LMS ELA 8 Unit 2

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP2**
Length:
Status: **Published**

Rationale

District curriculum-revision guidance positions Unit 2 as a literature unit anchored by a novel, with narrative writing as the Grade 8 writing focus. Long Way Down remains the anchor text, but the unit theme is revised from Exploration to Rules, Choices, and Consequences so the thematic frame more directly reflects the novel and the strongest existing lessons.

Across the unit, students repeatedly examine how community expectations, family history, grief, loyalty, violence, and personal agency influence Will's thinking. These ideas provide a coherent context for the Grade 8 literature standards while also supporting authentic discussion and narrative writing. Existing lessons on inference, character, the Rules, theme, structure, tone, evidence, Socratic Seminar, and narrative craft are retained and reorganized into a ten-week sequence. Beginning-of-year routine lessons are not part of this revised unit.

Enduring Understandings

1. People's choices are often influenced by family, community, personal experience, and explicit or unspoken rules; those choices can create consequences that extend beyond the individual.

2. Actions and consequences are interconnected, and repeated choices can reinforce or challenge cycles within families and communities.

3. Literary elements - including character, conflict, setting, dialogue, relationships, perspective, and events - interact to develop themes and ideas.

4. Authors make intentional choices about structure, repetition, figurative language, diction, pacing, and perspective in order to shape meaning, tone, characterization, and the reader's response.

5. Effective narratives use purposeful event sequences, character development, dialogue, description, pacing, reflection, and conclusions to create meaningful experiences for readers.

6. Morphological knowledge, precise vocabulary, thoughtful discussion, and evidence-based speaking help readers determine meaning and communicate interpretations clearly.