

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn**

English Language Arts, 11th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The fictional island of Nollop is situated southeast of Charleston, South Carolina, and is named after the famed Nevin Nollop, creator of the pangram “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.” This epistolary story is told through the eyes of 18-year-old Ella Minnow Pea, the heroine of the book, and satirizes the politics of a dictatorial Nollopian Council, which bans the use of letters that have fallen from the commemorative statue of the pangram. This decree has far-reaching implications, and Ella soon finds herself racing to find an end to the chaos as citizens of the island are banished for using the forbidden letters. The humor is enhanced by Ella’s own limited use of the letters and her attempts to circumvent the council’s ruling by resorting to phonetic spelling.

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 3: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Questions: “How does sustained inquiry of the past inform and motivate change?” and “How do we prepare for an uncertain future?”

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. RL.11.2
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant. RL.11.6
- Demonstrate knowledge of foundational works of American and world literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics. RL.11.9
- 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. RL.11.1

Updated Spring 2021

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