

Authors and Texts

Creating a Text-Based Culture

- Grade 6** Unit 1 Introduction to the Reading Life
No texts.
- Unit 2 Introduction to the Writing Life
Crystal Ann Williams, “In the Belly of a Clothes Rack”
Gary Soto, “Being Mean”
Gary Soto, “Father”
- Unit 3 Introduction to the Interpretive Work
Toni Cade Bambara, “Raymond’s Run”
Charles Baxter, “Gryphon”
- Grade 7** Unit 2 Writers on Writing: Advice and Publication in the Writing Life
Anne Lamott, “Getting Started” from *Bird By Bird*
Stephen King, excerpt from *On Writing*
Susan Goldsmith Woolridge, “collecting words and creating a wordpool”
Ralph Fletcher, “Crafting Your Story”
- Unit 3 Introduction to Interpretive Work
Langston Hughes, “Thank You Ma’am”
Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
- Grade 8** Unit 1 Vantage Points: A Reading Life Study
Sonia Sanchez, “Norma”
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., “Harrison Bergeron”
Raymond Carver, “Everything Stuck to Him”
- Unit 2 Studying Craft: Apprenticeship and Independent Writing
Ralph Fletcher, “The Set Piece: Something Small and Beautiful”
- Unit 3 Introduction to Interpretive Work
John Updike, “A & P”
Tomas Rivera, “It’s That It Hurts”

Analysis, Explanation, and Argument: Close Reading Nonfiction Like a Detective

- Grade 6** Unit Close Reading Like a Detective
Jonathan Kozol, excerpt from *Amazing Grace*
Eric Schlosser, “McJobs”
- Grade 7** Unit Investigative Report Writing: Explanations and Arguments
Roald Dahl, “The Landlady”
Michael Pollan, “My Fast-Food Meal”
- Grade 8** Unit Metaphorically Speaking
Ann Curzan, “Metaphorically Speaking”
James Geary, “Metaphorically Speaking”
Verlyn Klinkenborg, excerpt from *Several Short Sentences About Writing*
Ann Pratchett, “Why Not Put Off ‘Til Tomorrow the Novel You Could Begin Today”

Close Reading of Informational and Literary Nonfiction Texts

- Grade 6** Unit 1 The Story and the Brain
Doug Rekenthaler, Jr., “Leveraging the Human Brain’s Hunger for Story”
Lisa Cron, “Brain Secrets”
- Unit 2 Dealing with Difficulty
Brian Doyle, “Joyas Voladoras”
Emily Dickinson, “Exhilaration is the Breeze”

- Emily Dickinson, "Hope is the thing with feathers"
- Grade 7** Unit 1 Texting and Language Change
 John Humphrys, "I h8 txt msgs: How texting is wrecking our language"
 David Crystal, "2b or not 2b?"
- Unit 2 Dealing with Difficulty
 e.e. cummings, "next to of course god america i"
 Annie Dillard, "The Deer at Providencia"
- Grade 8** Unit 1 Superstitions, Patterns, and Control
 Benjamin Weiser, "In a Field of Reason, Lawyers Woo Luck Too"
 Thorin Klosowski, "Embrace the Supernatural"
- Unit 2 Dealing with Difficulty
 Ishmael Reed, "Foology"
 Lewis Thomas, "The Lives of a Cell"
 Malcolm Gladwell, "The Order of Things: What College Rankings Really Tell Us"
 Stephen Jay Gould, "Women's Brains"
- Unit 2 Dealing with Difficulty
 Lillian Ross, "Halloween Party"
 John Winthrop, "Little Speech on Liberty"

Close Reading of Poetry

- Grade 6** Unit How Poems Are Built
 Ko Un, "Exhausted"
 Ko Un, "House left empty"
 Rita Dove, "Sunday Night at Grandfather's"
 William Carlos Williams, "View of a Lake"
- Grade 7** Unit Creating Characters in Poetry
 Selected poems by Martin Espada
 "Thieves of Light"
 "Four Sandwiches"
 "Offerings to an Ulcerated God"
 Selected poems by Luci Tapahonso
 "Hills Brothers Coffee"
 "Raisin Eyes"
 "All I Want"
- Grade 8** Unit How Poems Are Built
 Selected poems by Kay Ryan
 "So Different"
 "Spiderweb"
 "Tune"
 "Hide and Seek"
 "Things Shouldn't Be So Hard"
 Selected Poems by Emily Dickinson
 "657, I dwell in Possibility"
 "483, A Solemn thing within the Soul"
 "658, Whole Gulfs-of Red and Fleets-of Red"
 "659, That first Day, when you praised Me, Sweet,"
 "Visions of Mexico While at a Writing Symposium"
 "Emplumada"
 Selected works of Walt Whitman
 Excerpt from "Song of Myself"
 Selected works of Garrett Hongo
 "Nostalgic Catalogue"
 "The Sound of Water"