

# Course Overview

Content Area: English  
Course(s): ELA 8  
Time Period:  
Length:  
Status: Published

Course Overview
Aligned to Standards: NJSLs 2023
Revision Date: 6/20/24
In compliance with the NJ Student Learning Standards, climate change, career readiness, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), as well as other standards have been integrated within the NBCRSD curricula (NJ Administrative Code Title 6A: chapter 8; Title 18A: chapter 35).
Course Overview
Sequence- Unit Titles, Summaries, and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/36 year)
<div><div>Unit 1: From Literacy to Literature (9 weeks):</div><div><p>Students study and research digital literacy to enhance their online reading, research, and communication skills. Throughout this unit, they apply citizenship concepts that appear in virtual communication and literature. Students read short stories and write a narrative essay, applying literary techniques and exploring themes of citizenship.</p><div><div>SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:</div><div><div><div>"Where I'm From" George Ella Lyon</div><div>"Sorry Wrong Number" Lucille Fletcher</div><div>"The Elevator" by William Sleator</div><div>"Rules of the Game" Amy Tan</div><div>"Two Kinds" Amy Tan</div></div></div></div></div><div><div>Unit 2: Lessons from the Past (8 weeks):</div><div><p>Students embark on a historical journey from the late 1800s through the 2000s. They engage with research, poetry, and prose to study various societal and cultural experiences. Students analyze how learning about the past can teach people about the importance of identity. Students write a</p></div></div></div>

literary analysis focused on theme.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:**

- “Sympathy,” by Paul Laurence Dunbar
- “Oriflamme” by Jessie Redmond
- “Mother to Son,” & “Harlem,” by Langston Hughes
- “Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou
- “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman
- “I Hear America Singing,” by Walt Whitman
- “I, Too Sing America” by Langston Hughes
- “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou
- *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (play)
- *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

**Unit 3: Speaking Up (8 weeks):**

Students study real-life situations in which people’s actions have impacted others (e.g., The Holocaust) through various texts. They also research events worldwide in which people have exhibited resilience and strength. They then read and analyze speeches from a diverse population that address citizenship, inclusivity, and change.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:**

- *Maus*, by Art Spiegelman
- *They Called Us Enemy*, by George Takei
- *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz

Speeches:

- "New Hampshire Primary Speech" Barack Obama (2008)
- "Supreme Court Nomination Speech" Sonia Sotomayor (2009)
- "Nobel Prize Lecture," by Malala Yousafzai (2014)
- "Gender equality is your issue too," by Emma Watson (2014)

**Unit 4: Act and Impact (7 weeks):**

Students begin by writing a research synthesis essay exploring how a person’s upbringing or environment can contribute to their becoming

influential. They then select a novel of their choice to analyze how individuals take action to create change. The year culminates in a final presentation that showcases their learning and insights.

**SPECIFIC RESOURCES FOR UNIT:**

- *OCDaniel* by Wesley King
- *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya
- *Pride* by Ibi Zoboi
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga
- *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Drannen

**[Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to NB's Assessment System)**

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

**[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)**

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans.