

Here's a Sneak Peek at Our 2023–2024 First Semester Calendar

FEATURES	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NARRATIVE NONFICTION	<p>Finding Hope in a Time of War</p> <p>Read about Ukrainian teen Igor Klymenko who invented a drone that detects land mines and saved lives.</p>	<p>Lost in Death Valley</p> <p>This is an incredible story of courage and survival in one of the most dangerous places on Earth.</p>	<p>Spy of the American Revolution</p> <p>This is the gripping story of James Lafayette who worked as a double agent and helped the Americans win the war.</p>	<p>The Great Alaskan Earthquake</p> <p>This pulsing narrative is about the 1964 earthquake and how it shaped the world we live in today.</p>
DRAMA	<p>Rogue Enchantments</p> <p>Graciela has opened her own shop in a magical market, but is someone trying to sabotage her?</p>	<p>Sleepy Hollow</p> <p>Grab your jack-o-lanterns for this delightful adaptation of the famous short story by Washington Irving.</p>	<p>The Hero Twins</p> <p>After performing a thrilling play based on the Mayan myth of the Popol Vuh, students meet a Mayan teen from Belize.</p>	<p>Apollo 13</p> <p>A terrible accident has put the astronauts on Apollo 13 in grave danger. Can NASA bring them back to Earth?</p>
DEBATE/ ESSAY KIT	<p>Should You Be Polite to Alexa?</p> <p>Voice assistants like Alexa and Siri aren't human. Does that mean it's OK to be rude?</p>	<p>Is It OK to Clone Pets?</p> <p>One teen and his aunt debate whether to clone a sweet dog named Bean.</p>	<p>Should We Switch to the Metric System?</p> <p>Just imagine: no more conversions! Get ready for a spirited debate.</p>	<p>Should Schools Have Uniforms?</p> <p>Two teens write an essay arguing for and against school uniforms.</p>
PAIRED TEXTS	<p>Bicycles vs. Jet Packs</p> <p>The histories of the bicycle and the jet pack have more in common than you might think!</p>	<p>The Delano Grape Strike</p> <p>Read about the amazing true story of Dolores Huerta and the strike that changed America.</p>	<p>What Is the Deadliest Creature?</p> <p>Read about the history of the mosquito and the centuries-long fight against malaria.</p>	<p>Fish Cheeks</p> <p>Don't miss our graphic novel based on the beloved story by Amy Tan.</p>
SHORT READ	<p>Curse of the Hope Diamond</p> <p>For centuries, people have said a terrible misfortune befalls the owners of this dazzling gem.</p>	<p>The Great Ticket Disaster</p> <p>Getting concert tickets has never been tougher! This short article explores the economics behind fans' ticket problems.</p>	<p>Message to Space</p> <p>Scientists are preparing to send a message to space. The hope? That someone will write back!</p>	<p>Saving the Pangolin</p> <p>This is the powerful story of the conservations in Cambodia, working to save the most trafficked animal on Earth.</p>
FICTION	<p>First-Day Fly</p> <p>This short story by Jason Reynolds is the perfect choice for the start of the school year.</p>	<p>The Storm</p> <p>Two best friends are drifting apart. Can a ferocious storm bring them back together?</p>	<p>Any Other Morning</p> <p>Everyone Eden knows is living in a perfect virtual-reality world. Should she wake them up?</p>	<p>The Soup</p> <p>This short story makes a great passage for exploring point of view.</p>
GRAMMAR	<p>The Power of Stink</p> <p>In nature, bad smells are a great defense. Skill focus: subject-verb agreement.</p>	<p>Megalodon vs. Great White</p> <p>A mighty prehistoric sea beast loses to the great white shark—plus then vs. than.</p>	<p>The Day of the Dead</p> <p>Meet a sugar skull maker in this visually sumptuous story.</p>	<p>What's for Dinner?</p> <p>Decomposers are nature's cleaning crew—plus vs. their vs. they're.</p>
POETRY/ ROOT POWER	<p>List of Things That Will Set You Free</p> <p>This list poem by Joyce Kilmer serves as a model for students to write their own.</p>	<p>The Magical Teen Talent Show</p> <p>Learn the Latin root ambi and amphi this short graphic-novel-style story.</p>	<p>Lost in the Corn Maze</p> <p>Explore the root grata in a short graphic-novel-style story.</p>	<p>Cliché</p> <p>A poem by Billy Collins</p>
NEW! WRITE LIKE A PRO	<p>Meet Jimmy Chin</p> <p>The story of adventure photographer and filmmaker Jimmy Chin is a mentor text on using colons.</p>	<p>How 3-D Printing Is Changing the World</p> <p>A fascinating technology story becomes a mentor text in transition words and phrases.</p>	<p>Adorable Quokkas</p> <p>Quokkas are threatened marsupials that have achieved social media stardom. Does fame help or hurt them?</p>	<p>Back to the Moon</p> <p>Learn about the Artemis Program in this visually-arresting story.</p>