### Term 1

**Topic: Literary Analysis**

**Essential Questions:**
- How does literature help to define who we are today and the goals we want to achieve?
- How do our personal experiences impact our interpretation of literature?
- How does setting affect character development, conflict, and the character’s experiences?
- How do inferences help us to identify and understand internal and external conflict?

**Topic: Writing**

**Essential Questions:**
- How is a concise summary written with appropriate main ideas and details?
- What techniques can be used to write an effective and interesting personal narrative?
- How can characters, setting, and language of poetry be compared and contrasted?
- How do we use the writing process to develop and strengthen our writing with appropriate style and purpose?

### Term 2

**Literary Analysis**

- What is mood and how is it achieved in an author’s work of literature?
- What is symbolism in literature?
- How is theme developed over the course of a story and how does it add to character relationships?
- What reading strategies do we use to comprehend informational literature?

**Topic: Writing Effectively**

**Essential Questions:**
- How is a concise summary written with appropriate main ideas and details?
- What are the elements of a well-structured informative/explanatory piece of writing?
- How do we properly cite textual evidence into informational/explanatory writing?
- How do we cite textual evidence to support what the text says explicitly and using inferences?
- How can our writing be developed and enhanced by using different approaches and sentences with detail, variety, and complexity?

### Term 3

**Topic: Literary Analysis**

**Essential Questions:**
- How can we relate theme in literature to our lives?
- How is poetic language used to convey ideas and initiate a reaction to the reader?
• How do we compare and contrast the structure of a variety of texts with similar character, setting, and theme?
• How does an author effectively use style, voice, and tone in literature?

**Topic: Writing**

**Essential Questions:**
• How is a concise summary written with appropriate main ideas and details?
• How do we integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write about the topic knowledgeably?
• What are the elements of a well-structured persuasive essay?
• How do we develop and support an argument with strong claims and relevant evidence?
• How does the use of appropriate and varied transitions help to create cohesion in our writing?

**Term 4**

**Topic: Reading for Understanding**

**Essential Questions:**
• How do text features help readers understand informational text?
• How does understanding text structure help a reader to better comprehend the purpose of informational literature?
• How are our beliefs and opinions affected by the knowledge gained from reading informational text?

**Topic: Writing**

**Essential Questions:**
• How does the purpose of persuasion determine the language we use?
• How can we effectively integrate research based information into writing a persuasive essay which supports a claim?