

***Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger**

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Eleven-year-old Reuban Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest, has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a crosscountry search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

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

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: “How do adversity and environment influence an individual’s behavior and identity?”
- **Unit 2: Impacting Others**
 - Essential Question: “How does an individual shape his or her environment? How does one influence others?”
- **Unit 3: Seeking Knowledge**
 - Essential Question: “How and where do I find knowledge outside of my own experience? How do I incorporate this knowledge into future inquiry?”

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. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9

- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12
- Analyze documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts. RI.10.9
- Read and comprehend high quality dramas, prose, and poetry of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for grade 10. RL.10.13
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.10.11
- 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 or listening. RL.10.10