At the Crossroads

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

Unit Overview

Students will read a variety of non-fiction that explores the theme of "At The Crossroads"; focus on vocabulary skills using context clues, dictionaries, glossaries and thesauri to determine the meaning of words; participate in collaborative discussion; identify elements of non-fiction/informative; organize a response to non-fiction; use textual evidence to build an analysis of written material; analyze author's point of view; differentiate between and locate main and supporting ideas in non-fiction; compare and contrast texts in different forms; read both aloud and independently.

Enduring Understandings

There are many different types of non-fictional and informational text.
Some challenging situations bring about long-lasting change.
Proficient readers are able to understand and apply reading strategies to foster comprehension.

Essential Questions

When something in the world seems unjust, what can an ordinary person do about it?
How can we find ways to explore and understand diversity in our community and beyond?
How do different individuals handle challenging situations?
How are non-fiction text features important in constructing meaning from text?

Learning Objectives

Read stories about ways in which people worked to bring about permanent change.
Analyze the literary elements found in non-fiction and informational text, particularly in autobiographies and biographies.
Apply active reading strategies for reading non-fiction accounts.
Develop critical thinking skills about informational text and be able to compare and contrast differing accounts of the same situation.
Use vocabulary skills including context clues and ancillary materials to understand new words.
Analyze non-fiction through writing and discussion.
Participate in pre-reading focus activities.
Demonstrate comprehension skills.
Demonstrate understanding and correct usage of vocabulary.
Participate in independent reading of a selection with teacher – created guide material.
Respond to varying texts.

Participate in level reading groups.
Students will conduct a research Project on Women's History Month (Ri Pak , Lea Solonga) (AAPI, DEI)

Standards: Content

Standards: Interdisciplinary

L	Language
L.SS.7.1	Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.
L.SS.7.1.A	Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
L.SS.7.1.B	Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
L.SS.7.1.C	Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
L.SS.7.1.D	Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie but not He wore an old green shirt).
L.SS.7.1.E	Recognize spelling conventions.
L.KL.7.2	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
L.KL.7.2.A	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.
L.KL.7.2.B	Gather vocabulary knowledge when selecting a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.
L.KL.7.2.C	Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
L.VL.7.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L.VL.7.3.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
L.VL.7.3.B	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel).
L.VL.7.3.C	Analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
L.VL.7.3.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.
L.VL.7.3.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).
L.VI.7.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

L.VI.7.4.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.
L.VI.7.4.B	Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.
L.VI.7.4.C	Analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sound (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza or a poem or section of a story or drama.
L.VI.7.4.D	Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., refined, respectful, polite, diplomatic, condescending).
R	Reading
RL.CR.7.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RI.CR.7.1	Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what an informational text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RL.CI.7.2	Determine a theme in a literary text (e.g., stories, plays or poetry) and explain how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
RI.CI.7.2	Determine a central idea in an informational text and explain how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
RL.IT.7.3	Analyze how particular elements of a text interact including how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
RI.IT.7.3	Analyze how particular elements of a text interact including how a text makes connections and distinctions among individuals, events, and ideas (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).
RL.TS.7.4	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text and how it contributes to the text as a whole, including how a drama's or poem's form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.
RI.TS.7.4	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text and how it contributes to the text as a whole, including using knowledge of text structures (e.g., cause-effect, proposition-support) and genre features (e.g., graphics, captions, indexes) to organize and analyze important information.
RL.PP.7.5	Determine how an author conveys or develops perspective or purpose in a text through contrasting the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
RI.PP.7.5	Determine how an author conveys or develops perspective or purpose in a text through distinguishing their position from that of others using evidence.
9.4.8.IML.1	Critically curate multiple resources to assess the credibility of sources when searching for information.
RL.MF.7.6	Compare and contrast texts (e.g., a written story, drama, or poem) to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version and analyze the unique qualities of different mediums, including the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).
RI.MF.7.6	Compare and contrast texts to analyze the unique qualities of different mediums, including the integration of information from multiple formats and sources to develop deeper understanding of the concept, topic or subject and resolve conflicting information.
RI.AA.7.7	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
RL.CT.7.8	Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of an event, time, place, or character and a historical or scientific account of the same period or event as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history and/or events.

RI.CT.7.8	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how two or more authors writing informational texts about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.
W	Writing
W.AW.7.1	Write arguments on discipline-specific content (e.g., social studies, science, technical subjects, English/Language Arts) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
W.IW.7.2	Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
W.NW.7.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
8.2.8.ITH.1	Explain how the development and use of technology influences economic, political, social, and cultural issues.
W.WP.7.4	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning; flexibly making editing and revision choices and sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; and focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
SL	Speaking and Listening
SL.PE.7.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
SL.PE.7.1.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.
SL.PE.7.1.B	Follow rules for collegial discussions, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
SL.PE.7.1.C	Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed.
SL.PE.7.1.D	Acknowledge new information expressed by others and, when warranted, modify their own views.
SL.II.7.2	Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.
SL.AS.7.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Assessment Evidence

Formative	Class discussions, activities, in-class activities, Graphic Organizers, Kahoot, Exit Tickets, book clubs, questions from leveled readers, teacher observations of student's phonic awareness, and oral reading skills, running records of students, Latic checklists, conferences.
Summative	Test, Quiz, Project, Leveled-Reading Assessments, Writing Assessments, Problem Based Learning Student Presentations.
Alternative &	Alternative - Read to the student and chart oral responses. Word banks, sentence frames,

Benchmark	oral responses, graphic organizers, observations, portfolios of student work, orally administered assessments, and anecdotal notes. Benchmark – LinkIt Benchmark Assessment, Reading Levels, TPA
Assessment Evidence Resource	

Instructional Resources

Textbooks, Maps, Laptops, Smart Board, Primary & Secondary Source Documents, Commonlit.org, Readworks.org, Leveled Readers, Online Platform
From Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins, Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice Course 2 Published by McGraw-Hill, The New York Times, TIME, Ted Talks, Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman/Published by HarperCollins,

Instructional Resource List

Curricular Mandates

Below are the curricular requirements as defined in NJ Administrative Code and Statute

	Amistad	X	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
	Holocaust		LGBT and Disabilities (Grades 6-12)
	Climate Change	X	Asian American & Pacific Islander

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies

NJ Social and Emotional Learning Competencies & Sub-Competencies

	Self-Awareness		Relationship Skills
X	Responsible Decision-Making		Social Awareness
	Self-Management		

21st Century Skills & Themes

X	Global and Cultural Awareness		Technology Literacy		Planning and Budgeting
	Creativity and Innovation		Financial Institutions		Risk Management and Insurance
	Information and Media Literacy		Digital Citizenship		Economic and Government Influences
X	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving		Credit Profile	X	Career Awareness and Planning
	Civic Financial Responsibility		Financial Psychology		