

Grade 7	Month Grade 7	Unit Overview	Essential Questions	Unit Skills and Understandings	Performance Based Assessment
	September/October Unit 1 Mapping Your Life	Readers explore what it is like to be faced with important decisions, and how these decisions affect a person's life. Text: <i>Call Me Maria</i> <i>The Road Not Taken</i>	How do important decisions impact a person's life?	Comprehension Identify evidence, key ideas and details, craft and structure Academic Vocabulary Word study: Roots and Prefixes	Write the story of an important event or decision; it can be real or imagined. What understanding or insight did this experience reveal?
	November/December Unit 3 Your Vote! Your Rights!	In these texts, authors explore issues of justice, equality, and the role of the individual in a democracy. Text: <i>Twelve Angry Men</i> <i>Democracy</i>	How do people express opinions in meaningful ways?	Comprehension Identify evidence, key ideas and details, craft and structure Academic Vocabulary Word Study: Context Clues, Word families	Compare and contrast two writers' perspectives on democracy. Analyze the strategies they use to convey their perspectives.
	January/February Unit 4 Nature's Fury	Through the presentation of data and the recounting of personal experiences, authors of a science and literary nonfiction excerpt show how natural disasters impact the world. Text: <i>Super Disasters of the 21st Century</i> <i>The Perfect Storm</i>	What are the causes and effects of natural disasters?	Comprehension Identify evidence, key ideas and details, craft and structure Academic Vocabulary word study: dictionary and thesaurus	Compare and contrast the strategies and techniques that each author uses to describe the causes and effects of disasters. Consider text structure, choice of vocabulary, and use of data and details.
	March/April Unit 5 Stolen Childhoods	Readers discover the challenges—some typical, some horrendous—of young people growing up during different times in history. Text: <i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i> <i>Behind the Beautiful Flowers</i>	Can the challenges a family faces force children to grow up too quickly?	Comprehension Identify evidence, key ideas and details, summarize, craft and structure Academic Vocabulary Word Study: word families, roots and suffixes	Analyze which author conveys the challenges faced by the people or main characters most successfully. Consider the narrative techniques and the strategies that the author uses.
	May/June America Speaks	Poets and authors share their vision of American identity through literature. Text: <i>I Hear America Sing</i> <i>I, Too</i> <i>I, Too, Sing America</i>	What does it mean to be an American?	Comprehension: identify evidence, key ideas and details, summarize, craft and structure Academic Vocabulary: word study dictionary and context clues	These writers claim a specific vision of what it means to be an American. Compare and contrast their perspectives referencing their literary devices and figurative language.