

**Curriculum Unit  
Title**

EXPLORING UNIQUENESS IN A WORLD THAT'S ALL THE SAME

**Author**

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**KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.**

STORY HAS THE POWER TO BOTH SHAPE AND REFLECT OUR LIVES. SHARING OUR STORIES HELPS US MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND OURSELVES AND DEEPENS OUR CONNECTION WITH OTHERS.

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT**

HOW CAN UNDERSTANDING THE ELEMENTS AND PURPOSES OF STORY HELP ME COMMUNICATE MY OWN EXPERIENCES MORE EFFECTIVELY?

**CONCEPT A**

PURPOSE AND POWER OF STORY

**CONCEPT B**

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF STORY

**CONCEPT C**

WRITER'S CRAFT & PROCESS

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A**

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF STORY IN COMMUNICATING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE?  
  
HOW IS MY OWN PERSONAL STORY CONNECTED WITH THE STORIES OF OTHERS?

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B**

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF NARRATIVE?  
  
HOW CAN IDENTIFYING LITERARY ELEMENTS IN MODEL TEXTS HELP IMPROVE MY ABILITY TO WRITE EFFECTIVE STORIES?

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C**

HOW DO AUTHORS USE LANGUAGE AND SYNTAX TO CREATE TONE AND CONVEY MEANING?  
  
HOW CAN ANALYZING AND EVALUATING MODEL TEXTS HELP IMPROVE MY OWN CRAFT?

**VOCABULARY A**

Theme

**VOCABULARY B**

Tension, Plot, Character, Setting, Sequencing, Flashback, Foreshadowing

**VOCABULARY C**

Connectedness, Juxtaposition, Trope, Ladder of abstraction; concrete, memory soaked, and revelatory words; Peer conferencing, Revision

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

Angelou, Maya. "Champion of the World."

Blunt, Tom. "This is How Literary Fiction Teaches Us to Be Human."

Boyles, Nancy. "Closing in on Close Reading."

Burke, Beth. "A Close Look at Close Reading Scaffolding Students with Complex Texts."

Burke, Jim. *The Common Core Companion: The Standards Decoded, Grades 9-12--what They Say, What They Mean, How to Teach Them*. Comberg, David.

"Kurt Vonnegut on the Shapes of Stories. October, 30, 2010.

Conley, Susan. "The Power of Story." TEDx Talks.

Culham, Ruth. *The Writing Thief: Using Mentor Texts to Teach the Craft of Writing*.

Douglass, Frederick. "Learning to Read and Write."

Flora, Carlin. "Self-Portrait in a Skewed Mirror: You're more than the star and author of your own life story. You're also the spin master. How you tell your tale reveals whether you see yourself as victim or victor, even when your story veers from the life you lived."

Gowin, Joshua. "Why Sharing Stories Brings People Together: Our Brains Sync up When We Tell Stories."

Graham, Steve, and Dolores Perin. *Writing Next: Effective Strategies to Improve Writing of Adolescents in Middle and High Schools – A Report to Carnegie Corporation of New York*.

Lafrance, Adrienne. "The Six Main Arcs in Storytelling, as Identified by an A.I.: A machine mapped the most frequently used emotional trajectories in fiction, and compared them with the ones readers like best."

Prager, Joshua. "Wisdom from Great Writers on Every Year of Life." TEDActive.

Satell, Greg. "The Power of Story."

Svoboda, Elizabeth. "The Power of Story: Across time and culture, stories have been agents of personal transformation – in part because they change our brains."

Tan, Amy. "Fish Cheeks."

Psychology Today. The power of Stories: Telling Stories is the Best Way to Teach, Persuade, and Even Understand Ourselves