

Middle School Language Arts Units

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Unit 1 7 weeks	Core: A Wrinkle in Time Theme: Journeys, from Dark to Light Connection: 6 th graders are on the threshold of the journey to adolescence Other Texts: “Water” Helen Keller; “The Fun They Had” (sci fi short story); poetry & informational texts; L’Engle’s Newberry Acceptance Speech Unit Assignment: Planet Creation Project (creative & compare/contrast writing)	Core: The House on Mango Street Theme: Who Am I? Identity in Multiple Contexts Connection: Students discover how others express personal, gender, and cultural identity and how writing can be a vehicle for exploring and expressing these Other Texts: “The Grandfather” & “Oranges” by Gary Soto; articles about names and cultural identity; poetry Unit Assignment: Identity Project (narrative & reflective writing)	Core: The Outsiders Theme: Duty to Self vs. Duty to Others Connection: Teenagers are struggling to for individual identity while still craving acceptance and belonging to a group Other Texts: Thank You, M’am” (short story); Flowers for Algernon (excerpt); song lyrics; poetry; news articles re: gangs; “Sneetches” by Dr. Seuss Unit Assignment: Character Project (character study & persuasive letter)
ERW Module 3 weeks	The Loch Ness Monster: Is it Real?	Tap or Bottled Water?	Robots in School
Unit 2 6 weeks	Core: The Cay Theme: Developing Mutual Respect & Understanding Connection: Youth are drawn to stories of survival and friendship Other Texts: “The King of Mazy May” (short story); nonfiction about World War II, coral reefs, Curaçao; “I Have a Dream” speech (excerpt) Unit Assignment: Message in a Bottle Project (research-based & response to literature writing)	Core: The Giver Theme: The Connections We Make Connection: 7 th graders are beginning to make choices and connections that will influence their adult lives Other Texts: “The Reaping” from <i>The Hunger Games</i> ; “The Road Not Taken” (poem); nonfiction articles about dreams and the German school system; “Imagine” song lyrics and video; Lowry’s “Newberry Acceptance Speech” Unit Assignment: Essay analyzing point of view and theme	Core: Fever 1793 Theme: Self-Reliance & Independence Connection: Post-Revolutionary War America (US History) and learning to face fears and disappointments Other Texts: Paul Revere’s Ride (poem); primary source documents about the yellow fever epidemic; online and printed informational texts Unit Assignment: Newspaper Project (research-based & creative writing)

