

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***The Art of Work* by James Coughlin and Christine LaRocco**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

This anthology of workplace literature includes poems, short stories, and drama about workers and their lives. Because of these workplace themes, students can focus on their lives as workers and participants in a society where most days are spent working. The fictional and nonfictional characters in this anthology seek meaning in their lives that transcends the time clock and paycheck.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **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
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.12.12
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. W.12.4
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. SL.12.6
- Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. SL.12.8