would you cope with the loss of freedom? What strategies would you use to hold onto your sense of self?
- After reading *The Giver*, what did you learn about the importance of choices and decision-making? How do you think the choices we make, even small ones, can impact our lives and the lives of others?
- The community in *The Giver* has sacrificed emotions and individuality to maintain order and sameness. Do you believe this trade-off is justified? Why or why not, and how does it relate to the value of personal freedom in your own society?

- What are some challenges that people who live in the tundra face in their daily lives?
- How did Julie's understanding of animal behavior change over the course of the book, and what did she come to realize about the relationship between humans and animals?
- What are some ways that people in other parts of the world rely on animals for their survival? How are these ways similar or different from the ways that Inupiaq people depend on animals?

### **Ways to Engage**

- Explore the power of choice in your community. Visit local organizations that help individuals make informed decisions, such as community centers or youth programs.

- Watch this [BBC documentary](#) on tundras and the shrinking of the polar ice caps.
- Check out [The Arctic Sounder](#), a news site that provides up-to-date information on issues that affect the region and the Inupiaq communities that live there.

- Learn more about the impact of decision-making. Research how local leaders and activists make decisions that affect your community. Consider attending a town hall meeting or community event to see how choices at different levels influence the well-being of the society around you.
- *The Giver* draws inspiration from real societies. Read this [article](#) about societal control in North Korea and discuss connections to *The Giver*.

- Learn more about [Jean Craighead George](#), author of *Julie of the Wolves*.