

Grade Level: 8	Trimester 1	Length 4 weeks
<p>Reading Unit 2 – Character Conflict Lit. Circle</p>		
<p>Unit Overview</p> <p>What is the nature of conflict? How do authors reveal characters? In this unit students will read a realistic fiction novel of their choice and participate in literature circles. Students will also write a literature analysis piece comparing and contrasting the protagonist’s internal/external conflict with <i>It’s a Wonderful Life’s</i> George Bailey’s internal/external conflict. Students will watch the movie version and read the play version.</p>		
<p>Focus Standards</p> <p>Bold = assessment included</p> <p>8 RL 1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p>8 RL 2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.</p> <p>8 RL 3: Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.</p> <p>8 RL 4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.</p> <p>8 W 1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. d. Establish and maintain a formal style. e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented. <p>8 W 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p>		

- a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- e. Establish and maintain a formal style.
- f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.

8 W 4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

8 W 5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 8 on page 65.)

8 W 6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

8 SL 1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 8 topics, texts, and issues*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

- a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.
- c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.
- d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

8 SL 3: Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

8 L 2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.
- b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.
- c. Spell correctly.

8 L 4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on *grade 8 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

- a. Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a

<p>word or phrase.</p> <p>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., <i>precede, recede, secede</i>).</p> <p>c. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.</p> <p>d. Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).</p> <p>8 L 6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.</p>	
<p>Overarching Standards:</p> <p>8 RL 10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <p>8 W 10: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p>8 L 6: Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grades 11–12 Language standards 1 and 3 on page 67 for specific expectations.)</p>	
<p>Key Understandings to Explore</p> <p><i>Students will understand that</i></p> <p>-Characters are revealed by what they say, think and do and what others say/think about them.</p> <p>-Characters are complex (neither good nor bad) and often struggle with internal and external conflicts that affect themselves, others, and the overall plot of the story.</p> <p>-Writers reveal the underlying messages or themes of a text through characters and the plot.</p> <p>-Every character in a story serves a writer’s purpose.</p>	
<p>Essential Questions for thought, discussion, and collaboration</p> <p>How does a character’s internal or external conflict affect the plot?</p> <p>How does an author show and develop a character and accurately portray a character’s struggle?</p> <p>How does a writer use characters and the plot to communicate a theme or personal message?</p> <p>What is realistic fiction?</p>	
<p>Declarative and Factual Knowledge (Recall, memorize, define)</p> <p><i>Students will know...</i></p>	<p>Skills (Organize, apply, analyze, integrate, evaluate)</p> <p><i>Students will be able to....</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme • Story or drama elements • Structure of a drama (flashback) • Point of View • Characters • Narrator • Conflict (internal and external) • Thesis statement • Literature genres • Compare and Contrast • Comprehension strategies • Use of text evidence • Citing quotes • Paraphrasing • Impact of word choice • MLA formatting • Transition words and phrases • Formal writing style • Writers write for different purposes and audiences • Rules for class discussion • Dictionary/thesaurus skills • Character motivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and discuss the problem, the events of the story, and the problem resolution. • Notice and remember significant attributes for multiple characters (what characters do, say or think, and what the writer and other characters say about them) • Provide evidence of understanding plots with multiple events and gather information about many characters and their traits and relationships. • Predict what the character might do in other circumstances. • Reflect inferences about the main and supporting characters’ feelings, motivations, attitudes, and decisions based on information from the text. • Show connections between the settings, characters, and events of a text and readers own personal experiences. • Infer characters’ motivations and feelings, understanding inner conflict. • Support thinking beyond the text with specific evidence from the text or personal knowledge. • Make predications on an ongoing basis (progression of the plot, characteristics of the setting, actions of characters) • Discuss social issues revealed within the storyline. • Identify conflict in fiction and the implications for the characters.
<p>Key Vocabulary: Theme, internal conflict, external conflict, internal character traits, external character traits, character, characterization, main character, minor character, static character, dynamic character, “showing” versus “telling,” realistic fiction, voice, tone, perspective (point of view), setting, plot, social issues, current issues, authenticity, and motive</p>	
<p>Performance Assessments (may be formative or summative)</p> <p>Formative: Literature Circle discussions. Teachers assess bookmarks and discussion participation.</p> <p>Summative: Compare and contrast the conflict (internal or external) in <i>It’s</i></p>	<p>Other Evidence/Assessments</p> <p>Character Analysis Chart: Students fill in a chart based upon their protagonist, antagonist, Potter, and George Bailey.</p> <p>Bookmarks: handed out with guided discussion questions to be filled out</p>

<p><i>a Wonderful Life</i> and their literature circle book.</p>	<p>independently</p> <p>Book blog questions: A weekly question filled out online that deals with a theme of the dystopian work.</p>
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Unit Title (continued from previous page):

Literary Texts: Poems

Literary Texts: Stories/Novels

Drama:

It's a Wonderful Life play version

Picture Books:

Non-fiction:

Fable/Folktale:

Other Media:

It's a Wonderful Life film version

Short Stories:

Informational Texts

Independent Novels

Fallen Angels Walter Dean Myers

Touching Spirit Bear Ben Mikaelson

The Outsiders S.E. Hinton

This Dark Endeavor Kenneth Oppel

Insurgent Veronica Roth

A Monster Calls Patrick Ness

The Rules of Survival Nancy Farmer

Okay for Now Gary Schmidt

***Elsewhere* Gabrielle Zevin**
***Crackback* John Coy**

Art/Music/Media

Online Resources

Differentiation for Struggling Learners and ELL

For struggling readers:

- Audio books available
- Chapter summaries for *Crackback*
- Book choices are a combination of choice and reading ability
- Bookmarks provided with specific discussion questions

Interdisciplinary Connections