**Grade 8 ELA**

**Year-at-a-Glance (DRAFT)**

**2024-2025**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Module A**    August 12-September 13  24 Days | **Pivotal Moments**  **Essential Question:** How do life’s unexpected turns influence the dynamics of different relationships?  **Reading Focus:** *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, “I’m Nobody! Who Are You?” *StudySync,* “Blind” *StudySync*  **Writing Focus:** Personal Narrative, Shared Experience Writing (Narrative) | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.3  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.3.1  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.C.1.2 |
| **Module B**    September 16-October 11  19 Days | **To Infinity and Beyond**  **Essential Question:** How does space exploration shape our understanding of the universe and our role within it?  **Reading Focus:** *Team Moon* BEST, “Address to the Nation on the Explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger” *StudySync,* “Spaceships” *StudySync,* excerpt from *The War of the Worlds StudySync,* “Space X and Blue Origins”, “Advancing the Cosmos”  **Writing Focus:** Argumentative | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.1  ELA.8.C.1.3 |
| **Module C**    October 15-November 8  19 Days | **The Twilight Zone**  **Essential Question:** When people encounter strange or mysterious situations, how do they navigate through these experiences?  **Reading Focus:** “How the Twilight Zone Predicted our Paranoid Present”,"The Raven” BEST, “Let ‘Em Play God” *StudySync*, “Ten Days in a Madhouse” *StudySync*, “The Lottery” *StudySync*, “The Monkey’s Paw” *StudySync*, “Phineas Gage” *StudySync, “*There Will Come Soft Rain*” StudySync*  **Writing Focus:** Expository  **DISTRICT WRITING ASSESSMENT – Week of November 4** | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.C.1.4 |
| **Module D**    November 11-December 20  24 Days | **Identity, Conflict, & Society**  **Essential Question:** How do societal labels and stereotypes influence individual identity and behavior?  **Reading Focus:** *The Outsiders,* “We Real Cool” *BEST,* “Nothing Gold Can Stay”, “O Captain, My Captain”, “Herd Behavior”, “Healing ‘Brick City’: A Newark Doctor Returns Home”  **Writing Focus:** Argument/Expository | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.3  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.3.1  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.R.3.4  ELA.8.C.1.3  ELA.8.C.1.4 |
| **Module E**    January 7 – February 7  23 Days | **Facing Adversity**  **Essential Question:** How do individuals harness resilience and adaptability to navigate and overcome adversity in their lives?  **Reading Focus:** *Diary of Anne Frank –* The Play, “A Day Which Will Live in Infamy” BEST, “Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech – Elie Wiesel” *StudySync,* “Parallel Journeys” *StudySync,* excerpt from – *Hitler’s Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow – StudySync*  **Writing Focus:** Expository | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.3  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.4  ELA.8.C.1.4 |
| **Module F**  February 10 – March 14  24 Days | **Chasing the American Dream**  **Essential Question:** What defines the American Dream and how does it shape individual aspirations, societal values, and opportunities for success?  **Reading Focus:** “What Does American Democracy Mean to Me?” *StudySync/*BEST, “9/11 Address to the Nation” BEST, “Inside Out & Back Again” *StudySync,* “America” *StudySync,* “To America” *StudySync,* “The House on Mango Street” *StudySync,* “Ain’t I a Woman” BEST*,* Immigration: Was It Worth It? Text Set  **Writing Focus:** Argument | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.R.3.4  ELA.8.C.1.3 |
| **Module G**    March 24 – April 25  23 Days | **Power of Connection**  **Essential Question:** How can we adapt our social connections to influence and support each other?  **Reading Focus:** excerpt from *Trapped* BEST*,* Hephaestus passage set, “The Gift of the Maji” *StudySync/*BEST*,* “Gaming Communities” *StudySync*  **Writing Focus:** Expository/Argumentative | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.1  ELA.8.R.3.2  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.C.1.3  ELA.8.C.1.4 |
| **Module H**    April 28 – May 29  23 Days | **The Great Unknown**  ***Floating Five: Strategic Reading Days* (prior to FAST PM 3)**  **Essential Question:** What insights can be gained from the adventures of individuals as they navigate into the unknown?  **Reading Focus:** *A First Time for Everything* (graphic novel),excerpt from *The Call of the Wild StudySync/*BEST*, excerpt from The Hobbit StudySync/* BEST*,* “The Road Not Taken” *StudySync/*BEST*, The Wright Brothers* BEST*,* excerpt from *Swiss Family Robinson* BEST*,* excerpt from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer - StudySync*  **Writing Focus:** Personal Narrative, Shared Experience Writing (Narrative) | **Focus Benchmarks**  ELA.8.R.1.1  ELA.8.R.1.2  ELA.8.R.1.3  ELA.8.R.1.4  ELA.8.R.2.1  ELA.8.R.2.2  ELA.8.R.2.3  ELA.8.R.2.4  ELA.8.R.3.1  ELA.8.R.3.3  ELA.8.R.3.4  ELA.8.C.1.2 |

**\*Benchmarks ELA.8.V.1.2, ELA.8.V.1.3, and ELA.8.R.3.2 are embedded in each module.**