



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Look at DCPS Secondary ELA

August 17, 2017



The Secondary ELA Curricular Principles

- **High Expectations** – alignment to CCSS; high-quality, authentic texts
- **Culturally Responsive** – promotes critical consciousness and social activism
- **Supportive** – provides tools that are responsive to students' needs
- **Educative** – helps teachers understand thinking behind curricular choices
- **Locally Relevant** – leverages high-quality DC community resources
- **Dynamic** – responsive to internal and external feedback

The Secondary ELA DCPS Curricular Materials

There are 8 major of components of the curriculum:

- Scope and Sequence Matrix (year-at-a-glance)
- Unit Planning Calendars
- Unit Guide
- Diagnostic Task
- Exemplars of Formative Tasks
- Novel Guide (with PARCC-like questions)
- Close Reading Module (teacher and student versions)
- Cornerstone

DCPS Secondary ELA Curriculum

Scope and Sequence Matrix

- Themes at each grade level focus on the development of content knowledge
- Many standards appear in *every* unit or multiple units
- 4 units at each grade level, that align to the advisories

Unit Guides

- Unit Overview
 - Unit Sequence and Assessments
 - Intellectual Preparation
 - Introductory Lesson
 - Major Task Overviews
 - Optional Enrichment Texts
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Novel Guides & Close Reading Modules

- Based on **high-quality, complex texts**
 - Build toward one **culminating question - evidence based writing; often synthesizing multiple texts**
 - Focus on **reading closely and deeply: multiple rereads** for different purposes across multiple class periods
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Novel Guides & Close Reading Modules

- **Text-dependent questions** at multiple levels build to key understandings
 - **Tier 2 target words** and daily follow-up activities
 - Multiple opportunities for students to **actively engage in reading, writing, speaking and listening**
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Cornerstones

- One per unit, embedded into content of unit
 - High quality, rigorous assignments and activities
 - Authentic, engaging experiences
 - Focus on key instructional practices (e.g., close reading, paideia seminar)
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Curriculum Priorities 2017-18

- Deliberate Focus on Writing
 - Alignment of writing standards across 6-12
 - Promoting Teaching with Student Work
 - Diagnostic writing prompts
 - Formative assessments
 - Reteach days
 - Promoting the Reading of Entire Novels
 - Reading calendars
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Curriculum Priorities 2017-18

- Increasing the Diversity of Representation of Voices & Perspectives
 - Close readings
 - Supplementary text suggestions/options
 - REES Work
 - Increasing opportunities for social activism/informed action (at least once per grade level)
 - Establishing Grade-level Themes & EQs
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Grade 6: From Literature to Action

Unit Title

- Heroes, Gods, and Monsters
- Growing Up
- Embracing Heritage
- Overcoming Obstacles

Cornerstone

- From the Eyes of the Monster
- Humans of DCPS: Perspectives on Growing Up
- America's Promise
- Finding Courage



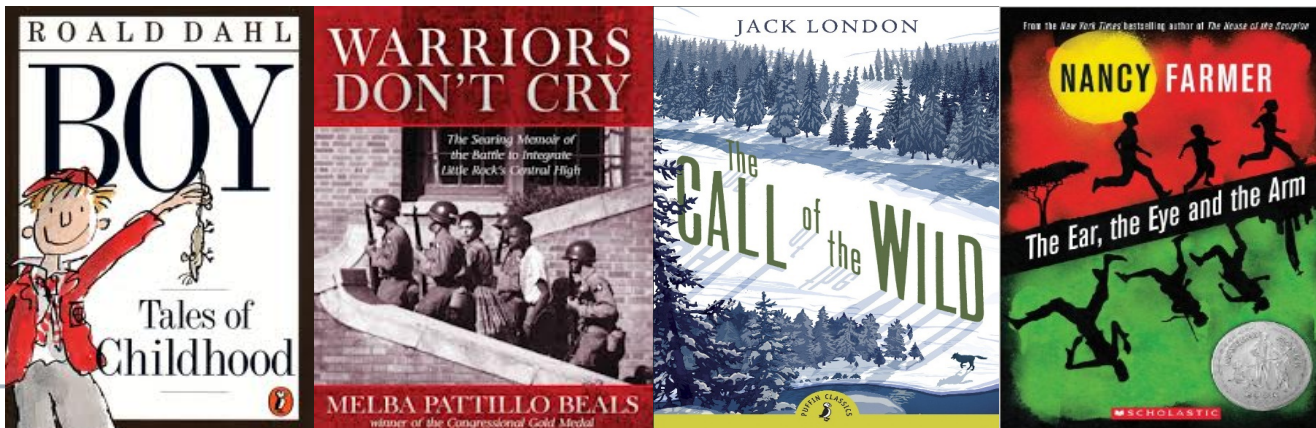
Grade 7: My Hero Self

Unit Title

- My Resilient Self
- My Warrior Self
- My Survivor Self
- My Hero Self

Cornerstone

- My Vivid Life
- Real World Warriors
- What Makes a Survivor?
- A Hero's Journey



Grade 8: Personal Responsibility & Social Action

Unit Title

- Dramatically Speaking
- Voices of the Revolution
- The Road (Not) Taken
- Community & Connections

Cornerstone

- Dreaming in America
- Unheard Voices
- The Art of Debate
- Messages of Social Justice



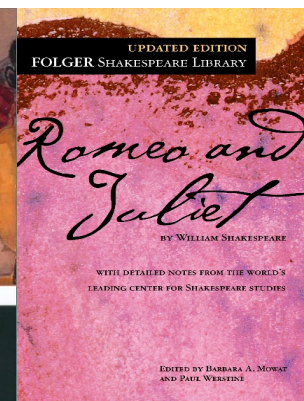
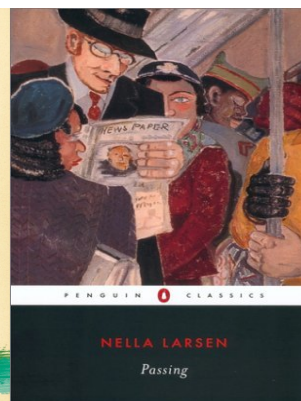
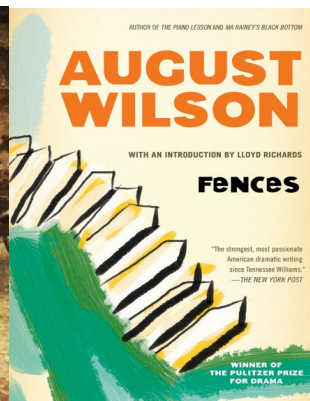
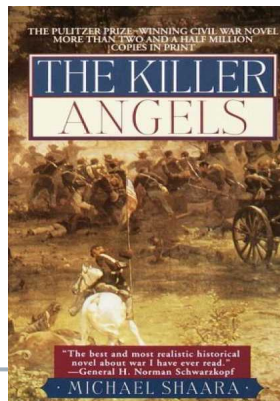
Grade 9: Shock and Awe: The Writer's Craft

Unit Title

- Honorable Actions and Honorable Words
- Tension in Society
- Harlem Renaissance
- Love or Madness?

Cornerstone

- Storytelling: If You Were at the Battle of Gettysburg
- Most Important Lines
- Harlem Renaissance
- Shakespearean Acting Co.



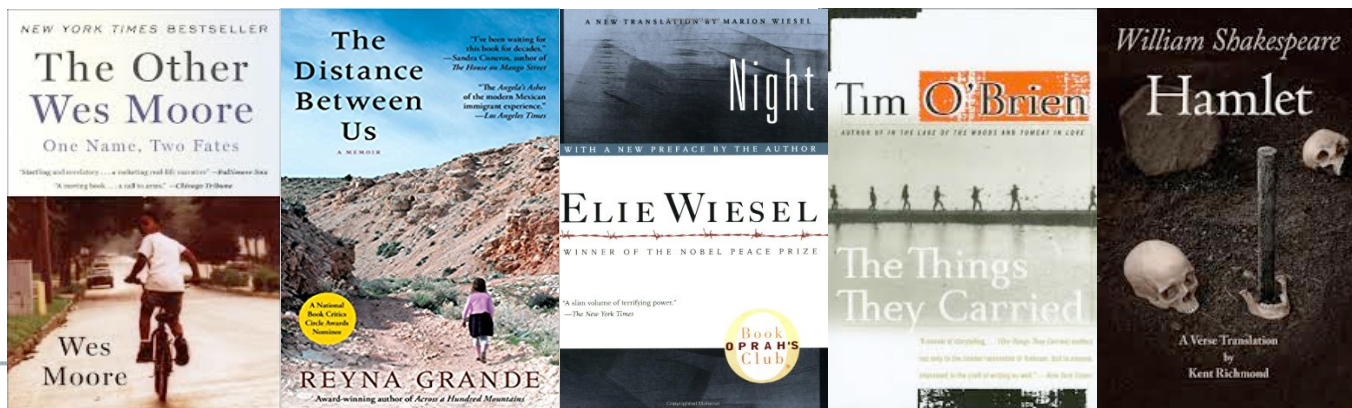
Grade 10: Telling a Story

Unit Title

- The Life I Choose
- Honoring the Past
- Voices from War
- Virtue and Morality

Cornerstone

- The Life I Choose
- Learning from Our Past
- What's Worth Fighting For?
- Understanding Character Through Performance



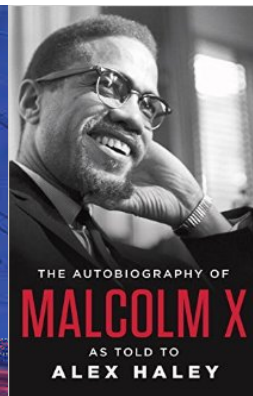
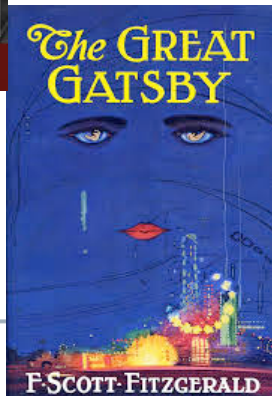
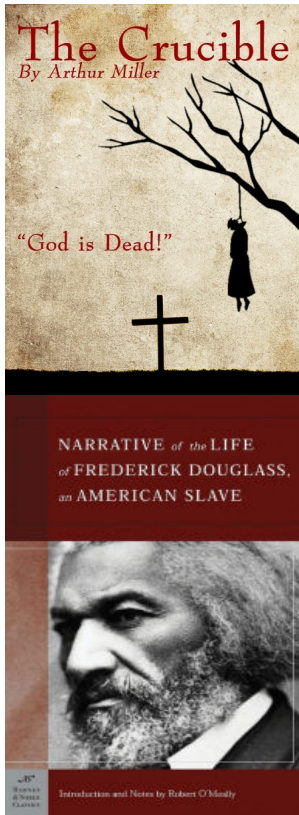
Grade 11: Innocence, Consciousness, and Response

Unit Title

- American Ideals and Identity
- American Dream Revisited
- Mobilizing the Masses
- A Call to Action

Cornerstone

- #askEmerson
- The Role of the Black Artist
- The Construction of a Leader
- Let's Get to Work!
Responding to a Call to Action!



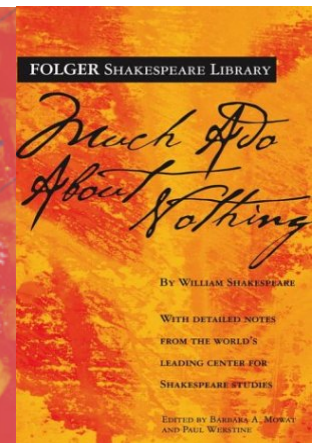
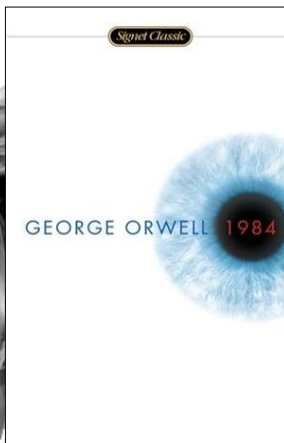
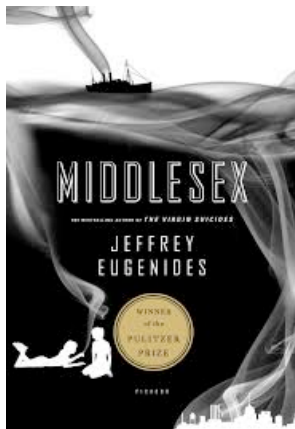
Grade 12: (Re)Imagining: Words, Stories, and Power

Unit Title

- Wo(man)
- Imagining the Future
- The Power of Words
- Techniques of Comedy

Cornerstone

- College and Career Bound!
- Debate the Future!
- Senior Research Project
- Laughing Out Loud



Questions?
