



**::studysync**

# EVERYONE LOVES A MYSTERY

THEMATIC UNIT PACING GUIDE

GRADE 8 UNIT 1

## Using This Pacing Guide

This Pacing Guide outlines the scope and sequence of texts and skills that are taught in this unit. Every unit is built around a theme, essential question, and genre focus. The charts that follow provide suggested pacing, along with guidance on opportunities for practice and reteaching to standards mastery.

Below is a description of the columns you will see in the pacing guide and some sample information.

Days for suggested pacing.	Titles of the reading selections, including paired texts.	Skill lessons and focus standards that are taught with each text or cluster of texts.	Spotlight Skill lessons along with texts in future units that teachers can use to review any skills or concepts with which students may be struggling.	Opportunities to practice skills that were taught with each text as well as spiraled skills from previous texts and units in the Close Reading of a given text.
Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
10–12	Let 'Em Play God	Author's Purpose and Point of View	Spotlight: Author's Purpose and Point of View  <b>Unit 1</b> Text: Ten Days in a Mad-House Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of View  <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Long Walk to Freedom Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of View	Textual Evidence  Author's Purpose and Point of View
13–15	PAIRED READINGS  Sympathy  Ten Days in a Mad-House	Author's Purpose and Point of View  Compare and Contrast	Spotlight: Author's Purpose and Point of View  Spotlight: Compare and Contrast - Informational Texts  <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Long Walk to Freedom Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of	Textual Evidence  Author's Purpose and Point of View  Compare and Contrast

			<p>View</p> <p><b>Unit 4</b></p> <p>Text: Gaming Communities</p> <p>Skill: Compare and Contrast</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

The Pacing Guide also includes pacing for and a breakdown of the Extended Writing Project, the long-form writing assignment for this unit. Additional charts provide information on the end-of-unit review and assessment along with resources for supplementary instruction.

# Pacing Guide

Unit Title: Everyone Loves a Mystery

Essential Question: What attracts us to the mysterious?

Genre Focus: Fiction

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
1–5	SyncStart: The Tell-Tale Heart	Annotation Context Clues Reading Comprehension Text Dependent Responses Textual Evidence Language, Style, and Audience Collaborative Conversations Short Constructed Responses Peer Review	Spotlight: Annotation Spotlight: Context Clues - Literary Texts Spotlight: Text Dependent Responses Spotlight: Textual Evidence - Literary Texts Spotlight: Language, Style, and Audience - Literary Texts Spotlight: Collaborative Conversations Spotlight: Short Constructed Responses Spotlight: Peer Review <b>Unit 3</b> Text: The Call of the Wild Skill: Language, Style, and Audience <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Refugee Skill: Language, Style, and Audience <b>Unit 6</b> Text: The War of the Worlds Skill: Language, Style, and Audience	Text Dependent Responses Language, Style, and Audience
6	The Big Idea: What attracts us to the mysterious?	Content Vocabulary Recognizing Genre: Fiction		Write: Analyzing Genre

		Academic Vocabulary		
7–9	Monster	Character	Spotlight: Character  <b>Unit 2</b> Text: The Outsiders Skill: Character  <b>Unit 4</b> Text: /HUG Skill: Character	Textual Evidence  Character
10–12	Let 'Em Play God	Author's Purpose and Point of View	Spotlight: Author's Purpose and Point of View  <b>Unit 1</b> Text: Ten Days in a Mad-House Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of View  <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Long Walk to Freedom Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of View	Textual Evidence  Author's Purpose and Point of View
13–15	<b>PAIRED READINGS</b>  Sympathy  Ten Days in a Mad-House	Author's Purpose and Point of View  Compare and Contrast	Spotlight: Author's Purpose and Point of View  Spotlight: Compare and Contrast - Informational Texts  <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Long Walk to Freedom Skill: Author's Purpose and Point of View  <b>Unit 4</b> Text: Gaming Communities Skill: Compare and Contrast	Textual Evidence  Author's Purpose and Point of View  Compare and Contrast
16–18	The Lottery	Theme  Allusion	Spotlight: Theme  Spotlight: Allusion  <b>Unit 2</b> Text: Abuela Invents the Zero Skill: Theme  <b>Unit 4</b>	Textual Evidence  Theme  Allusion

			<p>Text: /HUG Skill: Theme</p> <p><b>Unit 6</b> Text: Manuel and the Magic Fox Skill: Theme</p> <p><b>Unit 6</b> Text: There Will Come Soft Rains Skill: Theme</p> <p><b>Unit 2</b> Text: Slam, Dunk, &amp; Hook Skill: Allusion</p> <p><b>Unit 4</b> Text: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Chapter 2) Skill: Allusion</p>	
19–23	<p><b>PAIRED READINGS</b></p> <p>The Graveyard Book</p> <p>The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem</p> <p>The Monkey’s Paw</p>	<p>Plot</p> <p>Story Structure</p>	<p>Spotlight: Plot</p> <p>Spotlight: Story Structure</p> <p><b>Unit 2</b> Text: Abuela Invents the Zero Skill: Plot</p> <p><b>Unit 5</b> Text: Teen Mogul Skill: Plot</p> <p><b>Unit 6</b> Text: There Will Come Soft Rains Skill: Story Structure</p> <p><b>Unit 6</b> Text: Children of Bone and Blood Skill: Story Structure</p>	<p>Textual Evidence</p> <p>Plot</p> <p>Story Structure</p>
24–27	<p>Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science</p>	<p>Central or Main Idea</p> <p>Textual Evidence</p>	<p>Spotlight: Central or Main Idea</p> <p>Spotlight: Textual Evidence - Informational Texts</p> <p><b>Unit 2</b> Text: So where are you from? Skill: Central or Main Idea</p>	<p>Textual Evidence</p> <p>Central or Main Idea</p> <p>Author’s Purpose and Point of View</p>

			<b>Unit 6</b> Text: Universal Declaration of Human Rights Skill: Central or Main Idea  <b>Unit 5</b> Text: Farewell to Manzanar Skill: Textual Evidence	
28	Vocabulary Review  Self-Selected Reading	Vocabulary Review		Reading Comprehension  Personal Response Writing

In the second half of the unit, students continue exploring texts that address the unit's Essential Question. In addition, in the Extended Writing Project, they begin crafting a longer composition to share their own ideas about the Essential Question.

Days	Extended Writing Project and Grammar	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Lessons for Reteaching
16	Narrative Writing Process: Plan		
17–18	Narrative Writing Process: Draft	Organizing Narrative Writing	Spotlight: Organizing Narrative Writing
19–24	Narrative Writing Process: Revise	Story Beginnings Narrative Techniques Descriptive Details Transitions Conclusions	Spotlight: Story Beginnings Spotlight: Narrative Techniques Spotlight: Descriptive Details Spotlight: Transitions - Narrative Writing Spotlight: Conclusions - Narrative Writing
25–28	Narrative Writing Process: Edit and Publish	Basic Spelling Rules I Dashes Commas after Transitions	

The final two days of the unit are reserved for review and assessment.

Days	Review and Assessment	Skill Practice and Assessment
29	Skills Review	Students will have the opportunity to complete one or more Spotlight skill lessons in order to improve understanding and further practice skills from the unit that they found most challenging.
30	End-of-Unit Assessment	For more detail, please see the End-of-Unit Assessment information for Grade 8 Unit 1.

Assessment results can be viewed by item, standard, and skill to monitor mastery and make decisions for upcoming instruction.

Assessment Section	Content	Assessed Skills and Standards
Reading	<b>The Mystery and Wonder of Science</b> Genre: Non-fiction Word Count: 479 Lexile: 1060L	Central or Main Idea Author's Purpose and Point of View Textual Evidence Context Clues
	<b>The Cave of Eternal Night</b> Genre: Fiction Word Count: 517 Lexile: 1020L	Informational Text Elements Textual Evidence Author's Purpose and Point of View Reasons and Evidence
	<b>The Pencil Bandit</b> Genre: Fiction Word Count: 532 Lexile: 1050L	Context Clues Language, Style, and Audience Theme Textual Evidence Plot Story Structure Text Dependent Responses
	NOTE: Selection 4 is optional. It highlights the key skills of the unit and of high-stakes testing and is a valuable asset if time allows. <b>In the Dark</b> Genre: Fiction Word Count: 938 Lexile: 1040L	Language, Style, and Audience Plot Textual Evidence Theme Context Clues



Revising and Editing	Student Passage #1	Spelling Dashes Commas After Transitions
	Student Passage #2	Organizing Writing Transition Words Descriptive Details Beginnings and Conclusions Narrative Techniques
Writing	Prompt: Narrative Writing	Narrative Writing

The following instructional resources are available in addition to the instruction offered in the Core ELA content for this unit. These resources are designed for flexible implementation alongside or in lieu of content offered in the 30 days of Core ELA unit instruction.

Resource	Description	Recommended Usage
ELL Resources	Inside the House, Drama	"Inside the House" serves as a structural and thematic model for <i>Monster</i> , and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	The Lucky Coin, Fiction	"Lucky Coin" serves as a structural and thematic model for "The Monkey's Paw," and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	EOP, Dramatic Scene	In this Extended Oral Project, students will write and perform a suspenseful dramatic scene. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.
Novel Study Options	Monster, Fiction	Novel Studies are chosen to connect with each unit's theme and essential question. They may be used alongside or in lieu of Core ELA texts in this unit.
	Great Tales and Poems, Fiction/Poetry	
	Ten Days in a Mad-House, Informational	

