

Grade 8: Module 2B: Overview





A Midsummer Night's Dream and the Comedy of Control

In this second module, students read and analyze Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As with any of Shakespeare's play, many rich themes are present; in this module, students will focus primarily on the theme of control. Characters in this play are controlled by emotions, other characters, and even magic. They often attempt to manipulate others in a variety of ways. Students will examine why the characters seek control, how they try to control others, and the results of attempting to control others. In Unit 1, students will build background knowledge as they explore the appeal and authorship of Shakespeare. Students will read much of the play aloud in a Drama Circle, and will frequently reread key passages to deepen their understanding. Students will analyze differences between a film version of the play and Shakespeare's original script.

In Unit 2, students will study how Shakespeare drew upon Greek mythology as he crafted the play within the play. They will continue to closely study characters who attempt to control or manipulate others in the play, and write an argument essay about whether or not Shakespeare makes the case in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that it is possible to control someone else's actions or not. In Unit 3, students will write a "confessional" narrative from the point of view of one of the characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to creatively explain his or her attempts to control or manipulate someone else in the play. **This performance task centers on standards NYSP12 ELA CCLS RL.8.2**, **RL.8.3**, **W.8.3**, **W.8.4**, **W.8.9a**, and **W.11b**.

Guiding Questions And Big Ideas

- Why do Shakespeare's works hold a universal appeal?
- What motivates people to try to control each other's actions?
- Is it possible for people to control each other's actions?



Performance Task

After studying the thematic concept of control throughout *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, students will write a narrative as a "confessional" in which a character from the play explains his or her attempts to control or manipulate someone else in the play to get what they want. This writing piece will meet criteria for an effective narrative, including a logical introduction, event sequence, and reflective conclusion; narrative techniques; transitions; description; and correct grammar. Students' confessionals will answer three guiding questions: "Why did you want to control someone else's actions?"; "How did you try to control someone else's actions?"; and, finally, "What were the results of your trying to control someone else's actions?" Each student will read aloud his or her confessional to a small group of peers. Teachers have the option of choosing to make this a multimedia project (addressing NYSP12 ELA CCLS W.8.6) by having students record their read-alouds of these narratives in character. **This performance task centers on standards NYSP12 ELA CCLS RL.8.2, RL.8.3, W.8.3, W.8.4, W.8.9a, and W.11b.**

Content Connections

This module is designed to address English language arts standards as students read A Midsummer Night's Dream and read informational text about the universal appeal of Shakespeare. However, the module intentionally incorporates Social Studies Practices and Themes to support potential interdisciplinary connections to this compelling content.

These intentional connections are described below.

Big ideas and guiding questions are informed by the New York State Common Core K-8 Social Studies Framework:

- 1. Time, Continuity, and Change
 - Considering competing interpretations of events



CCS Standards: Reading—Literature	Long-Term Learning Targets	
• RL.8.1. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	I can cite text-based evidence that provides the strongest support for my analysis of literary text.	
• RL.8.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.	 I can determine a theme or the central ideas of literary text. I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot). I can objectively summarize literary text. 	
• RL.8.3. Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	
 RL.8.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. 	 I can determine the meaning of words and phrases in literary text (figurative, connotative, and technical meanings) I can analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone (analogies or allusions). 	
• RL.8.5. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.	 I can compare and contrast the structure of multiple texts. I can analyze how different structures impact meaning and style of a text. 	
• RL.8.6. Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.		
 RL.8.7. Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors. 	 I can analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production follows the text or script of the same literary text. I can evaluate the choices made by director or actors in presenting an interpretation of a script. 	



CCS Standards: Reading—Literature	Long-Term Learning Targets	
 RL.8.9. Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new. 	• I can analyze the connections between modern fiction, myths, traditional stories, or religious works (themes, patterns of events, character types).	
• RL.8.11. Interpret, analyze, and evaluate narratives, poetry, and drama, artistically and ethically by making connections to: other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations.	• I can interpret, analyze, and evaluate narratives, poetry, and drama artistically by making connections to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, time periods, personal events, and situations.	
a. Self-select text to develop personal preferences.	I can select texts to read to develop personal choices in reading.	
 Establish and use criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces. 	• I can evaluate and make informed judgments about the quality of texts based on a set of criteria.	

CCS Standards: Reading—Informational Texts	Long-Term Learning Targets	
• RI.8.1. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	• I can cite text-based evidence that provides the strongest support for an analysis of literary text.	
• RI.8.2. Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.	 I can determine the central ideas of an informational text. I can analyze the development of a central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to supporting ideas). I can objectively summarize informational text. 	
• RI.8.5. Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.	I can analyze the structure of a specific paragraph in a text (including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept).	
RI.8.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.	 I can determine an author's point of view or purpose in informational text. I can analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. 	



CCS Standards: Reading—Informational Texts	Long-Term Learning Targets
• RI.8.7. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different media (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.	• I can evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different media to present an idea.
 RI.8.8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced. 	 I can identify the argument and specific claims in a text. I can evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text (assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims). I can identify when irrelevant evidence is used.

CCS Standards: Writing	Long-Term Learning Targets
W.8.1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.	I can write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
a. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.	
 Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. 	
 Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. 	
d. Establish and maintain a formal style.	
e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.	



CCS Standards: Writing	Long-Term Learning Targets	
 W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. 	I can write narrative texts about real or imagined experiences using relevant details and event sequences that make sense.	
a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.		
 Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. 		
c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.		
 d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events. 		
e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.		
• W.8.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Gradespecific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)	I can produce clear and coherent writing that is appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.	
 W.8.5. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. 	With support from peers and adults, I can use the writing process to ensure that purpose and audience have been addressed.	





CCS Standards: Writing	Long-Term Learning Targets	
• W.8.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.	I can write narrative texts about real or imagined experiences using relevant details and event sequences that make sense.	
a. Apply grade 8 reading standards to literature (e.g., "Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new").		
b. Apply <i>grade 8 reading standards</i> to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced").		
• W.8.11. Create a presentation, artwork, or text in response to a literary work with a commentary that identifies, connects, and explains divergences from the original.	 I can create a presentation, piece of artwork, or a text in response to a piece of literature. I can comment on how my work connects to and diverges from the original 	
a. Make well-supported, personal, cultural, textual, and thematic connections across genres.	literature.	
b. Create poetry, stories, plays, and other literary forms (e.g., videos, artwork).		



CCS Standards: Speaking and Listening	Long-Term Learning Targets
 SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. 	 I can effectively engage in discussions with diverse partners about eighth-grade topics, texts, and issues. I can express my own ideas clearly during discussions. I can build on others' ideas during discussions.
d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.	



CCS Standards: Language	Long-Term Learning Targets	
• L.8.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	I can use correct grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	
 Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences. 		
b. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.		
c. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.		
d. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.		
 L.8.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. c. Spell correctly. 	I can use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to send a clear message to my reader.	
• L.8.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.	I can analyze figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.	
a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context.		
b. Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.		
c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).		





Texts

- 1. William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream. Folger Shakespeare Library (ISBN: 978-0743482813).
- 2. "Top Ten Reasons Shakespeare Did Not Write Shakespeare" from the ebook, "The Shakespeare Authorship Question" by Keir Cutler, Ph.D.
- 3. Simon Schama, "The Shakespeare Shakedown," in Newsweek (Vol. 158, Issue 17), Oct. 24, 2011, 24.
- 4. Robert W. Butler, "The Lure of Shakespeare," in Calliope (Vol. 15, Issue 8), April 2005, 37.
- 5. Jonathan Bate, "Shakespeare's Universal Appeal Examined," in DNA, April 24, 2012.
- 6. A Midsummer Night's Dream, film directed by Michael Hoffman, 1999.
- 7. Peggy O'Brien, ed., *Shakespeare Set Free: Teaching Romeo & Juliet, Macbeth & A Midsummer Night's Dream* (New York: Washington Square Press, 1993), ISBN: 978-0-671-76046-5. (One copy for the teacher as a resource.)



Calendared Curriculum Map: Week at a Glance

Note: As each unit is written, often assessments are revised. Use this document as a general guideline. But be sure to refer to each specific unit overview document for the most correct and complete write-ups of each assessment.

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments	
Unit 1: Building Background Knowledge: Understanding Shakespeare				
Weeks 1-3	 Building background knowledge about the universal appeal of Shakespeare's works Studying the question surrounding the authorship of Shakespeare Analyzing text structure Determining the central idea and supporting details Analyzing the author's perspective 	 I can cite text-based evidence that provides the strongest support for an analysis of literary text. (RI.8.1) I can analyze the development of a central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to supporting ideas). (RI.8.2) I can objectively summarize informational text. (RI.8.2) I can analyze the structure of a specific paragraph in a text (including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept). (RI.8.5) I can determine an author's point of view or purpose in informational text. (RI.8.6) I can analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. (RI.8.6) I can evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different media to present an idea. (RI.8.7) I can identify the argument and specific claims in a text. (RI.8.8) I can evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text (assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims). (RI.8.8) 		

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments
Weeks 1-3. continued	 Launching A Midsummer Night's Dream Reading Shakespeare: Understanding Shakespeare's Language Analyzing a thematic concept of the play 	 I can determine a theme or the central ideas of a literary text. (RL 8.2) I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (RL 8.3) I can determine the meaning of words and 	Mid-Unit 1 Assessment: Analyzing an Author's Argument and Text Structure (RI.8.2, RI.8.5, and RI.8.6)
		phrases in literary text (figurative, connotative, and technical meanings). (RL 8.4)	
		• I can objectively summarize informational text. (RI.8.2)	
		• I can determine the central ideas of an informational text. (RI.8.2)	
		 I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to supporting ideas). (RI.8.2) 	
I can analyze the structure of a specific paragraph in a text (including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept). (RI.8.5)		paragraph in a text (including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining	
		 I can determine an author's point of view or purpose in informational text. (RI.8.6) 	
		• I can analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. (RI.8.6)	

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments
Weeks 1-3, continued	 Analyzing a Thematic Concept in the Play Analyzing Author's Craft: The Poetry and Prose in the Play 	• I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to supporting ideas). (RL.8.2)	• End of Unit 1 Assessment: Text to Film Comparison (RL.8.1, RL.8.2, RL.8.6, and RL.8.7)
	Text to Film Comparison	• I can determine a theme or the central ideas of a literary text. (RL 8.2)	
		• I can objectively summarize literary text. (RL 8.2)	
		• I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (RL.8.3)	
		• I can analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone (analogies or allusions). (RL.8.4)	
		• I can analyze how difference in points of view between characters and audience create effects in writing. (RL.8.6)	
		• I can analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production follows the text or script of the same literary text. (RL.8.7)	
		• I can evaluate the choices made by the director or actors in presenting an interpretation of a script. (RL.8.7)	

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments		
Unit 2: Workin	Unit 2: Working with Evidence: "What Fools These Mortals Be"				
Weeks 4-7	 Analyzing Character and the Thematic Concept of Control Author's craft: the Play Within the Play 	I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot). (RL.8.2)			
		• I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (RL.8.3)			
		• I can analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone (analogies or allusions). (RL.8.4)			
		• I can analyze the connections between modern fiction and myths, traditional stories or religious works (themes, patterns of events, character types). (RL.8.9)			
		I can analyze figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.			

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments
Weeks 4-7, continued	 Analyzing how Shakespeare's Play draws upon Greek Mythology Analyzing the Thematic Concept of Control in "Pyramus and Thisbe" Leaving the Play: All's Well that Ends Well 	 I can determine a theme or the central ideas of literary text. (RL.8.2) I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot). (RL.8.2) I can objectively summarize literary text. (RL.8.2) I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (RL.8.3) I can analyze how different structures impact meaning and style of a text. (RL.8.5) I can compare and contrast the structure of multiple texts. (RL.8.5) I can analyze the connections between modern fiction and myths, traditional stories or religious works (themes, patterns of events, character types). (RL.8.9) I can analyze figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings. (L.8.5a) 	Mid Unit 2 Assessment: Analyzing Narrative Structure and Author's Craft (RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.9, and L8.5a)

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments
Weeks 4-7, continued	 Launching Independent Reading Analyzing and Evaluating a Model Essay Studying Argument & Crafting a Claim Writing an Argument Essay Launching the Performance Task: Prompt, Characters, Groups 	 I can cite text-based evidence that provides the strongest support for my analysis of literary text. (RL.8.1) I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot). (RL.8.2) I can identify the argument and specific claims in a text. (RI.8.8) I can analyze how an author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. (RI.8.6) I can select texts to read to develop personal choices in reading. (RL.8.11a) I can write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. (W.8.1) I can produce clear and coherent writing that is appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (W.8.4) With support from peers and adults, I can use a writing process to ensure that purpose and audience have been addressed. (W.8.5) I can select evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (W.8.9) I can effectively engage in discussions with diverse partners about eighth-grade topics, texts, and issues. (SL.8.1) 	• End of Unit 2 Assessment: Argument Essay: Controlling Others in A Midsummer Night's Dream (RI.8.2, W.8.1, W.8.1b, W.8.1c, W8.1d, W8.1e, and W.9a, L.8.2, L.8.2a, and L.8.2b)



Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets (continued)	Assessments
Weeks 4-7, continued		 I can use correct grammar and usage when writing or speaking. (L.8.1) I can use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to send a clear message to my reader. (L.8.2) 	

Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets	Assessments
Unit 3: Perfo	rmance Task: Character Confessional Narra	tive	
Week 8	 Analyzing a Model of the Character Confessional Narrative Analyzing the Narrative Rubric Drafting the Narrative Peer Critique of Narrative Final Draft of the Narrative Sharing the Narrative 	 I can cite text-based evidence that provides the strongest support for my analysis of literary text. (RL.8.1) I can determine a theme or the central ideas of literary text. (RL.8.2) I can analyze the development of a theme or central idea throughout the text (including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot). (RL.8.2) I can objectively summarize literary text. (RL.8.2) I can analyze how specific dialogue or incidents in a plot propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. (RL.8.3) I can write narrative texts about real or imagined experiences using relevant details and event sequences that make sense. (W.8.3) I can produce clear and coherent writing that is appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (W.8.4) With support from peers and adults, I can use the writing process to ensure that purpose and audience have been addressed. (W.8.5) 	 Mid-Unit 3 Assessment: Confessional Narrative Character and Scene Selection: Justification (RL.8.1, and W.8.11b) End of Unit 3 Assessment: Commentary on Confessional (RL.8.2, RL.8.3, W.8.11, and W.8.11b) Final Performance Task: Character Confessional Narrative (RL.8.2, RL.8.3, W.8.3, W.8.4, W.8.9a, and W.11b)



Week	Instructional Focus	Long-Term Targets (continued)	Assessments
Week 8		 I can create a presentation, artwork, or text in response to a literary work with a commentary that identifies connections and explains divergences from the original. (W.8.11) I can create poetry, stories, and other literary forms. (W.8.11b) 	