

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Heart of Darkness is Joseph Conrad's account of Marlow's literal journey into the jungles of the Congo and his figurative journey into the heart of man's humanity and potential for inhumanity. Marlow and the narrator search for meaning in a troubling and complex world as they seek Kurtz, a man whose intentions have gone horribly awry.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **Unit 1: Language and Perspective**
 - Essential Question: "How does language influence perspective?"
- **Unit 4: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Question: "How can reading reveal universal truths about the human experience?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- 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. RL.12.1
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 11–12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.12.11
- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama. RL.12.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. RL.12.4
- 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.12.6
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text. RL.12.7
- 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.12.9
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to

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- comprehend more fully when reading.RL.12.10
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.12.12

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