**ELA A10**

**Unit 1: The Challenges of Life**

Foundational stories are ways of making sense of life, of examining our past, of understanding our present, and of envisioning our future. Fate and destiny may play a role in our lives. Wherever we go, we meet life’s challenges. As we meet those challenges, we develop the qualities that enable us to grow, and we anticipate other critical challenges we may encounter. Challenges benefit both society and each individual; for without challenges, neither society nor the individual can move forward. Every challenge a society encounters provides opportunities for that society to examine issues, to foster the exchange of ideas, and to explore ways to rise to the challenge. The challenges we encounter lead us to examine our existence and to make decisions that shape our society and ourselves. The world influences us, and we, in turn, influence the world.

**Big Questions:**

What do foundational stories teach us about life’s challenges? How do foundational stories equip us for life?

How do our perceptions of what is a challenge depend on our personal stories or experiences?

What qualities help us face challenges successfully? What are the benefits of challenge?

What are some of the challenges and struggles that have shaped society? How have those challenges/struggles shaped society?

What are the important decisions we will have to make in our lifetime? What are the consequences of making informed and uninformed decisions?

**Unit 2: The Mysteries of Life**

In explorations that engage our mind, body, and spirit, we find joy and fulfillment. Life is filled with mysteries from the extraordinary to the common. The human brain, for example, is a fascinating yet mysterious subject. Its endless capabilities, such as storing memories and imagining possibilities within and beyond this world, continue to amaze and confound us. We wonder how memory shapes us, and we speculate on the role of destiny in our lives. Our memories are significant to who we become. For centuries, humans have searched for answers to life’s mysteries; even now, as we explore and ponder these mysteries, we discover and encounter different ways of knowing or explaining those mysteries. We seek answers from nature, environment, science, faith, traditions, etc. On our quest for answers, we journey into worlds unknown: worlds within, worlds beyond, and worlds remembered.

**Big Questions:**

Of what is the human brain capable? How is technology changing the human brain? How can the human brain reach its potential?

What role does memory play in shaping a person?

How do our imaginations carry us far beyond the borders of the everyday world? Why is the imagination valuable in our personal lives, in society, and in the workplace? How might making connections expand our imagination and creativity?

Is there a master plan or are we masters of the plan?

How do fantasy and science fiction prepare us to handle the challenges that tomorrow will bring?