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| Time | Big Idea | Topics - Reading | Topics – Language Arts |
| Aug-Sept | Unit 1: What kinds of challenges to people face and how do we meet them? | Genres: Humorous Fiction, Tall Tale, Historical Fiction, Biography, Expository Nonfiction.Skills: Character and plot, cause and effect, theme and setting, sequence, summarize | Grammar: Four kinds of sentences, subjects and predicates, independent and dependent clauses, compound and complex sentences, common and proper nounsWriting: Personal Narrative – Tall tale, thank you letter, feature article, narrative writing |
| Oct- mid Nov | Unit 2: What makes people want to do the right thing? | Genres: Realistic Fiction, Biography, Folk Tale, Expository Nonfiction, PoetrySkills: Compare and contrast, author’s purpose, fact and opinion, sequence | Grammar: Regular and irregular plural nouns, possessive nouns, action and linking verbs, main and helping verbs, subject-verb agreementWriting: How-to Report- Summary, story review, news story, rules, interview |
| Mid Nov-mid Jan | Unit 3: What do people gain from the work of inventors and artists? | Genres:  Biography, Expository Non-fiction, PlaySkills:  Main idea, summarize, context clues, predict, fact-opinion, graphic organizers, graphic sources, story structure | Grammar: Past, present, and future tenses, regular verbs, irregular verbs, troublesome verbs, prepositionsWriting: Compare and contrast essay – Skit, questions and answer essay, feature story, description, expository writing |
| Jan- mid Feb | Unit 4: How do people and animals adapt to different situations? | Genres: Fiction, Expository Non-fiction, Play, AutobiographySkills: Draw Conclusions, Generalize, Graphic Sources, Generalize, | Grammar: Subject and object pronouns, possessive pronouns, indefinite and reflexive pronouns, who and whomWriting: Story – E-mail, journal entry, advice, how to achieve a goal |
| Mid Feb - March | Unit 5: Who goes seeking adventure and why? | Genres: Humorous Fiction, Narrative Nonfiction, Interview, Science Fiction, Expository NonfictionSkills: Character and plot, graphic sources, author’s purpose, cause and effect, generalize | Grammar: Contractions and negatives, adjective and articles, this, that, these, and those, comparative and superlative adjectives, adverbsWriting: Famous person report – Paraphrasing, notes, quotations, citations, informational text |
| April - May | Unit 6: What can we learn from encounters with the unexpected?  | Genres: Realistic Fiction, Case Study, Myth, Expository Nonfiction, Realistic FictionSkills: Draw conclusions, main idea, compare and contrast, fact and opinion, sequence | Grammar: Modifiers, conjunctions, commas, quotations, punctuationWriting: Research Report – Expository writing, taking notes, humorous poem, outline, informational article |