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| **Unit/** | **Focus Text** | **Essential Question** | **Major Projects** | **Time Period** |
| Literary Terms and Devices: The Basics | * The Book Thief by M. Zuszak (novel, fiction) * Night by E. Wiesel (excerpts) | * How does conflict develop one’s character? * How does characterization and conflict develop theme? * Is suffering essential to personal growth? | Thematic Essay  Socratic Seminar | August to Early September  (3-4 weeks) |
| The Greeks:  Characterization, Conflict, and Theme | * Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of Greek Mythology by B. Evslin (Short selections) * Antigone by Sophocles (drama) | * How does the struggle for power and social acceptance develop character? * Is it right to sacrifice personal values for the sake of adhering to social norms? * What/who defines honor? * How does rhetoric influence personal choice? | Characterization Essay  Compare and Contrast Essay  Tragic Hero Essay  Socratic Seminars (2)  Philosophical Chairs | Mid-September to Early November  (6-8 weeks) |
| From Utopia to Dystopia: Rhetoric and Propaganda | * Animal Farm by George Orwell (novel, fiction) | * What role should language play in the struggle for power? * Is sacrificing an individual for the sake of a community justifiable? * What is a citizen’s duty in the face of propaganda and oppressive governments? | Rhetorical Analysis Essay  Argumentation Essay  Socratic Seminar | November to December  (4-5 weeks) |
| Dystopian Societies: Power vs. Individuality  Power vs. Social Responsibility | * Lord of the Flies by William Golding (novel, fiction) * “The Psychology of Evil” by P. Zimbardo | * How is leadership defined? * Does the struggle for power have the potential to corrupt moral goodness? * How do situations and people in power influence moral development? * How do symbolism and allegory convey deeper meanings in a text? | Characterization Essay  Argumentation Essay Debates on  Leadership  Socratic Seminars (2) | January to End of February (7-8 weeks) |
| Rhetoric, Power, and Betrayal | * The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Acts I-III. by W. Shakespeare | * How is rhetoric used to influence personal choice? * Is betrayal for the sake of society justified? * Should personal relationships outweigh social responsibility in times of social unrest? | Conflict Essay  Rhetorical Analysis Essay  Argumentation Essay  Socratic Seminars (2)  Philosophical Chairs | March to end of April (6-7 weeks) |
| Community Health Project | Anchor Texts on various community health concerns | * How does health messaging impact an individual’s healthy choices? * How do community elements and environmental factors impact personal health (physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially)? | Research Paper  Multimedia Presentation  Community Showcase (required) | Ongoing from November to May.  Research Paper and Presentation is in May. (TBD) |

**Course Overview**