

Each unit focuses on an engaging topic related to the Essential Question.

UNIT

1

Generations



UNIT INTRODUCTION

UNIT ACTIVITY AND VIDEO 2

LAUNCH TEXT:
NONFICTION NARRATIVE MODEL

Grounded 6



WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING

ANCHOR TEXT: NOVEL EXCERPT

Two Kinds
from *The Joy Luck Club*
Amy Tan 13

COMPARE

ANCHOR TEXT: NEWS BLOG

A Simple Act
Tyler Jackson 33

ANCHOR TEXT: MEMOIR

from *An Invisible Thread*
Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski 43

▶ MEDIA CONNECTION: Maurice's Toast

PERFORMANCE TASK

WRITING FOCUS
Write a Nonfiction Narrative 52



SMALL-GROUP LEARNING

NEWS ARTICLE

Tutors Teach Seniors
New High-Tech Tricks
Jennifer Ludden 63
▶ MEDIA CONNECTION: Cyber-Seniors

COMPARE

MEMOIR

from *Mom & Me & Mom*
Maya Angelou 71

MEDIA: VIDEO

Learning to Love My Mother
Maya Angelou with Michael Maher 81

MEDIA: IMAGE GALLERY

Mother-Daughter Drawings
Mica and Myla Hendricks 87

POETRY COLLECTION 1

Mother to Son
Langston Hughes 96
To James
Frank Horne 97

PERFORMANCE TASK

SPEAKING AND LISTENING FOCUS
Present a Nonfiction Narrative 104

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What can one generation learn from another?

An Essential Question frames all unit activities and discussions.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

POETRY COLLECTION 2

Lineage

Margaret Walker

Family

Grace Paley

OPINION PIECE

"Gotcha Day" Isn't a Cause for Celebration

Sophie Johnson

SHORT STORY

The Grandfather and His Little Grandson

Leo Tolstoy

BLOG POST

Bridging the Generational Divide Between a Football Father and a Soccer Son

John McCormick

SHORT STORY

Water Names

Lan Samantha Chang

SHORT STORY

An Hour With Abuelo

Judith Ortiz Cofer

These selections can be accessed via the Interactive Student Edition.

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PREP

Review Evidence for a Nonfiction Narrative.111

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Narration: Nonfiction Narrative and Multimedia Presentation.112

UNIT REFLECTION

Reflect on the Unit.115

DIGITAL PERSPECTIVES

- Unit Introduction Videos
- Media Selections
- Modeling Videos
- Selection Audio Recordings

Additional digital resources can be found in:

- Interactive Student Edition
- myPerspectives+

All unit activities are backwards-designed to the Performance-Based Assessment.

Grades 6–8 are intentionally designed with five units allowing students ample opportunity to learn the routines of the program. Doing so allows students to develop skills in preparation for the rigor and expectations of high school, which is critical at these grades.

2 A Starry Home

The Launch Text introduces a perspective on the unit topic.

Teachers lead the shared reading experience, providing modeling and support, as students begin exploring perspectives on the unit topic.

Students encounter diverse perspectives on the unit topic, working in collaborative teams.

UNIT INTRODUCTION

UNIT ACTIVITY AND VIDEO 116

LAUNCH TEXT: ARGUMENT MODEL

Leaving Main Street 120

WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING

COMPARE

ANCHOR TEXT: SHORT STORY

Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed
Ray Bradbury 127

MEDIA: RADIO PLAY

Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed
Ray Bradbury and Michael McDonough (producer) 147

ANCHOR TEXT: NEWS ARTICLE

Danger! This Mission to Mars Could Bore You to Death!
Maggie Koerth-Baker 153

PERFORMANCE TASK

WRITING FOCUS
Write an Argument 164

SMALL-GROUP LEARNING

NEWS ARTICLE

Future of Space Exploration Could See Humans on Mars, Alien Planets
Nola Taylor Redd 175
MEDIA CONNECTION: Starship

SHORT STORY

The Last Dog
Katherine Paterson 183

MEDIA: VIDEO

Ellen Ochoa: Director, Johnson Space Center
Ellen Ochoa 201

INTERVIEW

Neil deGrasse Tyson on the Future of U.S. Space Exploration After *Curiosity*
Keith Wagstaff 205

PERFORMANCE TASK

SPEAKING AND LISTENING FOCUS
Present an Argument 212

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Should we make a home in space?

Students self-select a text to explore an aspect of the unit topic and share their learning with the class.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

POETRY

Science-Fiction Cradlesong
C. S. Lewis

WEB ARTICLE

UFO Sightings and News
Benjamin Radford

PERSUASIVE ESSAY

from Packing for Mars
Mary Roach

SCIENCE ARTICLE

Trip to Mars Could Damage
Astronauts' Brains
Laura Sanders

These selections can be accessed via the Interactive Student Edition.

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PREP

Review Evidence for an Argument . . . 219

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Argument:
Essay and Oral Presentation 220

UNIT REFLECTION

Reflect on the Unit 223

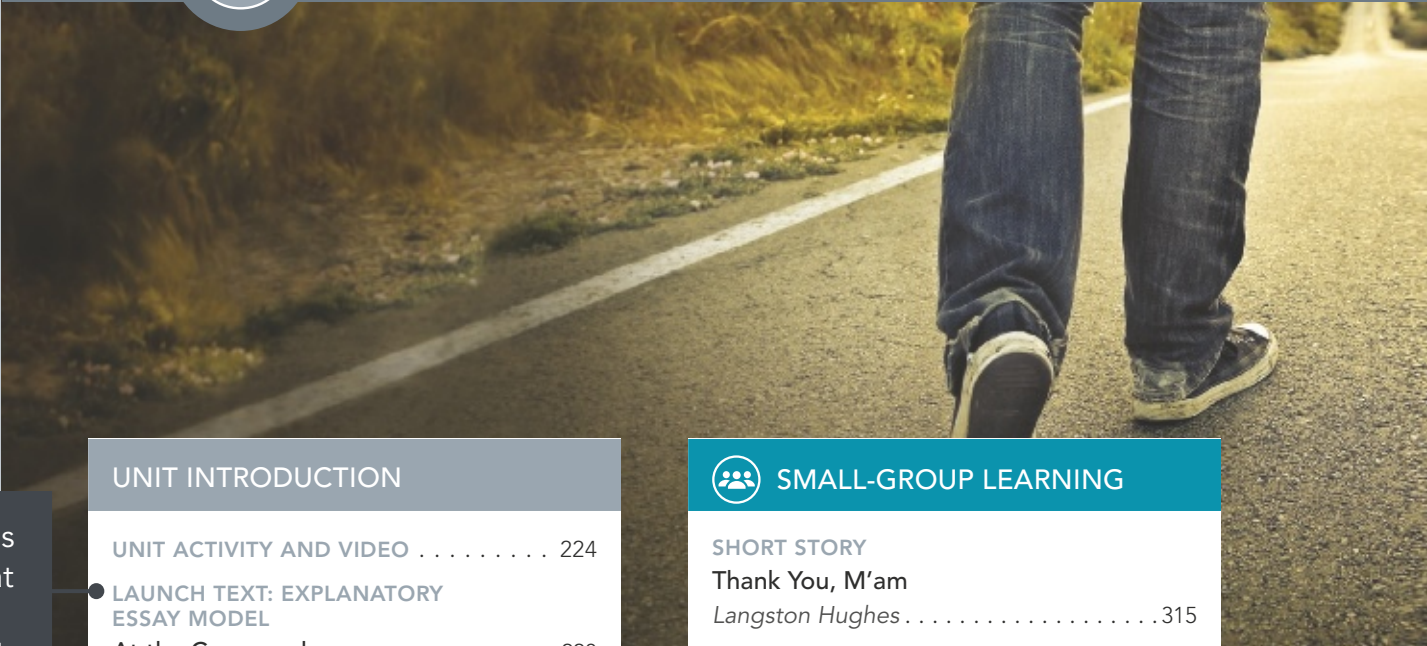
DIGITAL PERSPECTIVES

- Unit Introduction Videos
- Media Selections
- Modeling Videos
- Selection Audio Recordings

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3 Turning Points



The Launch Text models the mode of writing that will be at the core of the Performance-Based Assessment.

Performance Tasks build toward and prepare students for the Unit Performance-Based Assessment.

UNIT INTRODUCTION

UNIT ACTIVITY AND VIDEO 224

● **LAUNCH TEXT: EXPLANATORY ESSAY MODEL**
At the Crossroads. 228

WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING

ANCHOR TEXT: DRAMA
A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, Act I
Israel Horovitz. 235

COMPARE
ANCHOR TEXT: DRAMA
A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley, Act II
Israel Horovitz. 265

MEDIA: FILM
Scrooge
directed by Henry Edwards. 299

● **PERFORMANCE TASK**
WRITING FOCUS
Write an Explanatory Essay 304

SMALL-GROUP LEARNING

SHORT STORY
Thank You, M'am
Langston Hughes. 315

MEMOIR
from An American Childhood
Annie Dillard 325

MEDIA: PHOTO GALLERY
Urban Farming Is Growing a Greener Future
Hillary Schwei. 333

● **PERFORMANCE TASK**
SPEAKING AND LISTENING FOCUS
Present an Explanatory Essay 340

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What can cause a sudden change in someone's life?

 INDEPENDENT LEARNING

REFLECTIVE ESSAY

Little Things Are Big

Jesús Colón

NEWS ARTICLE

Profile: Malala Yousafzai

BBC

BIOGRAPHY

Noor Inayat Khan

from Women Heroes of WWII

Kathryn J. Atwood

SHORT STORY

A Retrieved Reformation

O. Henry

These selections can be accessed via the Interactive Student Edition.

 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PREP

Review Evidence for an Explanatory Essay347

 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Explanatory Text: Essay and Oral Presentation348

UNIT REFLECTION

Reflect on the Unit351

DIGITAL  PERSPECTIVES

- Unit Introduction Videos
- Media Selections
- Modeling Videos
- Selection Audio Recordings

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Students pull together their notes, evidence, completed activities, and Performance Tasks to prepare for the Performance-Based Assessment.

UNIT **4** People and the Planet



UNIT INTRODUCTION

UNIT ACTIVITY AND VIDEO 352
 LAUNCH TEXT: ARGUMENT MODEL
 Rethinking the Wild 356


 WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING

ANCHOR TEXT: DESCRIPTIVE NONFICTION
from Silent Spring
Rachel Carson 363

COMPARE

ANCHOR TEXT: SPEECH
 Nobel Speech
Al Gore 373

MEDIA: VIDEO
 Nobel Speech
Al Gore 387


 **PERFORMANCE TASK**
 WRITING FOCUS
 Write an Argument 392

 SMALL-GROUP LEARNING

POETRY COLLECTION
 Turtle Watchers
Linda Hogan 404
 "Nature" is what We see—
Emily Dickinson 405
 The Sparrow
Paul Laurence Dunbar 406

MEDIA: PHOTO GALLERY
 Eagle Tracking at Follensby Pond
The Nature Conservancy 413

SHORT STORY
 He—y, Come On Ou—t!
Shinichi Hoshi, translated by Stanleigh Jones 421

 **PERFORMANCE TASK**
 SPEAKING AND LISTENING FOCUS
 Present an Argument 430

Comparing a text and media version of classic literature deepens the learning experience and develops critical skills.

A rich array of media selections engage students in multi-modal learning.

 INDEPENDENT LEARNING

NOVEL EXCERPT

from My Side of the Mountain
Jean Craighead George

MYTH

How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun
Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac


EXPOSITORY NONFICTION

The Story of Victor d’Aveyron, the Wild Child
Eloise Montalban

ESSAY

from Of Wolves and Men
Barry Lopez

These selections can be accessed via the Interactive Student Edition.

 **PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PREP**
Review Evidence for an Argument.437

 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Argument:
Essay and Oral Presentation438

UNIT REFLECTION

Reflect on the Unit441

DIGITAL PERSPECTIVES

- Unit Introduction Videos
- Media Selections
- Modeling Videos
- Selection Audio Recordings

Additional digital resources can be found in:

- Interactive Student Edition
- myPerspectives+

Digital resources, including editable worksheets, can be found in myPerspectives+.

UNIT **5** Facing Adversity



UNIT INTRODUCTION

UNIT ACTIVITY AND VIDEO 442
 LAUNCH TEXT: INFORMATIVE MODEL
 Against the Odds 446


 WHOLE-CLASS LEARNING

COMPARE

MEDIA: VIDEO
 The Dust Bowl
CriticalPast 453

ANCHOR TEXT: NOVEL EXCERPT
 from *The Grapes of Wrath*
 John Steinbeck 457

ANCHOR TEXT: SHORT STORY
 The Circuit
 Francisco Jiménez 469

 **PERFORMANCE TASK**
 WRITING FOCUS
 Write an Informative Essay 482

 SMALL-GROUP LEARNING

PERSONAL NARRATIVE
 A Work in Progress
 Aimee Mullins 493

COMPARE

AUTOBIOGRAPHY EXCERPT
 from *The Story of My Life*
 Helen Keller 505

MEDIA: INTERVIEW
 How Helen Keller Learned to Talk
 Helen Keller, with Anne Sullivan 513

NEWS ARTICLE
 A Young Tinkerer Builds a Windmill,
 Electrifying a Nation
 Sarah Childress 519

 **PERFORMANCE TASK**
 SPEAKING AND LISTENING FOCUS
 Present Multimedia Profiles 528

 INDEPENDENT LEARNING

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky
Juliane Koepcke

NOVEL EXCERPT

Four Skinny Trees
from *The House on Mango Street*
Sandra Cisneros

SHORT STORY

Rikki-tikki-tavi
Rudyard Kipling

MEMOIR

from *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*
Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton

These selections can be accessed via the Interactive Student Edition.

 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT PREP

Review Evidence for an Informative Essay535

 PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Explanatory Text: Essay and Oral Presentation536

UNIT REFLECTION

Reflect on the Unit539

Unit Reflection allows students to revisit learning goals and review skills and content learned.

DIGITAL  PERSPECTIVES

- Unit Introduction Videos
- Media Selections
- Modeling Videos
- Selection Audio Recordings

Additional digital resources can be found in:

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- *myPerspectives+*