

# Content Map – Language Arts

## Unit: Quarter 1 – Life Lessons

**Key Learning:** By reading a variety of literature, readers can learn about themselves and the world around them through the life lessons presented in the literary content.

**Unit Essential Question:** How can we learn important life lessons through the literature that we read?

### Instructional Tools:

Three-column notes; Word Map; Vocabulary Preview; Ticket Out the Door; Writing Prompt; K-W-L; Flip Chart; Anticipation Guide; Story Map; Plot Map; T-Chart; Mind Map; SRS Quizzes

**Concept:** Elements of Short Stories & Plot

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RL1, 3, 4, 6, 10; ELACC8W2-3, 10; ELACC8SL1

**Selection:** “Charles”

### Lesson Essential Question(s):

1. What strategies can we use to read and analyze fictional short stories?
2. How do effective writers organize the plot of their fictional short stories?

**Concept:** Conflict & Drawing Conclusions

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RL1-4, 6, 10; ELACC8W1, 4-6, 9; ELACC8SL1-2, 5

**Selection:** “The Lady or the Tiger?”

### Lesson Essential Question(s):

1. What influence does conflict have on the characters in short stories?
2. How do we draw conclusions about characters and their conflicts?

**Concept:** Irony

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RL1-4, 6-7, 10; ELACC8W4, 9-10; ELACC8SL1

**Selection:** “The Ransom of Red Chief”

### Lesson Essential Question(s):

1. Why do authors use irony?

**Concept:** Informative Article

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RI1-6, 10;  
ELACC8SL1; ELACC8L4

**Selection:** "The Story of an Eyewitness"

**Lesson Essential Question(s):**

1. What influence does an author's background have on his or her writing?
2. In what ways does the author's perspective affect a feature story?

**Concept:** Form & Structure in Poetry

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RL1, 4-5, 10;  
ELACC8W10; ELACC8L5

**Selection:** "lesson of the moth"

**Lesson Essential Question(s):**

1. How can a poem's form and structure affect its meaning?

**Concept:** Biography

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RI1-4, 6-7, 9-10;  
ELACC8W7; ELACC8L4

**Selection:** From *Ishi in Two Worlds*

**Lesson Essential Question(s):**

1. How can reading a biography teach us a lesson about life?

**Anchor Text:**

Gary Paulsen's *My Life in Dog Years*

How can a book-length informational text teach readers a lesson about life?

**Unit Key Vocabulary:**

plot, character, setting, theme, motivation, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, external conflict, internal conflict, novel, short story, protagonist, antagonist, major characters, minor characters, point of view, chronological order, flashbacks, foreshadowing, tone, mood, autobiography, memoir, biography, essay, thesis, audience, voice, lyric poetry, narrative poetry, epics, sonnet, free verse, stanza, rhyme, rhythm, meter, alliteration, rhyme scheme, consonance, assonance, onomatopoeia, figurative language, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, symbol, imagery

**Concept:** Elements of Poetry/ Poet vs. Speaker

**Standard(s):** ELACC8RL1, 4-5, 10;  
ELACC8RI1-2, 4, 6, 10; ELACC8W10; L5

**Selection:** "Mother to Son," "Dreams," & "A Dream Deferred"

**Lesson Essential Question(s):**

1. Why do writers use figurative language in their poetry?
2. What similarities/differences exist between the poet and the speaker?