

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## Making Connections in Literature

Our curriculum engages students with a variety of literary selections that are current and relevant to them. The structure of the textbook helps students to use the reading process as they learn more about each literary selection. As they progress through each selection, students will be encouraged and challenged to shift their purpose for reading so they will grow in their ability to analyze literary features, read with understanding, and evaluate big ideas that they take from each selection.

### Features of the 8th Grade Literature Curriculum

- Big questions to direct students' attention toward key literary features and cultural beliefs for worldview shaping
- Selections introduced with a reading process structure, with a Before Reading, During Reading, and After Reading section for each piece
- Author backgrounds, biographies, literary features, and vocabulary words explained to prepare students before reading
- Questions to encourage close reading in During Reading sections
- Think & Discuss questions after reading for analysis, evaluation, and text comparison
- Thematic organization of literary selections into the following themes: Maturity, Wisdom, Generosity, Freedom, and Nature
- Inviting and engaging artwork and design for visual analysis skill development and engagement
- Writing assignments and corresponding rubrics to effectively prepare students for writing
- Frequent opportunities for oral presentation

