

New Paltz Central School District
English Language Arts
Seventh Grade

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Standards/Skills	Assessments
September	<u>Unit 1: Courage and Determination in Short Stories and Poetry</u> • What is courage? How is it different from bravery and determination? • How do authors express different elements of courage in their literature? • How do you support an argument using specific examples from the text? • How do authors use literary devices to enhance their poems and short stories?	• Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information with supporting evidence • Read and interpret poems • Define the characteristics of different genres: ○ Poetry ○ Short Story ○ Biography • Identify literary elements of different genres: ○ Symbolism ○ Conflict ○ Theme ○ Rising action, climax, resolution • Consider author's viewpoint, purpose, and style • Recognize and visualize descriptive language and imagery • Understand figurative language • Understand importance of time in setting • Identify key passages • Write body paragraphs of thematic essay • Explain connections between and among texts to extend the meaning of each individual text • Revise drafts to improve content and mechanics • Use teacher conference and peer review • Present clear analysis, using examples, details, and reasons from the text to support thesis	• Journals • Test • Compare/contrast essay

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October - November	<u>Unit 2: <i>The Cay</i></u> - How do characters grow and change throughout a novel? - What is the author's purpose (theme)? - What causes prejudice and how is it perpetuated? - How does outside information help us understand a work of realistic fiction? - How do different authors examine different subjects? - How do authors craft a "round" character who is capable of change and growth? - What are the functions of setting and how do they enhance the success of a literary work? - Types of conflict - Character traits - Social, cultural, ethnic, and historical perspectives - Point of view - Validity and accuracy of information	- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. - Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. - Recognize, interpret, and make connections in narratives, poetry, and drama, ethically and artistically to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations. - Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. - Produce text (print or nonprint) that explores a variety of cultures and perspectives. - Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation. - Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. - Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.	- Media Literacy project - Thematic literary essay - Reading recall quizzes - Vocabulary tests - Mini-research project - Literature logs

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		○ Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy. ○ Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. • Identify the ways in which characters change and develop throughout a story. • Infer character traits. • Identify different perspectives (such as social, cultural, ethic, historical) on an issue presented in more than one text. • Recognize how one’s own point of view contributes to forming an opinion about information and ideas. • Evaluate examples, details, or reasons used to support ideas. • Use paraphrase and quotation correctly. • Compare and contrast characters in more than one literary text.	
December - January	<u>Unit 3: <i>The Miracle Worker</i></u>		

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January - February	<u>Unit 4: Literature Circles</u> - What are the elements of a meaningful literary discussion? - How does an efficient literature circle run? - How does literature provoke discussions? - What are effective questions? - How does literature provoke thought about social issues? - What is family? - What is normal? Does normal matter? - What life lessons are conveyed to the reader through the characters' and their families' experiences? - How do different novels address similar themes? - How do I analyze literature in order to have a meaningful discussion? - What should I look for in a noteworthy passage? - How can I pictorially represent characters and scenes? - How do I gain understanding of unfamiliar words and how should this information be assessed? - How does descriptive language enhance writing? - How do I determine the elements of the plot triangle?	- Recognize that one text may generate multiple interpretations - Determine how the use and meaning of literary devices (e.g., symbolism, metaphor and simile, alliteration, personification, flashback, and foreshadowing) convey the author's message or intent - Write interpretive and responsive essays of approximately three pages to - express opinions and support them through specific references to the text - demonstrate understanding of plot and theme - identify and describe characters and their motivations - analyze the impact of the setting - explain how the use of literary devices, such as symbolism, metaphor and simile, personification, and flashback affects meaning - draw conclusions and provide reasons for the conclusions - compare and contrast characters, setting, mood, and voice in more than one literary text performance - make connections between literary text and personal experience or knowledge - Present clear analysis, using examples, details, and reasons from text	- Journal/Reader response logs - Vocabulary assessments - Thematic essay - Poster - Advertising book - Symbolic analysis representing character - Facilitator evaluation of daily discussions - Book review - Self and group assessments - Determine and analyze relevant quotes - Group presentations - Nonfiction research and presentation related to novel - Mini research project - Literature logs

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		• Interpret data, facts, and ideas from informational texts by applying thinking skills, such as define, classify, and infer • Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information • Compare and contrast information from a variety of different sources • Read silently and aloud from a variety of genres, authors, and themes • Select content and choose strategies for written presentation on the basis of audience, purpose, and content • Write personal reactions about experiences, events, and observations about the book, using a form of social communication • Prepare and give presentations on informational topics • Listen attentively to others and build on others' ideas in conversation with peers and adults • Express ideas and concerns clearly and respectfully in conversations and group discussions • Use verbal and nonverbal skills to improve communication with others	

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February - March	<u>Unit 5: Poetry/Nonfiction Article Review</u> • How do we make meaning and demonstrate understanding from a variety of texts? • How do we make connections between texts?	• Listen to collect and interpret data, facts, and ideas • Listen to comprehend, interpret, and respond to texts • Listen to analyze and evaluate information, ideas, opinions, issues, themes, and experience • Identify essential information for note taking • Connect, compare, and contrast ideas and information from two or more sources • Support ideas with examples and direct references to the text • Use a variety of graphic organizers • Self-assess using the New York State ELA rubric • Allocate time effectively during an assessment. • Observe rules of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling • Use correct grammatical construction • Evaluate examples, details, or reasons used to support ideas • Use transition words to provide clues to the organizational format; <i>for example, in addition, finally, as a result, similarly, on the other hand</i> • Use complete simple, compound, and complex sentences, using correct subject verb agreement, verb tense, and pronouns with clear antecedents	

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April - May	<u>Unit 6: <i>House on Mango Street</i></u> • How does literature provoke thought about social issues? • What is the purpose of a first person narrator? • What is life like for an underprivileged minority teenager? • How can getting to know one character deeply help one understand a novel as a whole? • Does social networking allow one to get to know someone deeply or just on the surface? • How does the writer's craft help reveal the main themes in the book? • Are people undeniably interconnected just because they live in the same neighborhood? • What are the reader's biases and how do they affect the analysis of a text?	• Read in the following genres: realistic fiction, poetry, non-fiction • Analyze quotes and distinguish insightful quotes • Analyze, in great detail, a character and examine what role that character plays in the novel • Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information with supporting evidence • Synthesize across texts • Take notes • Listen for key ideas and record notes • Identify author's point of view, such as first person narrator • Recognize the types of language appropriate to social communication; for example, jargon colloquialisms, informal, and conventions of email and social networking • Identify and understand the use of poetic devices in prose and poetry • Orally present information to peers	• "MangoFace" project based on one character • Vocabulary test • Constructed response • Quizzes on reading • Open-notebook test • Discussions • Literature logs • Analysis of important and relevant quotes and non-fiction material and their relationship to main text