

## Grade 8 Context and Unit Grid

The titles in this section are examples of learning resources to support particular English language arts units for Grade 8. Please note that the following abbreviations are used for the Major Integrated Resources: *Crossroads 8* (CR), *Identities 8* (ID), *Nelson Literacy 8* (NL), *Pearson Literacy in Action* (LA), and *Sightlines 8* (SL). In addition, there are resources that may be out of print but still available in your school. These resources may include titles from the *Nelson Mini-Anthologies Series*.

**Model Units:** Please refer to the model units on the Ministry website for additional suggested learning resources.

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	Becoming Myself In My Mirror (CR) Telling One's Life Story (Personal and Philosophical Context)	Burning Questions Fast Forward Popular Culture (CR) Beneath the Ink (CR) Buy It, You'll Like It (ID) (Communicative Context)	Timeless Narratives of the First Nations and Greek Peoples (Model Unit) Other Skies Mystery Maze (Imaginative and Literary Context)
<b>Literary Texts</b>			
Major Integrated Resources	Crossroads 8 (CR) Identities 8 (ID) Nelson Literacy 8 (NL) Pearson Literacy in Action 8 (LA) Sightlines 8 (SL)		
Digital Media (includes ROVER ...)	For Angela (ROVER)		How People Got Fire (ROVER) Greek Mythology for Students Series Ojibwe Stories (Aniishinaabe Adisokan)(ROVER) Stories from the Seventh Fire: The Four Seasons
Essays	The Cool Crowd (SL) Secrets: Necessary and Dangerous (NL b) Tricks of the Trade (SL)	Leonardo da Vinci (ID) Running Shoe Run-around (CR) What Makes People Laugh? (ID) Why Are the Soldiers Dying? (ID)	The Far Future Zone (LA – Literacy) The Jurassic Zone (LA – Literacy) Life Sentence (SL) Man in Motion (LM) The Modern Zone (LA – Literacy) Northern Life (SL) Perfect Worlds (LA – Literacy) The Techno Zone (LA – Literacy)
Literary Texts (e.g., full length, ...)	Alma: A Novel Bifocal Dog Tracks Firewing Flight of the Tiger Moth Grind Milkweed Never to be Told Oscar: The Life and Music of Oscar Peterson Sam's Light Search of the Moon King's Daughter	Albert Einstein: A Life Genius Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life The Devil's Arithmetic Grind (LA – Media) Hope's War Into the Ravine (LA – Literacy)	Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad Classic Myth: A Treasury of Greek and Roman Legends, Art and History The Courtesan's Daughter The Deadly Dance Games from Ancient Rome Hercules Theseus

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	Becoming Myself	Burning Questions	Timeless Narratives of the First Nations and Greek Peoples
Literary Texts (e.g., full length, ...)	Secret of Light Seeds of Time Shimmerdogs Small Steps Stitches Throwaway Daughter The Way a Door Closes		
Oral Texts/Narratives	Feathers in the Wind (CR) The Man Who Killed the Sea Monster (NL c) So Cool	The Farm Girl's Father (LA – Literary) Hannah Milner Primrose Red Brown (LA – Literary) Princess Isabelle von Trifle (LA – Literary) Rumpelstilskin (LA – Literary) Wolf von Big Baden (LA – Literary)	Book Nine from the Odyssey The Moth and the Star (SL)
Plays (includes scripts, ...)	Choosing My Path (NL c) The Runaway See Saw (SL) Sibling Secrets (NL b)	The Bug Doctor (LA – Literary) Called Back (CR) How to Hang Up the Telephone (SL) In Character (ID) Medieval Helpdesk (LA – Media) The Monkey's Paw (SL) Practically Twins (NL c) So You Want to Be a Music Star? (NL c) Weird Kid (ID)	The War of the Worlds: The Broadcast (LA – Literary)
Poetry (includes lyrics, songs, ...)	Another Sand-box Tale (ID) Apartment House (ID) The Art of Poetry (ID) Back Yard, July Night (ID) The Child Who Walks Backwards (SL) Conversation with Myself (CR) Divorce (ID) Dream Time (NL c) Dream Variations (LM) Dust Devil (SL) The End (ID) An Environmentally Safe Non-toxic Poem (ID) Falling Snow (ID) Freedom Dreams (NL c) Growing Up (TP) How Do I Love Thee? (ID) How Feel I Do? (CR) I Lost My Talk (CR) If You're Not from the Prairie (ID) Images (CR) Island Clay (CR) Listening to Grown-ups (ID)	Alien (CR) The Base Stealer (CR) Dreams of the Animals (CR) 4 Haiku (CR) Formula (CR) Haida Gwaii (CR) Helen Keller (CR) My Pockets Ain't That Phat (NL c) No Boring Parts Allowed CR #254 (CR) The Radio as Time Machine (CR) Ragged Sonnet #64 (SL) Rainlight (CR) School Buses (CR) Smokeroom on the Kyle (CR) Song of the Land (CR) St. George (LA – Literary) Unconscious Came a Beauty (CR) Voice of a Poet (CR) West Coast Rhymes (CR)	The Circle Game (SL) The Earth-ling (SL) Night on Gull Lake (SL) Song of the Dream People (SL) Stars (LA – Literary) Very Large Array (LA – Literary)

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	Becoming Myself	Burning Questions	Timeless Narratives of the First Nations and Greek Peoples
Poetry (includes lyrics, songs, ...)	Mercury (ID) My Guilt (SL) My Mother, Who Came from China, Where She Never Saw Snow (SL) My Secret Place (NL b) Rage (ID) River (ID) Secret Tears (TP) Secrets of the Past (NL b) Snowy Benches (ID) Solid Rock (ID) Surf (ID) Swing (ID) This is My Rock (ID) Two Voices (LA – Information) Wanted: Someone Who Cares (LM) The Watcher (ID) The Way a Door Closes Who Is Disabled? (SL) Yield (ID) You Have Two Voices (SL)		
Short Stories	Day of the Butterfly (SL) Feathers in the Wind (CR) A Hero's Welcome (CR) Homecoming (NL b) Joy-Riding (CR) Mrs. Buell (CR) Out of My Skin (SL) The Rink (ID) Some Things Lie So Deep (SL) The Transformations of Cindy R. (CR)	Ambush (SL) Catch (SL) A Coyote Columbus Story (LA – Literacy) The Hockey Sweater (SL) Lose Now, Pay Later (ID) Priscilla and the Wimps (LA – Literary) Save the Moon for Kerdy Dickus (CR) The Street That Got Mislaid (SL) The Tell-tale Heart (SL) Thank-you, Ma'am (SL) The Zoo (NL c)	Dreams (SL) Follow the Water (LA – Literacy) Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived before Achilles Greek Myths The Homecoming (LA – Literacy) Myths of Native America Sacred Stories of the Sweet Grass Cree The Veldt (SL) A Wish Names Arnold (SL)
Visual Texts	Ghazala's Secret (NL b) Word Gets around ... (NL b) You Should Wear Khakis with That (CR)	At School (SL) For Better or Worse (CR) Messages Are Everywhere (SL) Optrick (SL) Selling the Band (LA – Media)	The Ancient Greece of Odysseus Myths of the World When Jannies Visited (SL)
<b>Informational Texts</b>			
Includes full-length informational texts; posters, brochures; magazine and newspaper articles; podcasts, websites; public service announcements, social commentary; documentaries, television and radio news broadcasts; digital media; oral texts.			
Articles (e.g., magazine articles ...)	Breaking Free (NL c) Feeling Good, Looking Great (CR) Handling Anger and Resolving Conflict (SL) How to Conduct an Interview (ID) How to Present a Play (CR)	Advertising in Disguise (NL c) Behind the Hype (NL c) Catmopolitan (LA – Literacy) Creative Persuasion (ID) Does Traditional African Medicine Really Work? (ID)	Dracula's Dinner (SL) Report on a Museum Incident (LA – Literary) Strokes of Genius (SL) Technology at the Movies (LA – Literacy)

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	Becoming Myself	Burning Questions	Timeless Narratives of the First Nations and Greek Peoples
Articles (e.g., magazine articles ...)	I Have Down Syndrome (NL c) Interview Guidelines (ID) Life Sentence (SL) Secret Training (NL b) Secrets, Lies, and Spies (NL b) Visuals and Design (ID) What's Wrong with Playing "Like a Girl"? (CR) The Writing's on the Wall (NL b)	The Fame Motive (NL c) Gaming Night in Canada (LA – Media) Hoax Busters (LA – Media) How Can We Communicate Better? (ID) How Reality TV Fakes It (NL c) How to ... Be Cool (NL c) How to Write a Movie Review (CR) How to Write Poetry (CR) How'd They Do That? (ID) A Not-so-mysterious Market (ID) Poems in Your Pockets (CR) The Power of the Net (LA – Media) Starbury Says "Enough" (NL c) When Hallmark Just Won't Do (CR) Your Hidden Skills (SL)	Dracula's Dinner (SL) Report on a Museum Incident (LA – Literary) Strokes of Genius (SL) Technology at the Movies (LA – Literary)
Oral Texts (e.g., interviews ...)	A Community History Project (ID) Making Canadian Hockey History (SL) Making My Dreams Reality (NL c) New Canadian Voices: A Multicultural Nation; Too Old to Change; Do As I Say (CR)	Hear Every Word (CR) Reaching People (ID)	
Personal Accounts (e.g., profiles, memoirs ...)	Ambush (NL b) At Face Value (CR) Bernadette Ballantyne's Story (ID) Dancing Toward a Dream: Evelyn Hart (NL c) Dreaming of Stardom: Jim Carrey (NL c) A Mason-Dixon Memory (CR) A Mother's Voice (CR) Olympic Dreams (NL c) One Final Defiant Word (NL b) Vicky (ID)	Fool Proof (CR) Here's to You, Joe DiMaggio (CR) Kate's Blog (LA – Media) The Life and Times of Diane Dupuy (CR) Partridge Poems (NL c) Shaun Majumder: Comedian on the Edge (LA – Literary) Writing and Directing Weird Kid (ID)	Friends All of Us (SL)
Visual Texts (includes ads, ...)	African Footprint: A Dream and a Vision (NL c) All Our Worldly Goods (SL) Barbie Collectibles (SL) Choose (NL c) Messages Are Everywhere (SL) My Secret Camera (NL b) Your Head vs Concrete (NL c)	Building Buzz (NL c) Comics: Special Earth Day Edition (LA – Literacy) Cyber Comics (LA – Media) Decoding Radio (NL c) Networkid: Explore the Virtual World (LA – Media) Straight to the Heart (ID)	From Glenn to Glenn (SL) Messages Are Everywhere (SL) The Protected Areas Vision (SL) Visions of the Future (LA – Literacy)

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	An Eye on Our Natural and Technological Environment Survival Creating Turning Points (Environmental and Technological Context)	Is It Fair? – In Search of Justice Multigenre Thematic (Social, Cultural, and Historical Context)	Adventure and Adventurers (Model Unit) Building a Better World Heroic Ways (ID) (Social, Cultural, and Historical Context)
<b>Literary Texts</b>			
Major Integrated Resources	Crossroads 8 (CR) Identities 8 (ID) Nelson Literacy 8 (NL) Pearson Literacy in Action 8 (LA) Sightlines 8 (SL)		
Digital Media (includes ROVER ...)	Severn Cullis-Suzuki, Environmental Children’s Organization: UNCED Earth Summit, Plenary June 11, 1992 U-Turn	Hana’s Suitcase (ROVER)	
Essays	The Earth Charter (FI) Learn with BOOK (CR) Preserving a Culture: A Conversation with Leah Otak(CR)	A Report on the Museum Incident (LA - Literacy) Unknown Solider: Symbol or Hero (LA – Media)	Against Great Odds: Emily Jennings Stowe (NL b) Embracing the Unknown (NL b) Why Canada Has to Beat Its Literacy Problem (SL)  Choose selections from the following: Nelson Mini- Anthologies – Mystery Maze, Spirit of Adventure, and Where in the World
Literary Texts (e.g., full length, ...)	Albert Einstein: A Life Genius Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life Escape from Memory The Kayak (LA – Information) Skybreaker	Among the Barons And in the Morning Bifocal The Bone Collector’s Son Crispin: The Cross of Lead The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank (The Definitive Ed.) Flames of the Tiger Hana’s Suitcase: A True Story Iqbal: A Novel Last Chance Bay Nobody’s Child The Peacekeepers Run, Boy, Run: A Novel The War Within	Airborn Ann and Seamus The Breadwinner (LA – Media) Esther Extraordinary Women Explorers Flight of the Tiger Moth The Freedom of Jenny Heart of a Samurai Jenny’s Quest (LA – Information) The Legends of the Lake on the Mountain: An Early Adventure of John A. Macdonald Magellan and the First Voyage around the World Silken Laumann’s Courageous Comeback (NL b) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight Tales of Don Quixote Theo: Shadows on a Sword (ID – three excerpts) When the War Is Over The Wreckers

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	An Eye on Our Natural and Technological Environment	Is It Fair? – In Search of Justice	Adventure and Adventurers
Oral Texts / Narratives	Can Machines Learn? (NL a) My Superheroes (NL a)	Who Owns the Land? (NL a)	How the Opossum Stole Fire (SL) Paul Revere's Ride The Water of Life (CR)
Plays (includes scripts ...)		Lucille Teasdale (NL a) Weird Kid (ID)	Julius Caesar (SL) Pitching a Show (NL b)
Poetry (includes lyrics ...)	The Elders Are Watching (CR) Light Bulb and My Fluorescent Flow (NL a) The Path of Our Sorrow (CR) Ride Forever (CR) The Water Trader's Dream (LA – Information) The Ballad of Frank Slide The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald	It Takes a Village (NL a) Evangeline	À l'île blanche (At White Island) (SL) An Evening Walk (SL) Black Patent Leather Shoes (SL) Empty Fears (CR) Harlem (CR) It's Different Now (SL) My Hero Mandela (SL) The Nine Days Queen (ID – two excerpts) Poet (for Irina Ratushinskaya) (SL) A Science Mission Specialist: Mae Jemison, MD: September 1992 (NL b) Song of the Voyageurs (CR) When I Was a Little Girl (SL) While I Was Looking at the Background You Walked Out of the Picture (SL) You Have Two Voices (LA – Information)
Short Stories	Across Three Millenia (NL a) A Close Match (CR) The Monarch (ID) The Zarg Tyranny (NL a)	Bullied: Student Ticked Pink by Schoolmates' T-shirt Campaign (LA – Media) Mother and Daughter The Tiniest Guitar in the World (ID)	Adventures and Adventurers Carrying the Running-aways (SL) Higher Ground (SL) Looking Beyond (SL) No Matter What (CR) The Stolen Party (SL) Trails to Adventure (CR) The Way of a Winner (ID)
Visual Texts	Future Scrapes (NL a) Grassoline (NL a) The Marketing Game (CTV)	Calvin and Hobbes (JS) Two Islands (NL a)	Canoe Manned by Voyageurs Passing a Waterfall (SL) Clues in the Attic (LA – Information) Lady Jane Grey: Before the Execution (ID) Lady Jane Grey: The Execution (ID) The Pirate Meets the Queen Theo: Becoming a Knight (ID) Theo: A First Battle (ID) Theo: The Battles Continue (ID) The Ukrainian Pioneer #3 (SL)

Possible Unit Topics and Themes	An Eye on Our Natural and Technological Environment	Is It Fair? – In Search of Justice	Adventure and Adventurers
<b>Informational Texts</b> Includes full-length informational texts; posters, brochures; magazine and newspaper articles; podcasts, websites; public service announcements, social commentary; documentaries, television and radio news broadcasts; digital media; oral texts.			
Articles (e.g., magazine articles ...)	Beneath the Surface (LA – Information) Down the Drain (LA – Information) Future Visions: Yesterday Versus Today (NL a) Harvesting Water (LA – Information) How to Create a Personal Website (CR) Instant Messaging (CR) Nano Doctors on Call (NL a) Navigating Your Way through Cyberspace (CR) On the Trail to a Greener Future (CR) Road Dust and Writing (NL a) Rubber Shortage Leads to Silly Putty (NL a) Talking Trash (LA – Information) Tidal Power (LA – Information) Water Pressure (LA – Information) Water Rising (LA – Information) Water Solutions (LA – Information) Whose Water (LA – Information) Your Water Footprint (LA – Information)	Child Slavery Protester Murdered (NL a) A Global Citizen Is ... (NL a) Kids Encouraged to Build Peace (NL a) What Is Child Labour? (NL a)	Adrenalin: Your Book in Gear (NL b) Are You a Risk-taker? (NL b) British Home Children (LA – Information) Bullied Student Tickled Pink by Schoolmates' T-shirt Campaign (LA – Media) Celebrities as Social Activists: Do They Really Make a Difference (LA – Media) A Closed Door? (LA – Information) Elizabeth Eckford: Only a Media Hero (LA – Media) Heroes Among Us (LA – Media) How the Fiddle Flows (LA – Information) Hungarian Revolution Refugees (LA – Information) Iron Trails to Adventure (CR) Jewish War Orphans Project (LA – Information) The Kielburgers: Modern-day Heroes? (LA – Media) Knut: Hero or Victim? (LA – Media) The Komagata Maru (LA – Information)
Articles (e.g., magazine articles ...)			Mandela (SL) Nelly: Celebrity or Hero? (LA – Media) Oscar's Olympic Dream Dashed (NL b) Out of This World (CR) Privacy?: What Privacy? The Public Lives of Public Figures (LA – Media) The Somali Experience (LA – Information) Uncovering the Rose (SL) Unknown Soldier: Symbol or Hero? (LA – Media) Vietnamese Boat People (LA – Information) What I Learned from Raoul Wallenberg (SL)

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Oral Texts (e.g., interviews ...)		Hana’s Suitcase (search CBC The Sunday Edition)	Motivation and the Power of Not Giving Up (NL b) Perfecting Performance: Evie Mark Speaks about Throat Singing (NL b) Search for “Severn Cullis Suzuki” Tell the World: A Young Environmentalist Speaks Out (ID)
Personal Accounts (e.g., memoirs ...)	A Desk for My Daughter (CR) Inspired to Invent: Rachel Zimmerman Invents the Blissymbol Printer (NL a) A Mysterious Contraption (CR) Paving from Plastic: Young Gina Gallant Brings New Life to Garbage (NL a)	Global Kitchens (NL a) Love the Planet (NL a) Selling Change (NL a)	Messages are Everywhere (SL) Moving On ... (LA – Information) People on the Move (LA – Information) Read all About ... Who? How Tabloids Create a “Celebrity” (LA – Media) Who Are Your Heroes? (LA – Media)