

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

This is a coming-of-age tale about a young girl named Kya in the swamp marshes of North Carolina. Called “Marsh Girl” by the local townsfolk, Kya is forced to survive on her own when her mother, father, and all her siblings abandon her. Isolated and alone, she finds solace in teaching herself about her surroundings, learning to read even without attending school. Her life begins to change when two young men from town find themselves intrigued by her wild beauty and rare intelligence. When one of those young men is found dead, Kya becomes the main suspect in his murder.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **Unit 3: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Question: "How does personal responsibility affect not only the individual but also the world as a whole?"
- **Unit 4: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Question: "How can reading reveal universal truths about the human experience?"

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.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
- 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