



 **studysync**®

GRADE	TOTAL TEXTS	FEMALE AUTHORS	CULTURALLY DIVERSE AUTHORS	CULTURALLY DIVERSE TEXTS	COMMENTS
6	40	9%	33%	53%	The text selections in the grade 6 units provide students with a diverse representation of each unit's theme. In Unit 1, students see individuals of all ages and walks of life facing turning points. Similarly, the units on Facing Challenges and Our Heroes encourage students to consider challenges and heroes about which they may not have previously known. Students read about the challenges of life during China's Cultural Revolution or in a Japanese Internment Camp, and they meet famous heroes like Rosa Parks and lesser-known heroes like Luis Omar Salinas's unnamed father. The 6th grade curriculum offers students a broader understanding of life for people in a variety of times, places, and circumstances.
7	42	43%	40%	50%	In the grade 7 units, the familiar is placed alongside the unfamiliar, providing context for culturally diverse authors and topics and allowing students to find similarities between them. In the first unit, students read about missions that they can relate to, like starting a new school, as well as those that might be less familiar, like traveling to the Yukon to search for gold. As the units progress, the texts increasingly shift toward new situations and experiences like ideas of justice, human rights, and human interaction. Students encounter real and fictional unjust societies, and even consider how the Constitution governs society in the United States. Students explore how human rights have been violated and defended throughout history. Their understanding of human rights helps students recognize the challenges that are often a part of our interactions with each other.
8	41	29%	27%	49%	The grade 8 curriculum features two units based on specific historical events—World War II and the Civil War. Rather than simply providing information about these wars, both units engage students with multifaceted accounts of how individuals were impacted by what happened; people like Anne Frank and Frederick Douglass, like Sojourner Truth and Elie Weisel. The variety of experiences in these units dovetails with the unit that comes between them, in which students consider how life experiences shape our values. In the A Moral Compass unit, students read about a diverse range of people's relationships with their family members, friends, and even strangers. The variety of people and perspectives in these units helps students recognize the common experiences and emotions all humans share.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

It's important to note that, particularly for Grades 10-12, StudySync provides teachers with an abundance of resources to help them abet the traditional English Language Arts canon with texts from authors from around the globe, writing about a wide range of people, places, and experiences. Those resources include:

Full-Text Units: StudySync's Full-text Units feature comparative texts that ask students to compare passages from each unit's Full-Text Study against passages from other texts. These comparisons introduce new angles and fresh voices into conversations about canonical texts. Grade 10 students compare *Macbeth* and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, Dee Brown's history of the conflict between Native Americans and the U.S. Army in the 1800s. They look at the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and Luong Ung's *First They Killed My Father* in comparison to Elie Wiesel's *Night*. In the Grade 11 Full-text Unit for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, students acquire additional context for Huck and Jim's journey by reading passages from William Still's account of his life as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. In Grade 12, students compare *Gulliver's Travels* to the *Travels of Marco Polo* through the Mongolian Empire. These are just some of the many comparative texts that broaden the conversation around classic texts in StudySync.

The StudySync Library: More than 400 texts in the StudySync Library are above the minimum recommended Lexile (R) range for high schoolers. Teachers can easily search the Library to find texts about Gandhi, the history of Native Americans in Michigan, and the blues music of the Mississippi Delta region. Texts from James Baldwin, Nelson Mandela, Arundhati Roy, Jesmyn Ward, Rachel Carson, and many more offer teachers and students unique, diverse takes on their world.

Blasts: In addition to its text selections, every StudySync unit contains at least 6 Blasts. These short, informational reading lessons cover a wide range of topics related to each unit's theme. Often times, Blasts help students connect unit themes to the events in their world. In Grades 10-12, Blasts explore topics like 21st century independence movements in Asia, Africa, and Europe, the meaning of feminism in modern society, the role of the media in influencing American ideas of class and race, and the contributions of powerful human rights activists like Mandela, King, Gandhi and Malala Yousafzai.

In addition to the Blasts unique to each unit, StudySync releases daily Blasts (each developed at 3 Lexile (R) levels to make it easy for teachers to differentiate instruction). These Blasts explore the most important topics in the world today. From Black History Month to the Syrian Civil War, from the Chinese economy to South Africa's struggle to overcome its apartheid past, daily Blasts help students broaden their world views and engage with topics and voices from a variety of cultures.

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9	46	22%	24%	48%	The text selections in the grade 9 units provide students with a variety of perspectives on empathy, power, love, and dreams. In each unit, students encounter multiple perspectives on the theme, as well as a specific cluster of texts that all address one specific topic within that theme, like displaced farmers during the Great Depression, the role of leadership in Ancient Greece, the women's suffrage movement, and the life and work of author Frank McCourt. This intertextual approach allows students to spend a longer period of time considering the lives, struggles, and successes of the individuals in those texts. Students then apply the deeper understanding they have gleaned from this study to the other texts in the unit, which can serve to highlight the similarities that exist within the diverse voices present there.

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10	44	23%	14%	23%	The grade 10 Core ELA units explore how destiny and technology control our lives, and what we share and gain when we interact with others. Students explore destiny's impact on our lives, whether that means having enhanced athletic ability due to a longer-than-normal Achilles tendon or experiencing the horrors of war in Iraq. The other units provide a similar variety of perspectives on their particular themes. Students see how taking a stand might look different based on the context in which it's taken, as well as how the consequences of that stand can change accordingly. They see how technology has impacted life for hundreds of years, but also how that impact, and the moral implications of it have changed with time. And finally, students read about the transformative power of human interaction, whether that interaction is positive, like Annie Dillard's memories of her childhood environment, or negative, like Elie Wiesel's encounter with the horrors inherent in the environment within a Nazi concentration camp. The texts in these units span both time and geography, blending diverse points of view to create a panorama of experiences.
11	45	22%	20%	40%	The 11th grade units are designed to present traditional American Literature texts with a thematic focus. Texts are arranged thematically and chronologically, providing students with the opportunity to read multiple perspectives on the same topic. As the units move through three centuries of American writing and thinking, students see the struggles and movements that have shaped America into what it is today, through the idealism of the Constitution of the Iriquois Nations, the passion of Frederick Douglass, or the poetry of Langston Hughes. These texts, and others like them, open the story of American literature to new voices which have been historically under-represented. The final unit in this grade shifts the focus away from America to the topic that connects all people across all times: love. In this unit, students explore how our ideas of love have changed throughout history, but also how those ideas have stayed the same, providing unity within diversity.
12	47%	26%	2%	21%	The 12th grade units present a traditional British Literature curriculum that allows students to read classic texts alongside contemporary counterparts. This type of intertextuality leads to not only a deeper understanding of the texts themselves, but also a broader exposure to the diverse perspectives and interpretations of the ideas within those texts. Whether it's tracing the heroic archetype from Beowulf to comic books or considering how British authors have expressed the inherent complexity of human life from Shakespeare to T.S. Eliot, the multiplicity of voices in each unit ensures a variety of viewpoints for students to encounter the conventional texts of British Literature. As the year progresses, students step back to take a broader outlook as they consider how ideas and literary movements have impacted later generations. These units feature a particular focus on women's voices; those who wrote to challenge the society around them, like Mary Wollstonecraft and Virginia Woolf, and those who didn't, like Phyllis Wheatley and Edith Wharton.