







5 th Grade Units		Summary	Essential Questions	Exemplar Texts <small>From Appendix B of the Common Core State Standards</small>
	Unit 1 Playing with Words	4 week unit This unit encourages students to experiment with language and to explore their personal writing style.	<i>Why (and how) do we play with language?</i>	Poems “Casey at Bat”, Earnest Lawrence Thayer “The Echoing Green”, William Blake “ Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf”, Roald Dahl
	Unit 2 Renaissance Thinking	6 week unit This unit focuses on the research process, as well as the creative and critical thinking used by writers, inventors, and famous people from the Renaissance and beyond.	<i>How does creativity change the world?</i>	Informational Books <i>Toys! Amazing Stoires Behind Some Great Inventions</i> , Wulffson & Keller <i>Telescopes</i> , Colin A. Ronan <i>About Time</i> , Bruce Kiscielniak
	Unit 3 Clues to a Culture	6 week unit This unit focuses on aspects of Native American nations/cultures as revealed through pairings of literature and informational text.	<i>How does literature provide insight into a culture?</i>	Stories <i>The Birchbark House</i> , Lousie Erdrich Informational Books <i>A History of US: The New Nation, 1789-1850</i> , Joy Hakim <i>A History of US: First Americans, Prehistory-1600</i> , Joy Hakim

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	Unit 4 America in Conflict	9 week unit This unit focuses on the causes and consequences of the American Civil War, as revealed through literature and informational text.	<i>How are fictionalized characters and real people changed through conflict?</i>	Poems "The New Colossus", Emma Lazarus "I, Too, Sing America", Langston Hughes Informational Books <i>A History of US: War, Terrible War, 1855-1865</i> , Joy Hakim <i>Underground Railroad</i> , Henrietta Buckmaster
	Unit 5 Exploration, Real and Imagined	5 week unit This unit builds on the study of character development begun in Unit Four by having students articulate what we learn from real and fictional characters' experiences.	<i>What do people both real and imagined, learn from exploring their world?</i>	Stories <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> , Lewis Carroll <i>The Little Prince</i> , Antoine de Saint-Exupery Poems "Words Free as Confetti", Pat Mora Informational Books <i>My Librarian is a Camel</i> , Margriet Ruurs
	Unit 6 Coming of Age	6 week unit This unit focuses on the genre of the novel, and uses "coming of age" as a unifying theme.	<i>How can literature help us understand what it means to "grow up"?</i>	Stories <i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> , Grace Lin <i>M.C. Higgins, the Great</i> , Virginia Hamilton <i>The Secret Garden</i> , Frances Hodgson Burnett <i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , Natalie Babbitt <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> , Christopher Paul Curtis Informational Books <i>The Kids' Guide to Money</i> , Steve Otfinsoki <i>Quest for the tree Kangaroo</i> , Montgomery & Bishop