

2026-2027 8th Grade English Language Arts
Kristy Shelton

Time		<u>Units of Study</u> LearnZillion Guidebooks 8th Grade Curriculum	<u>Focus Standards</u>	Major Assignments/ Assessments
August- November Note: Specific dates and details will be provided at the start of each unit. Some adjustments may be made to accommodat e unforeseen scheduling changes and the instructional needs of students as we move through the semester.		Flowers for Algernon What happens when humans try to manipulate the minds of others? How has our understanding of intelligence evolved over time? Texts: “Old Greek Stories: Section 1: The Story of Prometheus” and “Section 2: How Diseases and Cares Came Among Men” by James Baldwin “Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes excerpts from <i>Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus</i> by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley	RL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 RI 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 SL 1, 3, 4, 6 L 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	<u>Argumentative Essay</u> <u>Informative/Explanatory Essay</u> <u>Narrative Essay</u> <u>CASE Assessment 1</u> Students will show mastery of the standards learned through a formal assessment. Formative Assessments

“What’s in an
Inkblot? Some
Say, Not Much” by
Erica Goode

excerpt from
Charly film

Vocabulary/Poem
of the Day/
Sentence of the
Week Daily Warm-
ups

Quill assignments

November-January		Sugar What impact has sugar production and trade had on the economic and social course of world history? Texts: <i>Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science</i> by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos "I is a Long-Memored Woman" by Grace Nichols "How Sugar Changed the World" Heather Whipps from <i>LiveScience</i> "Sugar Cane" (Includes audio) Vocabulary/Poem of the Day/ Sentence of the Week Daily Warm-ups Quill assignments	RL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 RI 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 W 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 SL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 L 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	<u>Argumentative essay</u> <u>Informative/Explanatory Essay</u> <u>CASE Assessment 2</u> Formative Assessments
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January-March		The Tell-Tale Heart How can narrative voice blur the line between fact and fiction? Texts: “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe <i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers <i>Nothing but the Truth</i> by Avi Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” excerpt from <i>the Things They Carried</i> by Tim O’Brien “The Ransom of Red Chief” by O. Henry "A Million Little Pieces Revisited: Can the Truth Ever Set James Frey Free?" Daniel Honan from <i>Big Think</i> <i>The Treachery of Images</i> by René Magritte Vocabulary/Poem of the Day/ Sentence of the	RL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 RI 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 W 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 SL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 L 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	<u>Argumentative essay</u> <u>Informational/explanatory essay</u> <u>Narrative essay</u> <u>CASE Assessment 3</u> Formative Assessments
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		Week Daily Warm-ups		
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		Quill assignments		
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March- May		Call of the Wild We'll explore animal and human interaction. Students will investigate scientific and personal accounts of animal cognition. Texts: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London <i>How Smart are Animals?</i>, PBS "How Smart are Dogs?" and "How Smart are Dolphins?" "Minds of Their Own: Animals are Smarter Than You Think," Virginia Morell from <i>National Geographic</i>, March 2008 "Animal Minds" Paragraphs 1-4, 21-37, and 48-54 "To Build a Fire" by Jack London <i>The Ways of Nature</i> by John Burroughs Vocabulary/Poem of the Day/ Sentence of the	RL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 RI 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 W 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 SL 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 L 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	<u>Argumentative essay</u> <u>Informational/explanatory essay</u> <u>TN Ready</u> Formative Assessments
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		Week Daily Warm-ups		
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