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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 EssaySocratic 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 EssayCompare and Contrast EssayTragic Hero EssaySocratic 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 EssayArgumentation EssaySocratic Seminar | November to December(4-5 weeks) |
| Dystopian Societies: Power vs. IndividualityPower 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 EssayArgumentation 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 EssayRhetorical Analysis EssayArgumentation EssaySocratic 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 PaperMultimedia PresentationCommunity Showcase (required) | Ongoing from November to May. Research Paper and Presentation is in May. (TBD) |

**Course Overview**