**Short Story and Narrative**

8th Grade Magnet English: Investigating Points of View

Students explore a variety of acclaimed authors (Flannery O’Connor, Donald Barthelme, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Angela Carter, Sandra Cisneros, Eudora Welty, Stephen Millhauser, et al.) and learn about distinct styles and techniques to employ in their own writing. Students also create a “Readers’ Gallery of Art” which reflects the themes presented by the stories.

**Research**

Students conduct a full research project which focuses on collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing a volume of good information about a topic into a concise and coherent paper.

**Poetry**

Poetry is encountered throughout the year, but especially during a focused unit where the students learn to recognize and employ major poetic techniques.

**Novels**

Several contemporary and classic novels will be examined over the course of the year. Students will learn to imitate authors’ styles, conduct close readings of the texts and interpret through the lenses of a variety of literary theories. Some novels will be self-selected (“The Novel Idea” unit), some chosen in literary circles, and we will study Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* as a class.

**Museums and Material Culture**

8th grade Magnet English students will get the opportunity to explore and write about material culture through museum visits, object analysis, and possibly the play “Trifles.”

**Drama**

We will study drama as literature. The unit culminates in performances of student-selected scenes.

**Writing**

Students will keep daily writing journals (Sacred, Silent Writing) as well as ongoing portfolios of their polished pieces of work.

**AP Skills-Based Curriculum**

Students will read as writers and will learn particular styles of the analysis of the written word (based on AP techniques). They will employ those writing styles and techniques as they find their own voices.

**Beyond the Curriculum**

Students will learn skills that go far beyond the STAAR test, including creativity, leadership, problem-solving, collaboration, public speaking, time management, etc.