

# Grade 8 units

## 8A: Perspectives & Narrative



i ●●●●● QT: 830L–1080L  
●●●●● QL: 3  
●●●●● RT: 3

### BIG IDEA

Making sense of individual, cultural, and familial identity within conflicting forces of society

### READING

Notice the impact of author's craft and structure

### WRITING

Write a narrative about a childhood memory

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Narrative writing: Use dialogue, details, and description to bring a childhood memory to life

Writing workshops: Practice narrative writing techniques modeled in mentor texts and respond with constructive comments to peers' writing

Meet the author: Watch and discuss videos of Kaitlyn Greenidge, author of "My Mother's Garden"

### TEXT FEATURES

WWII memoir, contemporary coming-of-age narratives, issues of equity

## 8B: Liberty & Equality



i ●●●●● QT: 900–1500L  
●●●●● QL: 5  
L ●●●●● RT: 4

### BIG IDEA

The meaning of "all men are created equal"

### READING

Evaluate how an author builds an argument in a narrative text

### WRITING

Analyze how authors use language to make a case for liberty and equality

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Integrate media formats: Analyze Chadwick Boseman's performance of the opening of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

Speech writing: Use mentor texts to prepare and deliver an abolitionist speech at an Anti-Slavery Fair

Quest: Explore personal testimonies, songs, photographs, and other Emancipation-era documents

### TEXT FEATURES

19th-century language and syntax, slave narratives, and political rhetoric

## 8C: Science & Science Fiction



i ●●●●● QT: 840L–1540L  
●●●●● QL: 4  
L ●●●●● RT: 4

### BIG IDEA

Creators vs. creations

### READING

Analyze an author's development of themes

### WRITING

Argue opposing claims about a character and resolve the contradiction

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The creature in your own words: Draw on graphic novel illustrations to tell the story from the creature's point of view

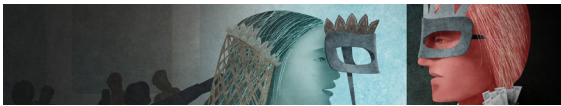
Archetype analysis: Compare and contrast passages from *Frankenstein* with excerpts from Genesis and "Prometheus"

Debate: Argue central questions about whether the creature deserves a mate and which character deserves more sympathy

### TEXT FEATURES

Gothic text in graphic form, archaic language, biblical and mythological allusions

## 8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet



**L** ○○○○○ QT: N/A  
 ●●●●● QL: 5  
 ●●●○○ RT: 3

### BIG IDEA

The forces of love vs. the forces of hate

### READING

Paraphrase Shakespearean English and trace extended metaphors

### WRITING

Choose between contradictory positions and argue with evidence

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Recite Shakespeare: Memorize and perform the Prologue to *Romeo and Juliet*

Extend the metaphor: Analyze Shakespeare's use of figurative language and create new metaphors for Romeo to praise Juliet

Integrate media formats: Compare and contrast film versions of a play with the original script

### TEXT FEATURES

Drama with Elizabethan language and structures, inverted syntax, extensive figurative language

## 8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning



**i** ●●●●○ QT: 500L–1220L  
 ●●●●○ QL: 4  
**L** ●●●●● RT: 5

### BIG IDEA

The influences of and responses to the Holocaust

### READING

Synthesize multiple accounts to develop understanding and empathy

### WRITING

Analyze the impact of propaganda and explain the response to unfolding events

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Remembrance poems: Read and write poems on the theme of remembrance

Propaganda analysis: Analyze anti-Semitic propaganda and other techniques that Nazis used to turn Germany against its Jewish citizens

Meet the author: Use video interviews with survivor Irene Butter to reflect on what we can learn from the Holocaust

### TEXT FEATURES

Poems, articles, memoirs, graphic novel, portrayals of sensitive content

## 8F: The Space Race Collection



**i** ●●●●● QT: 870L–1490L  
 ●●●●● QL: 5  
**L** ●●●●○ RT: 4

### BIG IDEA

The successes and sacrifices of space exploration

### READING

Integrate information from a variety of sources and perspectives to develop a nuanced understanding of complex topics

### WRITING

Develop a question, conduct research, and create a multimedia project

### ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Develop information literacy: Evaluate the reliability and credibility of online informational sources

Role-play: Research an astronaut or cosmonaut and write blogs from their point of view

Socratic seminar: Engage in student-led discussions about research topics

### TEXT FEATURES

Primary and secondary source documents, speeches, and images