

Grade 8 English Pacing Guide			In-Class Work		Weekly Homework Assignments	
Spark Learn Tutoring, LLC			Reading	Writing	Vocabulary	Grammar
Unit #	Theme	Week #	via CommonLit.org	via CommonLit.org	via CommonLit.org	via Canvas
1	"The Art of Suspense" Essential Question: How do authors create suspense, and why are we drawn to it?	0	Orientation			
		1	"Button, Button" by Richard Matheson (Short Story)		Vocabulary Set 1: Activity 1: Definitions	Examining Verb Forms: Activity 1: Examining Verb Forms
		2	"Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl (Short Story)	Writing a Strong Claim	Vocabulary Set 1: Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentences	Examining Verb Forms: Activity 2: Notes on Verb Forms
		3	"Ruthless" by William DeMille (Short Story)	Writing a Complete Paragraph	Vocabulary Set 1: Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenarios	Examining Verb Forms: Activity 3: Using Verb Forms Correctly in a Sentence
		4	"Lather and Nothing Else" by Hernando Téllez (Short Story)	Exemplar Essay Review	Vocabulary Set 1: Activity 4: Matching	Examining Verb Forms: Activity 4: Varying Verb Forms in a Sentence
		5	"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe (Short Story)	Drafting the Culminating Task: Literary Analysis Essay	Vocabulary Set 1: Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary	Examining Verb Forms: Activity 5: Writing Sentences with Verb Forms
		6	"The Cone" by H.G. Wells (Short Story)	Culminating Task Essay Prompt	Vocabulary Set 1: Quiz	Examining Verb Forms: Quiz
		7	"The Psychology of Suspense" by R.J. Jacobs (Nonfiction)	Culminating Task Essay Prompt		
		8		Culminating Task Essay Prompt		
2	"Conveying Courage" Essential Question: What is courage? How do writers share their messages of courage?	9	"Letter from Frederick Douglass to Harriet Tubman" by Frederick Douglass (Letter)		Vocabulary Set 2: Activity 1: Definitions	Conditional Sentences: Activity 1, 2, & 3
		10	"Invictus" by William Ernest Henley (Poem)		Vocabulary Set 2: Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentences	Conditional Sentences: Activity 4
		11	"Sonnet" by James Weldon Johnson (Poem)		Vocabulary Set 2: Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenarios	Conditional Sentences: Activity 5
		12	"General Eisenhower's Order of the Day" by General Dwight D. Eisenhower (Historical)		Vocabulary Set 2: Activity 4: Matching	Conditional Sentences: Activity 6
		13	"JFK's 'Race to Space' Speech" (excerpted) by President John F. Kennedy (Speech)	Choice Board: Multimedia	Vocabulary Set 2: Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary	Conditional Sentences: Activities 7 & 8
		14	"A Litany for Survival" by Audre Lorde (Poem)	Creative Writing: Poem	Vocabulary Set 2: Quiz	Conditional Sentences: Activities 9 & 10
		15	"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou (Poem)	Creative Writing: Poem		Conditional Sentences: Quiz
		16	Make-Up Work Session			
3	"Contact Sports: Worth the Risk?" Essential Question: Are contact sports worth the risk?	17	"What a Lifetime of Playing Football can do to the Human Brain" by Brian Resnick		Vocabulary Set 4: Activity 1: Definitions	Sentence Variety: Activity 1: Analyzing Student Writing
		18	"The Concussion Gap: Head Injuries in Girls Soccer are an 'Unpublicized Epidemic'" by Lee	Establishing a Target Audience	Vocabulary Set 4: Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentences	Sentence Variety: Activities 2 & 3
		19	"The American Academy of Pediatrics on Tackling in Youth Football" by the American	Conveying Claims in an Advertisement	Vocabulary Set 4: Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenarios	Sentence Variety: Activity 4: Notes and Practice with Complex Sentences
		20	"Heads Up Football Program Flourishing" by Associated Press (Informational Text)	Planning the Culminating Task: Argumentative Presentation	Vocabulary Set 4: Activity 4: Matching	Sentence Variety: Activity 5: Notes and Practice with Compound-Complex Sentences
		21	"The Social and Academic Benefits of Team Sports" by Paige Maslen (Informational Text)	Drafting the Culminating Task Pitch	Vocabulary Set 4: Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary	Sentence Variety: Activity 6: Revising a Paragraph
		22	Choice Board: Texts by Various Authors (Informational Text)	Culminating Task Prompt	Vocabulary Set 4: Quiz	Sentence Variety: Quiz
		23	Choice Board: Texts by Various Authors (Informational Text)	Culminating Task Prompt		
		24	Choice Board: Texts by Various Authors (Informational Text)	Culminating Task Prompt		
4	"Not That Different" Essential Question: How does "othering" affect individuals and humanity in general? What does the way a person treats others reveal about them?	25	"The Star Beast" by Nicholas Stuart Gray (Short Story)	Using Precise Verbs in Your Reasoning	Vocabulary Set 5: Activity 1: Definitions	Writing Concisely: Activity 1: Analyzing Student Writing
		26	"The Neighbor's Wife" by Susan Palwick (Poem)	Introducing Evidence with Reasoning	Vocabulary Set 5: Activity 2: Fill-in-the-Blank Sentences	Writing Concisely: Activity 2: Notes on Writing Concisely
		27	"McCarthy, Communists, and 'Enemies from Within'" by Adrienne Favors (Nonfiction)	Planning the Culminating Task: Literary Analysis Essay (Day #1)	Vocabulary Set 5: Activity 3: Fill-in-the-Blank Scenarios	Writing Concisely: Activities 3 & 4
		28	"A Short Note to My Very Critical and Well-Beloved Friends and Comrades" by June	Planning the Culminating Task: Literary Analysis Essay (Day #2)	Vocabulary Set 5: Activity 4: Matching	Writing Concisely: Activities 5 & 6
		29	"What is Othering?" by Kendra Cherry (Nonfiction)	Culminating Task Prompt	Vocabulary Set 5: Activity 5: Application of Vocabulary	Writing Concisely: Activities 7 & 8

		30	"Hamadi" by Naomi Shihab Nye (Short Story)	Culminating Task Prompt	Vocabulary Set 5: Quiz	Writing Concisely: Quiz
		31		Culminating Task Prompt		
		32	Make-Up Work Session			