

Helena Middle School
7th Grade English Units of Study

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 White 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
- “Social Media: What’s Not to Like?” – Informational Text; Alison Pearch
- “Teens Using Social Media for Good Deeds” – Informational; Smart Social
- “Teen Girls Organized Nashville’s Largest Protest” – Informational; Lena Felton
- “Young Atlanta Artist on the Rise Through Social Media” – Informational; Tyler Reaves

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