

Helena Middle School
7th Grade English Units of Study
2023-2024

Unit 1: *Community and Belonging*

- “What is ‘Community’ and Why is it Important?” – Toby Lowe
- “How the Need to Belong Influences Human Behavior and Motivation” – Informational Text; Kenda Cherry
- “The While Umbrella” – Short Story; Gish Jen
- “The Stolen Party” – Short Story; Lilliana Heker
- “Where I’m From” – Misa Sugiura
- “Violin” – Poem; Nikki Wallschlaeger
- “Island Rodeo Queen” – Yamile Saied Mendez
- “The War of the Wall” – Short Story; Toni Cade Bambara

Unit 2: *Adolescence*

- “How the Teen Brain Transforms Relationships” – Informational Text; Daniel Siegel, M.D.
- “The Party” – Pam Munoz Ryan
- “Hanging Fire” – Poem; Audre Lorde
- “Saturday at the Canal” – Poem; Gary Soto
- “First-Day Fly” – Short Story; Jason Reynolds
- “Teens’ Penchant for Risk-Taking May Help Them Learn Faster” – News Article; Erin Ross
- “Momentum” – Poem; Catherine Doty
- “Popularity” – Short Story; Adam Bagdasarian

Unit 3: *The Giver*

- “The Giver” – novel; Lois Lowry

Unit 4: *Social Media: Risks and Rewards*

- “This is Your Brain on Instagram” – Informational Text; Kelly McSweeney
- “Teens Say Social Media Isn’t As Bad for Them As You Might Think” – Informational Text; Katie Notopoulos
- “This Muslim-American Teen Turned His Suffering Into a Full-Fledged Battle Against Stereotypes” – Informational Text; Pae Paoletta
- “Why Young Adults Are Taking a More Mindful Approach to Social Media” – Informational Text; Jessica Matlin

Unit 5: *Influential Voices*

- “The Man in the Arena” – Speech; President Theodore Roosevelt
- “Purple is the Noblest Sound” – Speech; Empress Theodora of Byzantium
- “Ain’t I a Woman” – Speech; Sojourner Truth
- “Senate on Rock Lyrics and Record Labeling” – Speech; John Denver
- “Ronald Reagan on the Challenger Disaster” – Speech; President Ronald Reagan
- “Eulogy for Rosa Parks” – Eulogy; Oprah Winfrey
- “Steve Jobs’s Stanford University Commencement Speech” – Speech; Steve Jobs
- “Malala Yousafzai’s Address to the United Nations, July 2013” – Speech; Malala Yousafzai
- “Second Annual Back to School Speech” – Speech; President Barack Obama

Unit 6: *School Electives: Which One Matters Most?*

- “Arlington Heights Parents Oppose District 25’s Plan to Cut Electives” – News; Karen Ann Cullotta
- “Middle School Music and Theater Students Get Better Grades” – Informational Text; Tom Jacobs

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- “Reading, Writing, and Roasting: Schools Bring Cooking Back Into The Classroom” – News; Allison Aubrey
- “Coding – It’s All Around Us” – Informational Text; Michael Signal
- “The Value of Taking Electives” – Essay; Ashleigh Lutz
- “Five Skills I Learned in Marching Band” – Essay; Donna Krache
- “Dinner at Home is Main Ingredient for Health Eating” – News; Meredith Cohn
- “Computer Science Helps Students Outperform in School, College, and Workplace” – Informational Text; Code.org

Novels

- “The Outsiders” – Fiction; S.E. Hinton
- “Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival” – Fiction; Velma Wallis
- “Winter Thunder” – Fiction; Mari Sandoz