

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

English Language Arts, 11th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The author writes this memoir as a letter to his son about some of the difficulties he will face as an African-American man in the United States after many stories in the news focused on deaths of young black people being killed by people in authority. This memoir provides students a way to see how people of different races deal with racism in the United States from a personal experience and a modern perspective.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Language and Perspective**
 - Essential Questions: “How do texts reflect society both historically and linguistically?” and “How can crafting your story reflect personal identity?”
- **Unit 2: Complex Issues**
 - Essential Questions: “How does written language challenge and change an individual’s mind?” and “What role does the writer play in challenging and changing an individual’s mind?”
- **Unit 4: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Questions: “How can we challenge and develop our perspective on a real world issue?” and “How can I use my voice to create an impactful contribution?”

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text. RI.11.2
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading. RI.11.10
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. RI.11.1
- Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text. RI.11.3

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- Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging. RI.11.5
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of the text. RI.11.6

**based on BV School District Curriculum adopted Fall 2020*