

Bronx Green Middle School  
Grade 8 Literacy Curriculum Map 2008 - 2009 Imagining the Future

Dates	Unit Focus	Read Aloud	Non-negotiable	End Product	Required Benchmark Assessments
September 2-5	Revisiting Reading and Writing Workshop and BGMS routines	<i>Help! I'm Trapped in the First Day of school ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School routines</li> <li>• community rubrics</li> <li>• classroom management</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Baseline writing piece	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND OF ASSESSMENT (Sept 26):</b> WRITING: Baseline writing assessment READING: WRAP, reading conference
September 8 - October 10	Public Speaking on Global Issues	<i>Forever!</i> Todd Strasser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• persuasive text structures and features</li> <li>• debate protocols</li> <li>• Practice test - multiple choice section Sept 12</li> </ul>	Speech and Persuasive Essay	
October 14- November 14	Elections/ Democracy/ Dystopia/Utopia	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> William Golding <i>Animal Farm</i> George Orwell <i>The Giver</i> Lois Lowry <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to analyze texts</li> <li>• Comparing and contrasting written and film versions</li> <li>• How to write an essay</li> <li>• Analyzing debate speeches</li> </ul>	Literary Essay Text Analysis	
November 17- December 12	Field Study/Science Connection  Science Exit Project Work	Variety of informational and non fiction text that can be used for shared reading and as mentor texts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research methods</li> <li>• Citing sources</li> <li>• How not to plagiarize</li> <li>• Developing research questions</li> <li>• Planning research and projects</li> <li>• Preparing for oral presentations</li> <li>• Using diagrams and other visual info effectively</li> <li>• Formats for projects (no</li> </ul>	Information Report based on research question	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> ROUND OF ASSESSMENT (Dec 5):</b> Reading and writing conferences. WRAP if required. Reporting to parents

			posterboards)		
--	--	--	---------------	--	--

Key: \* suitable unit to include optional literature circles

Dates	Unit Focus	Read Aloud	Non-negotiables	End Product	Required Benchmark Assessments
December 15-19	Portfolio Mid-Year Reflection	Samples from other students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice ELA test multiple choice Dec 15</li> <li>Reflecting on work</li> <li>Reflecting on their own learning</li> <li>Identifying strengths and areas for improvement for the rest of the year</li> <li>Goal setting for the rest of the year</li> <li>Practice test - multiple choice section Sept 12</li> </ul>	Mid-Year Reflection (to go in to Portfolios)	Portfolios - mid year conferencing, public speaking skills
December 22- January 23  ELA test: Jan 20-22	Test Sophistication	Old and sample tests. Short informational texts (listening section is informational). Range of short texts about the same topic in literary and informational genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Text features of a test</li> <li>Use strategies, such as note taking, semantic webbing or mapping, and outlining, to plan and organize writing.</li> <li>Distinguish relevant and irrelevant information</li> <li>Compare and contrast information about one topic from literary and informational texts</li> <li>Express opinions and support them through specific references to the text</li> </ul>	Sample tests ELA Test Reflection on test	
January 26 - March 6	Plays and Playwriting	<i>Monster</i> Walter Dean Myers <i>Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel</i> Avi <i>Bang, Bang You're Dead</i> Romiette and Julio Sharon Draper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Text structures and features of plays</li> <li>Writing a play from either a familiar text or develop an original script</li> <li>Storyboarding</li> </ul>	Readers' Theatre script or original play script	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> ROUND OF ASSESSMENT (March 6):</i> Reading and writing conferences. WRAP if required.

Key: \* suitable unit to include optional literature circles

Dates	Unit Focus	Read Aloud	Non-negotiables	End Product	Required Benchmark Assessments
<p>March 9- April 8</p>	<p>Genre Study - Historical Fiction (WWII theme) Integrated with Social Studies</p> <p>Social Studies Exit Project Work</p>	<p><i>Diary of Anne Frank</i> Anne Frank  <i>Friedrich</i> Hans Peter Richter  <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> Houston, Houston and Wakatsuki Houston  <i>Early Sunday Morning: The Pearl Harbour Diary of Amber Billows</i> Barry Denenberg  <i>My Secret War: The WWII diary of Madeline Beck, Long Island NY 1941</i> Mary Pope Osborne  <i>One Eye laughing, the other weeping: The diary of Julie Weiss, Vienna, Austria NY 1938</i> Barry Deneberg  <i>Night</i> Elie Wiesel  <i>Number the Stars</i> Louis Lowry  <i>When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit</i> Judith Kerr  <i>Goodnight, Mr Tom</i> Michelle Magorian  <i>Milkweed</i> Jerry Spinelli  <i>Lily's Crossing</i> Patricia Reilly Giff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make thematic connections across books</li> <li>• Learning about historical facts through literature</li> <li>• Reading same topic using fiction and non fiction texts</li> <li>• Research methods</li> <li>• Citing sources</li> <li>• How not to plagiarize</li> <li>• Developing research questions</li> <li>• Planning research and projects</li> <li>• Preparing for oral presentations</li> <li>• Using diagrams and other visual information effectively</li> </ul>	<p>Information Report based on research question</p>	

Key: \* suitable unit to include optional literature circles

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Unit Focus</b>	<b>Read Aloud</b>	<b>Non-negotiables</b>	<b>End Product</b>	<b>Required Benchmark Assessments</b>
April 20- May 8	Portfolio Dissertations	Shared reading of sample dissertations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a dissertation?</li> <li>• How to write a dissertation</li> <li>• What to include</li> <li>• Reflection</li> <li>• Future goal setting</li> <li>• Assembling final portfolio</li> </ul>	Portfolio Dissertation essay	Portfolios - public speaking skills
May 11- June 10	Bookclubs & public speaking practice	Authors to choose from: <i>Speak</i> Laurie Halse Anderson Walter Dean Myers, Stephen King, Michael Crichton, Sharon Draper, Alice Sebold, Matthew Reilly, Agatha Christie Read aloud a book from the same author that students are not reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literary essay</li> <li>• Discussion groups</li> <li>• review literature circle roles</li> <li>• Connecting themes and craft of author across a variety of texts</li> </ul>	Literary Essay (interpretive and responsive)	<i>4<sup>th</sup> ROUND OF ASSESSMENT (May 29):</i> Reading: WRAP Writing: Endline writing assessment
June 11-16	Preparing for Orals	View videos of previous oral presentations and analyze for strengths and weaknesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral presentation dos and don'ts</li> <li>• Writing prompt notes</li> <li>• Pacing and intonation</li> </ul>	Oral presentation notes	Portfolios - end of year reflections and presentations  Reporting to parents
June 15-19	Portfolio Week				
June 22-26	Graduation, etc.				

Key: \* suitable unit to include optional literature circles