

# Unit 1: 8TH DEI

Content Area: **Template**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **Full Year**  
Status: **Published**

## GOALS/PURPOSE

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*This crosswalk will provide our district's educators of eighth grade students with relevant and developmentally-appropriate information and resources to help implement the legislative requirements of the 2019 History and Contributions of Individuals with Disabilities and LGBT (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.35-6), Diversity and Inclusion statutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.36a). This crosswalk will aid teachers and students in their consideration of diverse histories, experiences, and perspectives that promote the dignity and respect of all individuals. All students deserve equitable access to high quality education that is inclusive of the rich diversity of the state of New Jersey.*

ELA.L.VL.8.3.D	Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
ELA.L.VL.8.3.E	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
ELA.SL.PE.8.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
ELA.SL.PE.8.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
ELA.SL.PE.8.1.C	Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.
ELA.SL.PE.8.1.D	Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.
ELA.SL.II.8.2	Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.
ELA.SL.ES.8.3	Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
ELA.SL.UM.8.5	Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.
ELA.SL.AS.8.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

## READ ALOUD TEXTS/EXCERPTS

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- **LGBTQ+**

- [The 57 Bus](#) by Dashka Slater

- **Length:** 320 pages; approximately 5.75 hour read aloud (linked above)
- **Genre/Format:** Nonfiction narrative
- **Age range:** 12-18 years
- **Description:** This book is about race, class, gender, crime and punishment. The book

tells the true story about an agender teen who was set on fire by another teen while riding a bus in Oakland, California. After the incident, the agender teen was left with serious burns and the other was charged with two hate crimes. This book provides a detailed account of this 8-minute interaction and the backstory omitted from the sensational headlines.

- **Discussion Topics:** accountability for actions, decision-making, empathy and respect for others

- **Individuals with disabilities**

- [When Stars Are Scattered](#) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

- **Length:** 264 pages; approximately 3.75 hour read aloud (linked above)
- **Genre/Format:** Nonfiction Graphic Novel
- **Age range:** 9-12 years
- **Description:** This graphic novel depicts the real life experiences of brothers Omar and Hassan who spent most of their childhood in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya, separated from their parents due to conflict in Somalia. While at the camp, Omar is responsible for taking care of his younger brother, Hassan, who is nonverbal and suffers from seizures. Omar eventually gets the opportunity to attend school, and is faced with the impossible choice between guaranteeing his younger brother's safety or working towards a better future for both of them.
- **Discussion Topics:** refugee camps, political conflict, sacrifice, caretaking, ways to communicate

- **Latinx**

- [The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo

- **Length:** 384 pages; approximately 3.5 hour read aloud (linked above)
- **Genre/Format:** Novel in verse
- **Age range:** 13-17 years
- **Description:** This is a coming of age story told in verse. Xiomara, the protagonist, feels uncomfortable in her body and with the feelings she is starting to experience. She struggles to express and stand up for herself, especially when it feels like her mother is always trying to silence or shame her. The key to unlocking her voice is a slam poetry contest, where Xiomara can finally express the thoughts and feelings she has been keeping inside the pages of her private notebook.
- **Discussion Topics:** finding your voice, family relationships, dating relationships, being an LGBTQ+ ally

- **Asian American & Pacific Islanders**

- [Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone](#) by Tae Keller

- **Length:** 304 pages (45 minute excerpt: Chs. 1-12 read aloud linked above)
- **Genre/Format:** Realistic fiction/mystery novel
- **Age range:** 9-12 years
- **Description:** "Thanks to her best friend, Reagan, Mallory Moss knows the rules of middle school. The most important one? You have to fit in to survive. But then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and that rule doesn't seem to apply. Jennifer doesn't care about the laws of middle school, or the laws of the universe. She believes in

aliens—and she thinks she can find them. Then Jennifer goes missing. Using clues from Jennifer’s journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets to answers, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run . . . and face the truth within herself.”

- **Discussion Topics:** friendship dynamics, social norms, adhering to your own moral code, power to influence others

## **ARTICLES AND/OR VIDEO RESOURCES (FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)**

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### • **LGBTQ+**

- [Biography.com: LGBTQ Pride Webpage](#) This page links to five profiles of famous LGBTQ+ people: Marsha P. Johnson & Sylvia Rivera, Rock Hudson, Elliot Page, Ellen DeGeneres, and Harvey Milk.
- History.com video: [“How the Stonewall Riots Sparked A Movement”](#) This 4 minute video provides an overview of the Stonewall Riots and explains how they brought national attention to LGBTQ+ civil rights. Linked beneath this video are additional articles that students can read for further information on this topic.

### • **Individuals with disabilities**

- [Biography.com: Tammy Duckworth](#) “Illinois' Tammy Duckworth became the first disabled female veteran to earn election to the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the second female Asian American senator.”
- [History.com: “The Kennedy Family Secret That Helped Inspire the Special Olympics”](#) This article describes the birth of Rosemary Kennedy, and details how her disability inspired her sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, to become an advocate for individuals with disabilities and eventually found the Special Olympics.

### • **Latinx**

- [“Día de los Muertos Comes to Life Across the Mexican Diaspora” by Isabel Dobrin](#) (**CommonLit assignable text**): This 3 page nonfiction informational text details *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead. Dobrin explains how this “...Mexican holiday is celebrated throughout Mexico and in other places by people with Mexican ancestry.”
- [“HERS; A Puerto Rican Stew” by Esmeralda Santiago](#) (**CommonLit assignable text**): A 3 page biographical essay which first appeared in the New York Times. This text features author Esmeralda Santiago’s reflections “on her life and identity as she looks up a recipe for arroz con pollo, a classic Latin American dish.”

### • **Asian American & Pacific Islanders**

- Biography.com: [“10 Influential Asian American and Pacific Islander Activists”](#) This lists the names and photographs of ten AAPI activists and briefly summarizes their activism.
- History.com: [“8 Groundbreaking Contributions by Asian Americans Through History”](#) Contributions in this article include finding disease cures, inventing influential

technology, and fighting for worker's rights.

## **WEBSITES (FOR STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH)**

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### • **LGBTQ+**

- [Camden County LGBTQIA+ Youth Support](#): Featured on the Collingswood Public Library Website, this website is an excellent resource for students. The site aims to “provide informational and educational resources on sexuality and gender identity, to offer access to affirming healthcare, mental health resources, and housing support, and to connect youth to affirming books, media, support groups, and online communities.”
- [Collingswood Public Library List of LGBTQIA+ movies](#)
- YALSA (Teen Book Search): [Rainbow Book List-Graphic Novels and Graphic Nonfiction](#), [Stonewall Award Winner List](#)

### • **Asian American & Pacific Islanders**

- [Immigrant Stories: Thailand](#) This collection curated by the University of Minnesota's Immigrant Stories Project features 32 video interviews and transcripts of immigrants from Thailand.
- [PBS Media: Armed with Language](#)
- YALSA (Teen Book Search): [APALA Literature Award Honor List](#), [APALA Literature Award Winner List](#)

### • **Latinx**

- [Latino Stories](#) A site with credible Latinx literature, articles, book reviews, and research resources, including this [Top Ten Middle School Latinx booklist](#) and [this article](#) explaining the terms hispanic, latino, and latinx.
- [Smithsonian- Presente: A Latino History of the United States](#) On this site, students can read about the museum's collections, explore immigration stories and Latino identity, and even take a virtual [360 degree guided tour](#) of the "¡Presente!" exhibition in the Molina Family Latino Gallery in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

### • **Individuals with disabilities**

- [PBS Learning Media Student Assignment: New Documentary Follows First Person Diagnosed with Autism](#) This 11 minute video and discussion question student assignment from PBS provides an overview and background of the documentary project *In a Different Key*, which details the life of Don Triplett, the first person diagnosed with autism.
- History.com: [“11 Olympians Who Overcame Disabilities”](#) A useful student source for a mini-research project, this page on the history.com website highlights famous Olympic athletes with disabilities.
- [ALA Schneider Book Award List](#) (books that highlight people with disabilities in a positive way)

## **PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS (LESSON PLANS, REPRODUCIBLES, ETC.)**

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- **ALL DEI**

- **NEA Center for Social Justice:** [“Recommendations and Conclusions for Talking About and Centering Race”](#) Excellent teaching advice article to prepare for classroom discussions prompted by the introduction of more inclusive and diverse perspectives into the classroom.
- **NEA Center for Social Justice:** [“Implicit Bias, Microaggressions, and Stereotypes Resources”](#) Toolkit collected by the NEA complete with videos, and detailed information on implicit bias, microaggressions, and stereotypes. Many of the linked texts in the crosswalk will feature one or more of these pervasive forms of discrimination- this site is a great resource for defining and addressing implicit bias, microaggressions, and stereotypes.
- [Responding to Bias Incidents in Middle and High Schools: Resources and Best Practices for School Administrators & Educators](#)- Included in this 52-page PDF are specific protocols for confronting and dismantling bias to ensure your classroom is an inclusive environment for all students. Consider reviewing the following guides targeted to address bias incidents that affect LGBTQIA+, LatinX, and AAPI students, and students with disabilities:
  - Anti-Asian Racism (Related to COVID-19) (34)
  - Anti-Immigrant Bias (Sometimes Called “Xenophobia”) (36)
    - “Build the Wall” (36)
    - “Go Back to Where You Came From” (38)
  - Anti-LGBTQ+ Bias (42)
    - “That’s So Gay” (42)
    - F-Word (44)
    - Misgendering and Deadnaming Transgender and Nonbinary Students (46)
  - Disability (48)
    - R-Word (48)
    - “SPED” (50)

- **Latinx**

- [PBS Learning Media: The 1968 L.A. School Walkouts](#) This mini-lesson from PBS media features an informational video, lesson plan, and student writing activity centered around the 1968 L.A. School Walkouts where “thousands of high school students walked out of classes in East Los Angeles in 1968 to protest inequality for Mexican Americans in the public education system.”
- [National Education Association’s Hispanic Heritage Month Resources](#) This toolkit includes lessons, activities, videos, and many other resources to help teachers promote Latinx perspectives during and beyond Hispanic Heritage Month.

- **Individuals with disabilities**

- [Facing History Mini-Unit: Disability Rights and the Legacy of Judy Heumann’s Activism](#) This unit teaches students about advocate Judy Heumann’s life and legacy as well as ways for them to continue to advance disability rights. There are 4 student activities which take about 10-20 minutes each; they can be taught separately or all together.

- **Asian American & Pacific Islanders**

- [PBS Learning Media AAPI Collection- Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March](#) This collection of videos, lesson plans, and learning activities focus on the rise in anti-asian sentiment in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and advocacy efforts to halt aggression and

dismantle harmful rhetoric.

- [Hidden Voices: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States](#) Enormous collection of AAPI resources collected and organized by the NYC Department of Education. Use the table of contents of this 452 page PDF to find articles on specific AAPI people, topics, and historical events.

- **LGBTQ+**

- [Camden County LGBTQIA+ Youth Support: Educators & Allies](#) A library-curated collection of LGBTQIA+ educator resources. There are instructional resources such as lessons, detailed histories, and booklists. Also linked on this page are professional development resources and books for educators.
- [PBS Learning Media: Gladys Bentley Mini-Unit](#) The description of this resource on PBS reads, "Learn about the trailblazing, gender non-conforming performer Gladys Bentley with this digital short from ***Unladylike2020***... Constantly reinventing herself, Bentley challenged norms and pushed boundaries. Support materials include discussion questions, vocabulary, a research project on queer identity during the Harlem Renaissance, and a close reading of Bentley's famous essay, "I am a Woman Again."
- [Teaching LGBTQ History:](#) A collection of ready-to-go middle school lesson plans.