

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School ELA/History

8th Grade

Curriculum Overview

Units & days	Reading Skills (students will be able to (do)...	Writing Skills	History Connection
Counting by 7s (6 days)	Be able to discuss how characters impact the plot	Summarize the major events of the story, write the differences between the summary of text to the original text	
Short Stories Unit (5 days)	Identify the various types of irony, identify elements of a plot diagram in "The Elevator" and "Ransom of Red Chief"	Creative writing: alter the ending of a story, focusing on writing with irony components. Ensuring work does not have plot holes. Match the voice of ending to that of original text.	
The Outsiders (10 days)	Make personal connections to text. Identify significance of similes, metaphors and symbolism in text. Prepare oral report to discuss significance of symbolism used related to characters.	Persuasive essay: find compelling subject to make argumentative claim. Use reliable sources to support claim in persuasive essay. Write responses to novel to deepen understanding of literary terms.	
Poe Unit (8 days)	Be able to close-read poetry, annotate pieces of literature, research unfamiliar terms, discuss the use of writing styles to reach an audience.	Compare/Contrast essay: construct outline. Write compare/contrast essay on two of Poe's stories from the Poe Unit.	
To Kill a Mockingbird (20 days)	Make historical connections to the text, support claim from a text, analyze how fictional novels mimic biblical events and virtues. Deepen understanding of text by researching allusions used in text, make evidence-based claims by using passages from novel	Informative essay: Use credible resources to add citations into text. Produce coherent functional text. Compose narrative text from different points of view.	Civil Rights, Great Depression, Dust Bowl
Poetry Unit (15 days)	Be able to analyze poetry, understand the complexity of meaning and structure, memorize and recite poetry, identify various styles of poems.	Write various types of poetry. Construct a presentation to deliver on selected poet. Add visual aids.	Historical eras related to timeframe of published poetry
A Long Walk to Water (10 days)	Draw evidence from text to support research, compare related texts and media to text.	Research paper: properly use MLA citations and works cited page, be able to analyze work and make appropriate edits, organize structure and citations to appropriately prove thesis.	Industrial Revolution

The Hound of the Baskervilles	Compare the style of writing from one era to another, compare character traits and impacts on the plot, evaluate a character's motives. Evaluate style of writing.	Continuation of research paper from above.	Geography			
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