

# Unit 1: Grades 5-6 TAG - ELA Genre Study

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## **Title Section**

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## **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**



**Belleville Public Schools**

**Curriculum Guide**

Talented and Gifted

5th & 6th Grade

Unit 1

ELA Genre Study

**Belleville Board of Education**

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## **Unit Overview**

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### **PHILOSOPHY**

The philosophy of the Talented & Gifted Program for Belleville Public Schools is to recognize the unique talents and capabilities of all students. Students who demonstrate exceptional abilities require a challenging and a differentiated curriculum. We recognize that students learn in different ways and possess different experiences and levels of understanding. Students deserve an educational environment that is challenging, stimulating, individualized, and learner driven. The curriculum has been designed to maximize students' creative, cultural, and cognitive needs. The cornerstone belief of the Talented & Gifted program is that children learn best when they are actively engaged in the quest for knowledge.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Belleville School District Talented & Gifted Program:

- Provides students with learning experiences to increase their cognitive and affective abilities through frequent applications of creative thinking, problem solving, critical thinking, exploration, discovery, and experimentation.
- This program will provide educational opportunities and activities to every student in his/her personal learning style, to include visual-spatial, musical, naturalist, bodily kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, linguistic, verbal-linguistic, and logical-mathematical.
- Students will be encouraged to develop and apply higher level thinking processes to become producers of

information, as well as consumers of information.

- The program will enhance each student's level of understanding concepts, ideas, and issues in the areas of knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
- The intellectual architecture of this unit will be fueled by teacher designed lessons that build upon identified students' strengths, interests, and talents.
- The program is designed to be student driven in which the teacher acts as a facilitator, guide, or resource for personal or small group inquiries and investigations.
- The three characteristics used for identifying students are above average ability, task commitment, and creativity.
- Provide a three-part model of learning activities which would include Tier One as whole group instruction in the classroom setting during the school day, Tier Two as small group instruction and planned activities in the classroom setting during the school day involving cross-curricular involvement, and Tier Three as an after school enrichment program for students in grades three through five who meet the established criteria.
- The students are identified based on unique talents, abilities, and interests to form a talent pool.

At the K-5 levels, enrichment is intended for all students. It will be available to encourage students, and give them additional opportunities to achieve their highest potential. An after-school program in grades three through five has been designed for those students who demonstrate exceptional ability, talent, and potential. Students chosen to participate in this program will be required to meet established acceptance criteria.

## **LUNCHTIME PROGRAM GOALS**

1. Provide a differentiated curriculum for students who demonstrate exceptional capabilities and potential.
2. Identify and support each student's personal style to promote academic, social, and emotional growth for potential success.
3. Provide opportunities for students to pursue long-term investigations of personal interests.
4. Provide activities that promote growth and stimulation in higher cognitive processes such interpretation, analysis, application, synthesis, and evaluation.
5. To engage students in rich academic experiences coupled with high expectations, which will afford them opportunities to make meaningful connections between their learning and the larger world.
6. Develop an understanding of their own talents and interests in order to select and pace learning experiences necessary to become more self-directed learners.

## **LUNCHTIME PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will participate in learning activities in which one or more of the following strategies for differentiated instruction will be employed: interest groups, independent projects, learning centers, and tiered assignments.
2. The students will be exposed to a personal interest survey to help them focus their questions for personal or small group inquiry and investigation in grades three through five.
3. The students will participate in analysis and synthesis of information facilitated by, but not limited to, real world problem solving, mentorship, product creation, presentation, and self-evaluation.
4. Students will select topics of personal interest that they will research, engage in problem solving, and create solutions that are tied to real world application.
5. The students will use technological resources to facilitate their investigations.

## **GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Activities will include but not be limited to:

1. Personal interest inventories, and investigations pursuing those interests.
2. Inquiry of questions related to or arising from regular classroom studies or those proposed by the instructor.
3. Exploratory activities.
4. Student opportunities to engage in new endeavors involving questioning and investigation to secure new knowledge.
5. Those that encourage students to question, make inferences, and find evidence to support generalizations.

## **UNIT ONE ELA OVERVIEW**

Unit One of the T&G Enrichment Curriculum will focus on ELA through a genre study. As children complete their schooling, it is important that they are exposed to and immersed in many kinds of print and many types of literature. A Genre Study is one way to accomplish that. Research also shows that the more experience students have in reading different genres, the more successful they will be in writing in different genres.

Grade 5 Genre Study - Fantasy

Grade 6 Genre Study - Mystery

## **Enduring Understandings**

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### **Enduring Understandings**

1. Students will have a greater understanding of the particular genre and all of the necessary reading strategies needed for comprehension and higher level application.
2. Students will have a greater understanding of the story elements specific to a particular genre and this will translate into their narrative writing.
3. Students will understand that it is vital to use multiple resources when completing research.
4. Students will understand the importance of respect and collaboration when working with team members to research.

## Essential Questions

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1. Why is it important to adjust reading strategies to a particular genre?
2. What differentiates one type of genre from another?
3. How would incorporating various story elements impact your writing?
4. When completing research, why is it important to cross-reference different materials?
5. Why is collaboration necessary for effective problem solving?

## Exit Skills

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By the end of this unit students will:

1. Develop proficiency in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.
2. Construct meaning and respond thoughtfully to a variety of material from print, non-print, and electronic materials.
3. Use a variety of strategies to create and develop meaning when reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing.
4. Express questions, thoughts, interpretations, and opinions related to material from print, non-print, and electronic source content and purpose in both oral and written form.
5. Develop stories, essays, and poems using the writing process.
6. Read to learn and for pleasure.

## New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL)

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LA.RL.5.2	Determine the key details in a story, drama or poem to identify the theme and to summarize the text.
LA.RL.5.3	Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
LA.RL.6.7	Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

LA.RL.5.7	Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).
LA.RL.5.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.
LA.RL.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
LA.RI.6.2	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
LA.RI.5.3	Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
LA.RI.6.3	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
LA.RI.5.7	Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
LA.RI.6.7	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
LA.RI.5.9	Integrate and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
LA.W.6.1.B	Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.6.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
LA.W.6.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
LA.W.5.2.A	Introduce a topic clearly to provide a focus and group related information logically; include text features such as headings, illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.5.2.B	Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
LA.W.6.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting.
LA.W.6.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources.
LA.W.6.9.A	Apply grade 6 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics”).
LA.W.5.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.SL.6.2	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

LA.SL.5.1.A	Explicitly draw on previously read text or material and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
LA.SL.5.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, sound) and visual displays in presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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The T&G Curriculum areas of divergent thinking, convergent thinking, visual/spatial perceptions, interpretive thinking, and problem solving are integrated with Language Arts, Math, Science, and other content areas.

## **Learning Objectives**

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Students will be able to refine and broaden

1. Divergent thinking (Core Standards: Reading: Informational Text; Reading Literature; Writing; Speaking and Listening; Language)
    - a. Creative thinking
    - b. Inventive thinking
  
  2. Convergent thinking (Core Standards: Reading: Informational Text; Speaking and Listening)
    - a. Deductive thinking
    - b. Analytical thinking
    - c. Evaluative thinking
  
  3. Interpretive thinking (Core Standards: Reading: Informational Text; Reading Literature; Writing; Speaking and Listening; Language, NJCCCS 5.2)
  
  4. Problem solving (NJ CCCS 5.12, 6.6; Core Standards: Reading: Informational Text; Writing; Speaking and Listening)
  
  5. Research Skills (Core Standards: Reading: Informational Text; Reading Literature; Writing; Speaking and Listening; Language)
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In the area of divergent thinking students will:

a. use creative thinking to:

1. use fluent and flexible thinking to brainstorm ideas/solutions.
  2. develop, produce, and dramatize.
  3. adapt story versions.
  4. illustrate interpretations.
  5. use the five-step writing process to write original pieces.
  6. create and construct original designs with a variety of manipulatives and aft supplies.
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In the area of convergent thinking students will:

a. use deductive thinking to:

1. formulate predictions/hypothesis.
2. determine varied ways to reach the same solution.

b. use analytical thinking to:

1. analyze story elements.
2. compare and contrast story elements/manipulatives/interpretations.
3. interpret visual representations.

c. use evaluative thinking to:

1. judge character traits and motivation.
2. compare, rate, rank, revise, and eliminate information.
3. determine cause and effect.



4. make conclusions about given information.
  5. defend and validate perspectives.
  6. exercise metacognition through KWL charts and reflective writing.
  7. decide assessment criteria in rubric form.
  8. self-assess using set criteria.
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In the area of interpretive thinking students will:

- a. use shared inquiry to:
    1. build awareness of interpretive issues in a story.
    2. analyze character motivation and development.
    3. find and use supporting evidence for opinions.
    4. present clear, persuasive arguments.
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In the area of research skills students will:

- a. determine purpose, goals, and activities of self-selected independent study projects
  - b. access and select meaningful information using the Internet, books, videos, and other media.
  - c. use the five-step writing process of prewriting, drafting, editing, conferencing, and publishing for a variety of audiences and purposes.
  - d. use a variety of computer software to record research.
  - e. synthesize knowledge of a topic into self-selected culminating activities.
  - f. cite references.
  - g. present/share research to others
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Students will

explore the genre of fantasy, focusing on the creative process of developing a fantasy world (setting, language, characters, plot, sub-plots, etc.)

Research and create their own fantasy world

**Action Verbs:** Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				



- LA.RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- LA.RL.5.2 Determine the key details in a story, drama or poem to identify the theme and to summarize the text.
- LA.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
- LA.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- LA.RL.5.5 Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a particular story, drama, or poem.
- LA.RL.5.7 Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).
- LA.RL.5.9 Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in

	stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.
LA.RL.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.
LA.RL.5.10	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.
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LA.RI.6.9	Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).
LA.RI.6.10	By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.

## **Suggested Activities & Best Practices**

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Fantasy Genre Study

Research and design your own fantasy world

Mystery Genre Study

The Westing Game

<https://www.readworks.org/lessons/grade6/westing-game>

## **Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)**

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Teacher Observation Checklist (Formative)

Fantasy World Design (Formative)

Presentations of findings (Summative)

Multimedia presentations (Alternative)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics

- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

## **Primary Resources & Materials**

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News ELA

IXL

Mackin Educational Resources

## **Ancillary Resources**

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Ted Ed Lessons

How to Build a Fictional World - Kate Messner

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-to-build-a-fictional-world-kate-messner>

How Fiction Can Change Reality - Jessica Wise

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/jessica-wise-how-fiction-can-change-reality>

The Inspiring Truth in Fiction - Thomas Elemans

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tomas\\_elemans\\_the\\_inspiring\\_truth\\_in\\_fiction?utm\\_campaign=tedspread&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/tomas_elemans_the_inspiring_truth_in_fiction?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

<https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/books/the-39-clues/>  
readtheory.org

discoveryeducation.com

readinga-z.com

www.readwritethink.org

daidsongifted.org

scholastic - The 39 Clues

<https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/books/the-39-clues/>

## Technology Infusion

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- SMARTboards
- Chromebooks
- Google Suite Applications
- Multimedia presentations
- online resources





## **Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology**

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Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

## **21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes**

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- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

## **21st Century Skills**

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- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

## **Differentiation**

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T&G students will be identified through multiple measurable assessments (DRA, Envision, teacher



recommendation, etc.).

Tier 1- At this tier, ALL students are serviced. Enrichment opportunities will be offered through various classroom experiences.

Tier 2 - At this tier, flexible groups are formed based on concept mastery. Extended learning opportunities will be offered in order for students to transfer complex thinking processes to a higher level. This could be accomplished through small group instruction/projects/centers within the whole class environment.

Tier 3- At this tier, identified students in Language Arts and/or Mathematics will be engaged in culminating activities in an after school enrichment program. This guide addresses identified T&G students enrolled in this program.

## **Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)**

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Guidelines for students with IEP's and 504's will be followed.

Work will be checked frequently to check for student's understanding.

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multiple test sessions
- multi-sensory presentation
- preferential seating

- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

## **English Language Learning (ELL)**

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Translation devices will be used if the need arises for students to communicate if there is a language barrier.

Tutoring by peers to guide in understanding of topics.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

## **At Risk**

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Tutoring by peers will be used.

Students may correct errors when they occur.

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

## **Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)**

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Provide enrichment articles and assignments

Allow students to complete independent study assignments

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts

- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

## **Sample Lesson**

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Using the template below, please develop a **Sample Lesson** for the first unit only.

Unit Name:

NJSLS:

Interdisciplinary Connection:

Statement of Objective:

Anticipatory Set/Do Now:

Learning Activity:

Student Assessment/CFU's:

Materials:

21st Century Themes and Skills:

Differentiation/Modifications:

Integration of Technology: