

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

## ***Hot Zone* by Richard Preston**

### **English Language Arts, 12th Grade**

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

In *Hot Zone*, Richard Preston gives the account of an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., in 1980. Secret government forces are mobilized to stop the spread of the “hot” virus from the rainforest of Africa. USAMRIID (U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases) and the civilian operated CDC (Center for Disease Control) are locked in a struggle to deal with a situation for which neither is prepared. Preston provides enough riveting information about the enigmatic Ebola virus to arouse the reader’s curiosity as well as foster proper respect for microbial life.

#### 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 2: Complex Issues**
  - Essential Questions: “How can examining complex issues from different perspectives influence people?” “How can we effectively present ideas and address other viewpoints?”
- **Unit 3: Personal Responsibility**
  - Essential Question: “How does personal responsibility affect not only the individual but also the world as a whole?”

#### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems. RL.12.13
- 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.12.2
- 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. RL.12.5
- 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 comprehend more fully when reading. RL.12.10