

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

## ***Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell**

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

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers" - the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

#### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM\*

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

- **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?"

#### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- 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.12.5
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in media or formats as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem. RI.12.7
- Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. and world texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy. RI.12.8
- Analyze foundational documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features. RI.12.9
- Read and comprehend grade-level appropriate nonfiction literature. RI.12.13