

Middle School Literature: Connected Texts and Mastery Texts

Grade Five	
Unit 1	<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis
Seminar 1	“Killer of the Innocents,” <i>Birmingham World</i> , September 18, 1963 (Nonfiction)
	“Black Hair History: How Madame C.J. Walker Helps to Pioneer and Shape Black Hair Care,” Jazma Hair (Nonfiction)
Seminar 2	“Ballad of Birmingham” by Dudley Randall (Poem)
	“White Lies” by Natasha Trethewey (Poem)
Unit 2	<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i> by Phillip Hoose
Seminar 1	“Remarks by the President at Dedication of Statue Honoring Rosa Parks - US Capitol”, Barack Obama, February 27, 2013 (Nonfiction)
	“I, Too” by Langston Hughes (Poem)
Seminar 2	Excerpt from “Southern Troubles” from <i>Travels with Charley</i> by John Steinbeck (pp. 249-260, Penguin, 2017) (edited for language) (Nonfiction)
	Excerpt from <i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett (pp. 45-47, Berkley, 2011) (Fiction)
Unit 3	<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin
Unit 4	Short Stories: “All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury “The Catbird Seat” by James Thurber “Will” by Adam Rex “The Strangers that Came to Town,” Ambrose Flack

Seminar 5 Mastery Text	"Charles" by Shirley Jackson (Fiction)
Seminar 6 Mastery Text	"The Fun They Had" by Isaac Asimov (Fiction)
Unit 5	<i>Ninth Ward</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Seminar 1	"6 Young Survivors Relive Hurricane Katrina, the Storm that Changed Their Lives Forever," <i>MTV News</i> , April 24, 2015 (Nonfiction)
	"The Storm" by Theodore Roethke (Poem)
Unit 6	<i>Locomotion</i> by Jacqueline Woodson
Seminar 1	"Poetry" by Pablo Neruda (Poem)
Seminar 7 Mastery Text	"The Mid-Atlantic Ridge" from <i>Surtsey: The Newest Place on Earth</i> by Kathryn Lasky (Nonfiction)
	"What is an Ecosystem?" by Susan Quinlan (Nonfiction)
Seminar 8 Mastery Text	"Josie's Ride" from <i>Wings to Fly</i> by Celia Barker Lottridge (pp. 7-9, from "'Whoa, Ginger,' said Josie." to "...given the house a chance?", Greenwood Books, 2007) (Fiction)
	"The Old Oaken Bucket" by Samuel Woodworth (Poem)
Unit 7	<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar
Seminar 1	"Aristotle's Timeless Advice on What Real Friendship Is and Why It Matters" by Aristotle (Nonfiction)
	"Love and Friendship" by Emily Brontë (Poem)
Seminar 9 Mastery Text	"Waking Up From Hibernation, the Hard Work of Spring Begins" by Steph Yin, <i>The New York Times</i> , March 24, 2017 (Nonfiction)
	"Wolf Puppies Are Adorable. Then Comes the Call of the Wild." by James Gorman, <i>The New York Times</i> , October 13, 2017 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 10 Mastery Text	"Noel" by Michael Plemmons (Fiction)
	"Abuelito Who" by Sandra Cisneros (Poem)

Grade 6	
Unit 1	<i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry
Seminar 1	"Six Consequences of One-Child Policy Reform" by Adam Pasick (Nonfiction)
	"Heart Pill to Banish Bad Memories," <i>BBC News</i> , February 16, 2009 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 2	"Time does not bring relief; you all have lied" by Edna St. Vincent Millay (Poem)
	Excerpt from "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (pp. 7-10, Dial Press Trade, paperback edition, 2010) (Fiction)
Unit 2	<i>Before Columbus</i> by Charles C. Mann
Seminar 1	"Don't Blame Columbus for All the Indians' Ills" by John Noble Wilford (Nonfiction)
	Excerpts from "Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus" (October 12, October 17 paragraph 2) (Nonfiction)
Seminar 2	"Sculpted Stones (Piedras Labradas)" by Victor Montejo (Poem)
	"Laser Scans Unveil a Network of Ancient Cities in Cambodia" by Julia Wallace, <i>The New York Times</i> , September 19, 2016 (Nonfiction)
Unit 3	<i>Chains</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson
Unit 4	Short Stories: "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe "There Will Come Soft Rains" by Ray Bradbury "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson "The Monkey's Paw" by W. W. Jacobs
Seminar 5 Mastery Text	"Names/Nombres" by Julia Alvarez (Nonfiction)
Seminar 6 Mastery Text	"Thank You Ma'am" by Langston Hughes (Fiction)
Unit 5	<i>Heart of a Samurai</i> by Margi Preus
Seminar 1	"Samurai Creed" by an Anonymous Samurai, 14th Century (Poem)

	"Foreigners Forbidden" from <i>Commodore Perry in the Land of the Shogun</i> by Rhonda Blumberg (Chapter 6) (Nonfiction)
Unit 6	<i>Home of the Brave</i> by Katherine Applegate
Seminar 1	"The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus (Poem)
Seminar 7 Mastery Text	"Oh Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman (Poem)
	"Advice for Living in Porcupine Country" by Leigh Gillette (Nonfiction)
Seminar 8 Mastery Text	"The Inventing Room" from <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> by Roald Dahl (Chapter 19, ending with "...and it's still just as good as ever!") (Fiction)
	"A Day's Wait" by Ernest Hemingway (Fiction)
Unit 7	<i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank
Seminar 1	"The Diarist Anne Frank" by Roger Rosenblatt, <i>Time Magazine</i> , June 14, 1999 (Nonfiction)
	"so you want to be a writer?" by Charles Bukowski (Poem)
Seminar 9 Mastery Text	"The Bed of Procrustes," adapted from "Procrustes and His Bed" by Charles Kingsley (Fiction)
	"A Surprise From the Supervolcano Under Yellowstone" by Shannon Hall, <i>The New York Times</i> , October 10, 2017 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 10 Mastery Text	"Was a Tiny Mummy in the Atacama an Alien? No, but the Real Story Is Almost as Strange" by Carl Zimmer, <i>The New York Times</i> , March 22, 2018 (Nonfiction)
	"The Secret Heart" by Robert Peter Tristram Coffin (Poem)
7th Grade	
Unit 1	<i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton
Seminar 1	"Alone" by Maya Angelou (Poem)
	"Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost (Poem)
Seminar 2	"Crewcuts" by Donald Hall (Poem)
	"How Do You Define a Gang Member?" by Daniel Alarcón, <i>The New York</i>

	<i>Times</i> , May 27, 2015 (Nonfiction)
Unit 2	<i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow</i> by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Seminar 1	"Rites of Passage for the Youth," <i>Der Hoheitsträger</i> , 1939 (Nonfiction)
	"Hitler's Rise to Power" by Michael Cusack, <i>Scholastic</i> , May 4, 1990 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 2	Excerpt from <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak (pp. 31-32, from "A Strange word Kommunist." to "Why? Why? Why?", pp. 114-117, from "Hans Hubermann arrived at the church steps." to "...the dark shape in the background.", Alfred A. Knopf, 2007) (Fiction)
	Excerpt from <i>The Song of the Faithful</i> by Unknown Members of the Hitler Youth in Austria (Verses 1-3: "In Praise of the Führer", "Adolf Hitler", "Our Führer") (Poetry)
Unit 3	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> by Sherman Alexie
Unit 4	Short Stories: "2 B R 0 2 B" by Kurt Vonnegut "The Possibility of Evil" by Shirley Jackson "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving "The Sniper" by Liam O'Flaherty
Seminar 5 Mastery Text	"Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl (Fiction)
Seminar 6 Mastery Text	"Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut (Fiction)
Unit 5	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> by Sandra Cisneros
Seminar 1	"Home" by Edgar Albert Guest (Poem)
	"Reflections on True Friendship" by Andrew O'Hagan (Nonfiction)
Unit 6	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson
Seminar 1	"Why Does a Southern Drawl Sound Uneducated to Some?" by R. Douglas Fields, <i>Scientific American</i> , December 7, 2012 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 8	"Migrating" by Jan Mahrken (Nonfiction)

Mastery Text	"Invictus" by William Ernest Henley (Poem)
Seminar 9 Mastery Text	"Departure" by Sherwood Anderson (Fiction)
	"Getting Their Due" by Robert Sanchez, <i>Southwest Airlines Spirit</i> , July, 2006 (Nonfiction)
Unit 7	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury
Seminar 1	Excerpt from "North Korean Censorship" by Jessica Jarreat, <i>Huffington Post</i> , April 24, 2017 (first two paragraphs) (Nonfiction)
	"Life Inside the North Korean Bubble" by Sue Lloyd-Roberts, <i>BBC News</i> , June 1, 2010 (Nonfiction)
	Excerpt from <i>Brave New World</i> by Aldous Huxley (Chapter 6, Part 1, ending with "...he sent the machine rocketing up into the sky.", Harper Perennial, 2006) (Fiction)
Seminar 9 Mastery Text	"The Voices in My Head" by Jack Handey (Fiction)
	"Unearthed in Rome's New Subway: Extinct Elephants and Persian Peach Pits" by Elisabetta Povoledo, <i>The New York Times</i> , December 18, 2017 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 10 Mastery Text	"If We Must Die" by Claude McKay (Poem)
	"'Doomsday Vault' Protects Earth's Food Supply" by John Wendle, <i>National Geographic</i> , March 20, 2018 (Nonfiction)
8th Grade	
Unit 1	<i>The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates</i> by Wes Moore
Seminar 1	"What Makes You Who You Are" by Matt Ridely, <i>Time Magazine</i> , June 2, 2003 (Nonfiction)
	"Pulled Over in Short Hills, NJ, 8:00 AM" by Ross Gay (Poem)
Seminar 2	"DREAMING BIG: George" from <i>The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream</i> by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Lisa Frazier Page (Nonfiction)
	"The Rights to the Streets of Memphis" by Richard Wright (Nonfiction)
Unit 2	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee

Seminar 1	"Black Lives, White Lies and Emmett Till" by <i>The New York Times</i> Editorial Board, <i>The New York Times</i> , February 6, 2017 (Nonfiction)
	"Letter to My Son" from <i>Between the World and Me</i> by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Nonfiction)
Unit 3	<i>The Autobiography of Malcolm X</i> by Malcolm X
Unit 4	Short Stories: "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury "The Landlady" by Roald Dahl "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes
Seminar 5 Mastery Text	"Superman and Me" by Sherman Alexie (Nonfiction)
Seminar 6 Mastery Text	"The Pedestrian" by Ray Bradbury (Fiction)
Unit 5	<i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell
Seminar 1	"A Modest Proposal" by Jonathan Swift (Nonfiction)
	"La Marseillaise" and "The French Revolution," Britannica.com
	"Russian Revolution of 1917," Britannica.com
Seminar 2	Excerpts from "Second Treatise of Government" by John Locke (pp. 6-8, 87, 91-92, Digireads Publishing, 2017) (Nonfiction)
	Excerpt from "The Dispossessed" by Ursula Le Guin (pp. 101-110, Harper/Voyager, 2011)
Seminar 3	Lenin's "Implementation of Leninism in Russia and the Changes Made," South African History Online, March 22, 2011 (Nonfiction)
	"The Red Bow" by George Saunders
Seminar 4	Excerpt from <i>We the Living</i> by Ayn Rand (pp. 79-84, Signet, 2011) (Fiction)
Seminar 5	Excerpt from "Letter to Archbishop Mandell Creighton" by Lord Acton, Hanover College History Department (starting with Cannes, April 5, 1887) (Nonfiction)
Seminar 6	"This Land Is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie (Song)

	"Era Gloriosa" by Rafael Trujillo (Song)
	Excerpt from <i>A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right</i> by Karl Marx, <i>Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher</i> , 1844 (paragraphs 2-5)
Seminar 7	Excerpt from <i>Yocandra in the Paradise of Nada</i> by Zoé Valdés (pp. 15-17, Arcade Publishing, 2014) (Fiction)
	"10 Surprises about Fidel Castro's Extravagant Life" by Keith Flamer, <i>Forbes</i> , November 26, 2016 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 8	"Freud's Notion of the Uncanny in <i>Animal Farm</i> " by Polly Sapakie (Nonfiction)
Unit 6	<i>In the Time of Butterflies</i> by Julia Alvarez
Seminar 1	Rafael Trujillo, <i>The History Channel</i> (Nonfiction)
Unit 7	<i>Freakonomics</i> by Steven Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
Seminar 1	"The Difference Between Correlation and Causation" by Archana Madhavan, <i>Amplitude</i> , January 19, 2017 (Nonfiction)
Seminar 9 Mastery Text	Excerpt from <i>Among Whales</i> by Roger Payne (pp. 20-22, from "As a consequence..." to "...sonnets rather than ballads.", Delta, 1996) (Nonfiction)
	"The Challenge of Thor" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Poem)
Seminar 10 Mastery Text	"Empathy for One's Fellow Chimp" by Jeremy Manier, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , March 23, 2007 (Nonfiction)
	"Radio and Television Report to the American People on Civil Rights", President John F. Kennedy, June 11, 1963 (Nonfiction)