

BRIX BEYOND BOOKS 4

Courage & Power of Choice

Grade 4 challenges students to move beyond basic comprehension and engage with increasingly complex texts, nuanced perspectives, and evidence-based analysis. Through literature, nonfiction, discussion, and writing, students examine how courage and choice shape narratives, influence character development, and connect to historical and real-world issues.

Literature

Featured Novels: *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park; *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Literary Focus: Author's purpose, point of view, narrative structure, inference, contextualization, theme, foreshadowing, symbolism, imagery, character development, and conflict & resolution.

Nonfiction Exploration

Ancient Civilizations

Historical and cultural context connected to *A Single Shard*, supported by supplementary readings from HISTORY and Time for Kids.

Climate Change

High-interest informational texts from National Geographic Kids, CommonLit, and Time for Kids that build academic background knowledge and encourage evidence-based discussion.

Reading & Critical Thinking

- Analyze author's purpose, point of view, historical context, theme, and literary elements across increasingly complex texts.
- Make inferences, evaluate evidence, and connect literature to historical and real-world contexts.
- Examine multiple perspectives and develop independent interpretations supported by textual evidence.

Writing & Idea Development

- Develop organized, evidence-based ideas through literary analysis, narrative writing, and academic discussion.
- Strengthen character and theme analysis while using evidence to support claims and interpretations.
- Build more sophisticated narrative and analytical writing through revision, sentence variety, transitions, and precise language.

Writing Forms: Character Analysis • Evidence-Based Writing • Thematic Narrative • Analytical Paragraphs • Short Story • Poetry

Vocabulary & Grammar

Weekly vocabulary study supports deeper comprehension and academic expression. Grammar and writing instruction includes sentence variety, fragments, pronoun-antecedent agreement, transition words, figurative language, subject-verb agreement, and punctuation.

Class Structure & Assessment

Weekly Class	Vocabulary Quiz • Novel Discussion • Lesson-Focused Writing • Creative/Analysis Writing
Weekly Homework	Vocabulary • Reading • Writing

Assessment & Final Projects: Cumulative assessments in novel comprehension, vocabulary, literary terms, and writing/grammar, with final projects including a short story or poem and an essay. BBB also includes **two SSAT Reading Benchmark Assessments each semester** to monitor comprehension, vocabulary in context, inference, and text analysis.

16-Week Course Outline

WEEK	FOCUS	SKILLS & ACTIVITIES
1	Short Story 1: Theme & Narrative Structure	Theme & narrative structure • Punctuation • Theme analysis paragraph
2	Short Story 2: Characterization & Point of View	Characterization & point of view • Dialogue punctuation • Short story with engaging dialogue
3	Introduction to A Single Shard & Historical Context	Historical context & connections • Parts of speech • Historical article • Narrative planning
4	Themes and Morals in A Single Shard	Themes & moral lessons • Thematic narrative • Pronoun-antecedent agreement
5	Character Development in A Single Shard	Character growth • Direct/indirect characterization • Subject-verb agreement
6	Conflict and Resolution in A Single Shard	Conflict analysis • Narrative conflict/resolution • Imagery
7	Cumulative Review & Final Narrative Project	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary & literary terms • Writing/grammar test • Final narrative
8	Introduction to The Giver & Prediction/Inferences	Predictions & inferences • Context clues • Vocabulary development • Prediction paragraph
9	Character Analysis in The Giver	Character development • T.E.A. introduction • Sentence variety • Character analysis paragraph
10	Plot Structure & Sequencing in The Giver	Plot structure & sequencing • Topic sentences • Transition words & phrases
11	Theme Analysis in The Giver	Theme • Evidence to support claims • Quotation punctuation • Theme analysis using T.E.A.
12	Symbolism & Foreshadowing in The Giver	Symbolism & foreshadowing • Subject/predicate • Subject-verb agreement • Analysis paragraph
13	The Giver Final	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary & literary terms • Writing/grammar test • Final analysis paragraphs
14	Poetry 1: Poetic Structure & Devices	Poetic structure & devices • Identify/use poetic devices • Original poem
15	Poetry 2: Figurative Language & Tone	Figurative language & tone • Poetry writing • Original poem
16	Final Review & Project Party	Comprehensive reading and writing/grammar review • Analysis, short story, or poetry project