

Grade 9 – Quarter 1

Belief Window

“I am the gatekeeper of my own destiny” – Nacho Libre

Mindset

Central Text(s) – Will Smith, Ashton Kutcher
Focused Instruction – Mindset Powerpoint
Must Do – Belief Window Chart, Learning Styles Inventory
Self-Selection –

Article of the Week #1 – 1,2,8

Central Text(s) – “12 Things We Know about How the Brain Works”
Focused Instruction –
Must Do – *Reading with my Pen, Writing on Demand*, collaborative discussion
Self-Selection –

Prove It! – 4,8

Central Text(s) – “Prove It!”
Focused Instruction –
Must Do – Student Presentations, Quiz (iSearch paragraphs)
Self-Selection – One writing term and one figurative language term

iSearch Paper – 1,5,6,7,8

Central Text(s) – *Sneetches*
Focused Instruction – Picasso’s “Bull Study,” Citing Sources
Must Do – Sentence Kernels, iSearch Paper
Self-Selection –

Article of the Week #2 – 1,2,8

Central Text(s) – “We Are Teaching High School Students to Write Terribly”
Focused Instruction –
Must Do – *Reading with my Pen, Writing on Demand*, collaborative discussion
Self-Selection –

The Scarlet Ibis – 1,2,3,4

Central Text(s) – “The Scarlet Ibis,” *Dragons Love Tacos*
Focused Instruction –
Must Do – Literary Elements chart, plot chart, collaborative discussion
Self-Selection –

Article of the Week #3 – 1,2,8

Central Text(s) – “Why Being a Thinker Means Pocketing Your Smart Phone”
Focused Instruction –
Must Do – *Reading with my Pen, Writing on Demand*, collaborative discussion
Self-Selection –

Suggested Supplemental Reading

(Please choose one novel from this list to count as one of your ten books this quarter.)

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- Salt in my Shoes
- The Graveyard Book
- Blink
- A Long Walk to Water
- Unbroken
- Seabiscuit
- Wonder
- The Help (taught in 10th grade at Mt. View High School)
- A Higher Call
- The Glass Castle
- Approved text of your choice (fiction or non-fiction)

Focus Standards

1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and analyze inferences based on textual evidence
 2. Participate in collaborative discussions
 3. Identify how an author's writing choices create mystery, tension, and surprise
 4. Identify and explain plot structure, theme, figurative language, characterization techniques, tone, and point of view in a variety of texts including short stories, articles, and interviews.
 5. Write a coherent essay using verifiable evidence, a strong introduction, and a strong conclusion—I Search Paper
 6. Define and refine research questions; cite sources accurately, distinguishing between paraphrasing and quoting
 7. Gather relevant information from multiple sources; avoid plagiarism
- Follow the convention of Standard English grammar