

NEXUS

LITERATURE-BASED • INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM UNITS

VISUAL POETRY

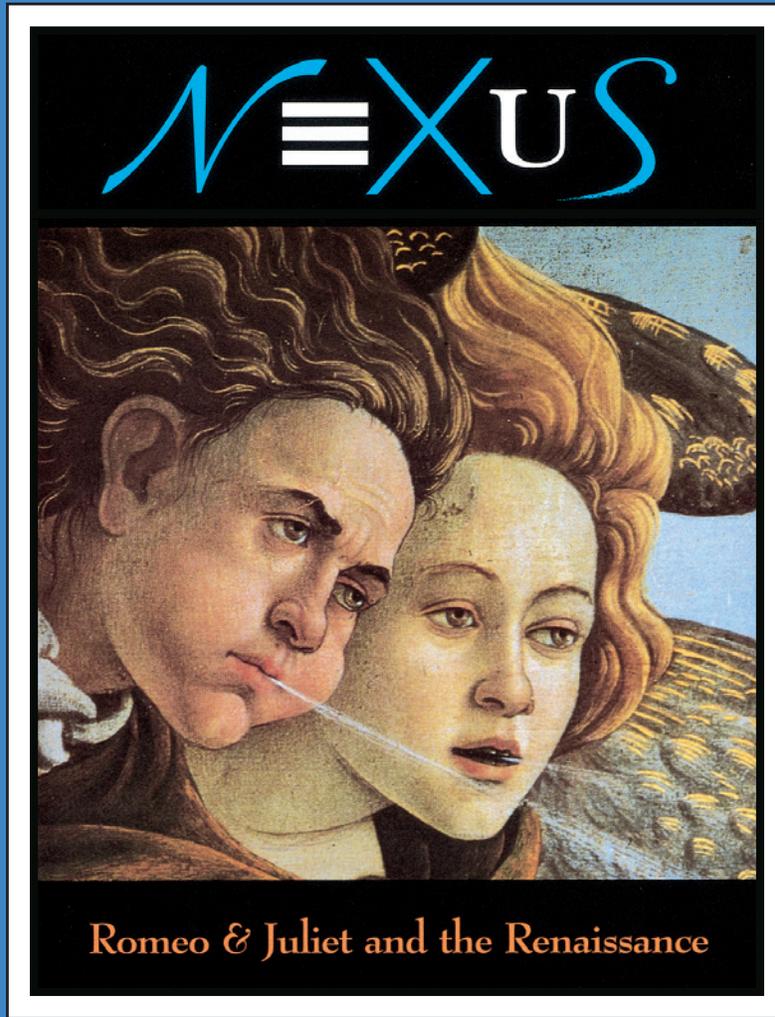
ANECDOTALLY RICH

CONNECTIONS

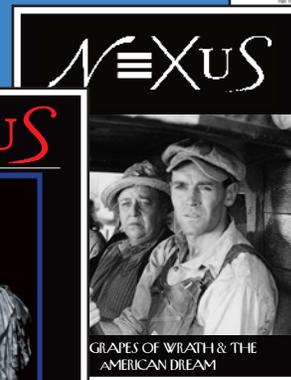
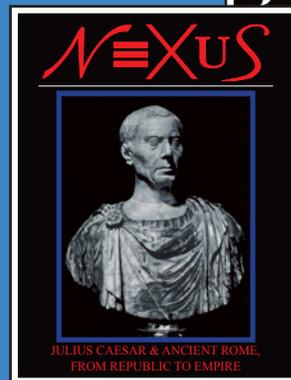
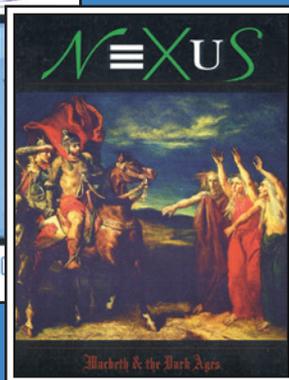
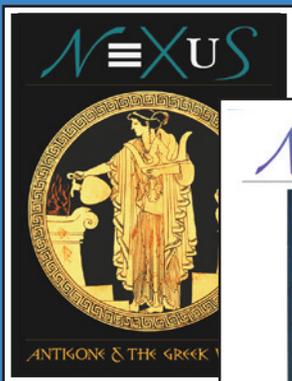
INTERDISCIPLINARY

POWERFUL LINKS TO STUDENTS' LIVES

CROSS-CURRICULUM THINKING SKILLS

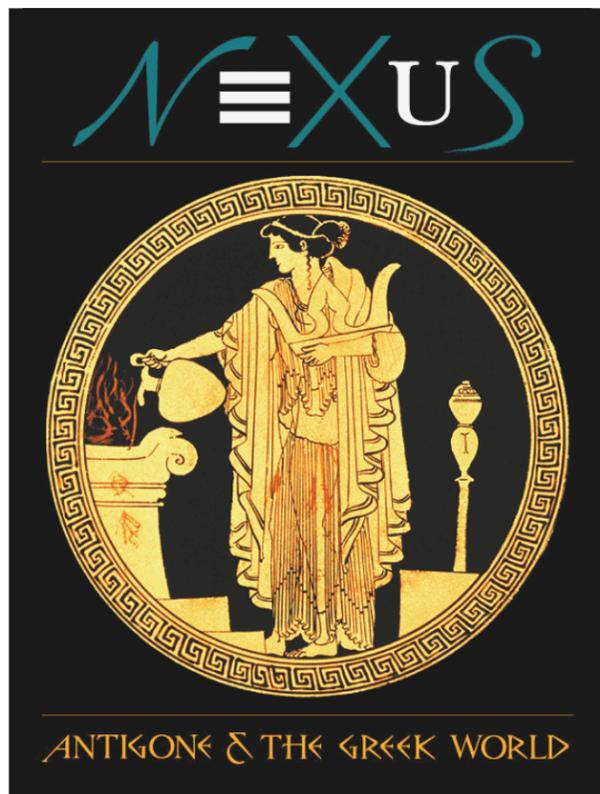
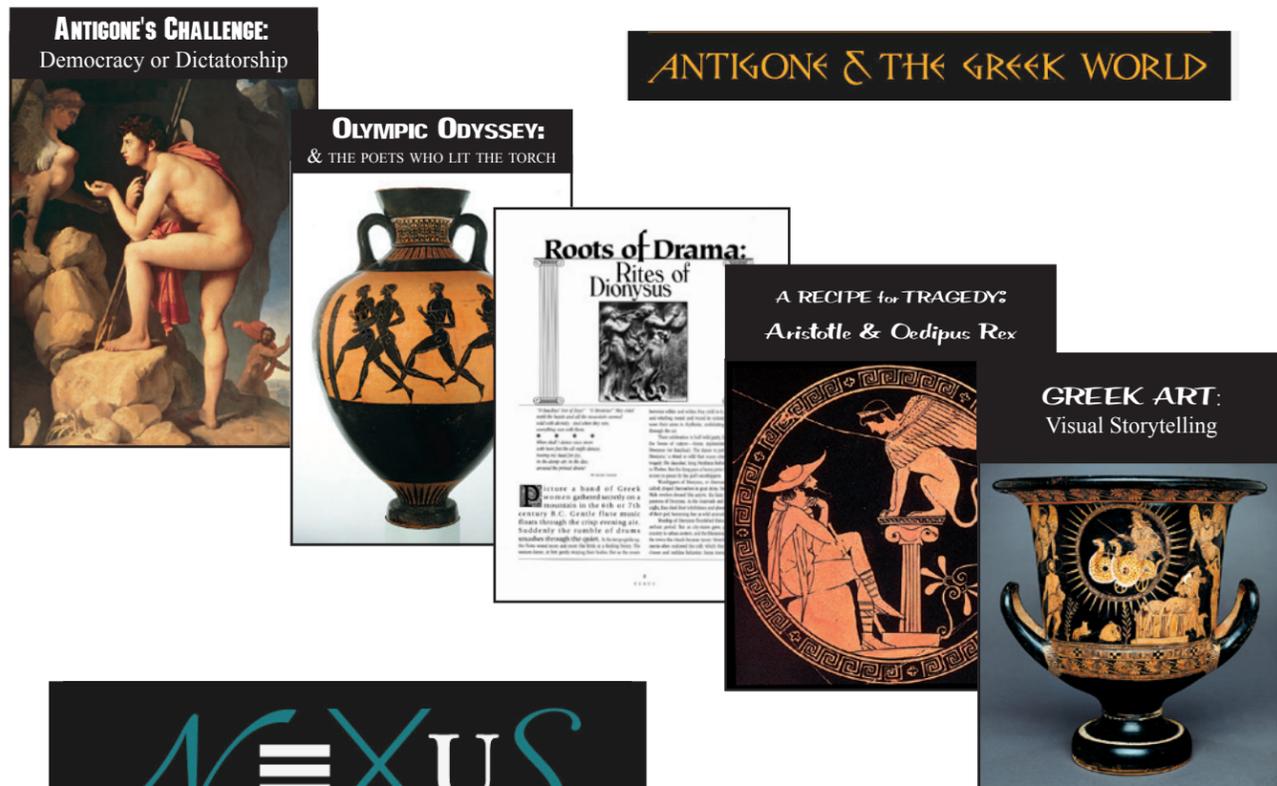


"All NEXUS volumes emphasize critical skills and analogical thinking." —The College Board



GRADES 8-12

INTEGRATED *ANTIGONE* UNIT



In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Sophocles' play in relation to 5th-century Greek history, theater, poetry, art, music, religion, sports, & science.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include balance, contrasts, and symmetry in drama, vase painting, sculpture, and dance.
- ◆ Students also learn some of Aristotles' and Archimedes' thinking processes.
- ◆ Includes 6 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, dance, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY *ANTIGONE & THE GREEK WORLD*

LITERATURE & HISTORY

ANTIGONE'S REBELLION, DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP: This chapter explores Antigone's rebellion, Sophocle's use of contrasts/opposites in his themes, language, plot and characterization, and the politics of Greek theater.

A RECIPE FOR TRAGEDY, ARISTOTLE & OEDIPUS REX: This chapter uses accessible and key sections of Aristotle's *Poetics* to explore *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*.

ROOTS OF DRAMA—RITES OF DIONYSUS: Evolution of Greek drama from the Dionysiac festivals.

WHEN THE GODS RULED: A colorful introduction to Greek religion from the time of Homer through the 5th century B.C.

GREEK MYTHS & MODERN MAN: 19th- and 20th- century interpretations of Greek myths (Keats, Tennyson and Freud).

OLYMPIC ODYSSEY & THE POETS WHO LIT THE TORCH: We take students back in time to the ancient Olympic games, where they meet both the athletes and the sports writers of the games—poets like Pindar who celebrated the sports stars of the era. This chapter includes a section on "Women at the Games."

THE HISTORY OF FIFTH-CENTURY GREECE: In this two-part chapter we revisit the Persian Wars (using a narrative style with excerpts from Aeschylus' *The Persians*, and Herodotus' and Thucydides' histories), the Birth of Democracy, and the beginning of the Peloponnesian War.

"NEXUS is a remarkable publication, one of the best of its kind for promoting interdisciplinary work by students. Each volume reflects careful research & is filled with information that both engages students & advances their understanding of how the disciplines complement each other." Gene Maeroff, Director of the Hechinger Institute on Education & Media, Teachers College, Columbia University, former Senior Fellow of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, & former National Education Correspondent for the *New York Times*

ART, MUSIC & SCIENCE LINKED TO LITERATURE

GREEK ART—VISUAL STORYTELLING: This chapter teaches students to read the visual "figurative language" and narrative scenes on Greek vases.

SCULPTURE & SYMMETRY: The evolution of Greek sculpture from kouros to Polykleitos.

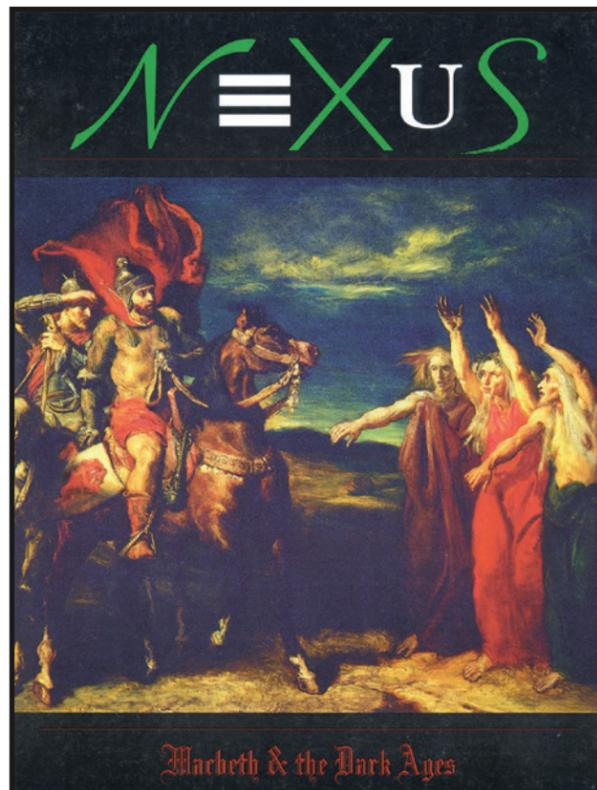
THE ART OF THE MUSES: ANCIENT GREEK MUSIC: Students learn the role of music and rhythm in drama, how to transcribe Ancient Greek music into modern notation, and how to make a panpipe.

THE WIZARD OF SYRACUSE: Students learn one of Archimedes' modes of discovery.

PLUS 6 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: The Big Three (explores how the three great tragedians reflect their eras), Writing You Own Drama, Melos & Athens Hubris: The Turning Point of the Peloponnesian War, *The Trojan Women*, Greek Dance, & Keats's Greek Odes.

INTEGRATED *MACBETH* UNIT

MACBETH & THE DARK AGES



In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Macbeth in relation to 11th-17th-century Scottish & British history, medieval art & music, Renaissance witch lore, & science.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include visual and verbal metaphor, contrasts, and patterns in drama, medieval manuscript illumination, and music.
- ◆ Students also learn how to recognize and interpret the major themes of the play.
- ◆ Includes 4 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY *MACBETH & THE DARK AGES*

LITERATURE & HISTORY

STAGING SHAKESPEARE—AN INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD ROSE: Stratford director Rose teaches students to read the subtext of *Macbeth* from multiple viewpoints and to stage the play with a modern spin.

WORD WARS: Explores Shakespeare's figurative language, especially opposites/contrasts in *Macbeth* when these reflect the play's themes.

FATAL PASSION, THE WAR WITHIN: Investigates the struggle between conscience and instinct (ambition) in the play and looks at how this struggle shapes the plot of *Macbeth* and is reflected in figures of speech.

CAULDRON OF CHAOS, WITCHES IN SCOTLAND & ENGLAND: Examines the role of the witches and their familiars in *Macbeth*, especially with regard to the superstition that witches had the power to turn the natural order (in both nature and governments) upside-down — "fair is foul".

VIKINGS IN MACBETH: Examines the history of the Viking assaults on Scotland and the Scottish factionalism that it provoked, helping students better understand and appreciate the opening and closing scenes of the play.

ROYAL MURDER & THE REAL MACBETH: Introduces students to the real Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, and Malcolm.

ENGLAND'S "HOLY KING," EDWARD THE CONFESSOR: Explores Edward the Confessor's role as an exemplary king in *Macbeth*. It also looks closely at Edward's reign and the events that led to the Battle of Hastings.

"The wonderfully rich historical background—colorful anecdotes and clear, conversational accounts of family ties, political motives, events, and phenomena—will definitely enhance students' study of the play." — The College Board

ART, MUSIC & SCIENCE LINKED TO LITERATURE

BAYEUX & THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS: We examine the Bayeux Tapestry both as a work of art and a window into English & Scottish history.

UNRAVELING THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY: The second part of this chapter teaches students to read the pictorial language of the tapestry.

BOOKS OF LIGHT—ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS: Examines patterns and limited color palette in medieval manuscripts from the Irish Book of Kells to the golden age of illumination in the 12th century.

MAKING MANUSCRIPTS, THE MONK'S ART: Takes students through the stages of illumination and includes examples of works in progress by a modern illuminator.

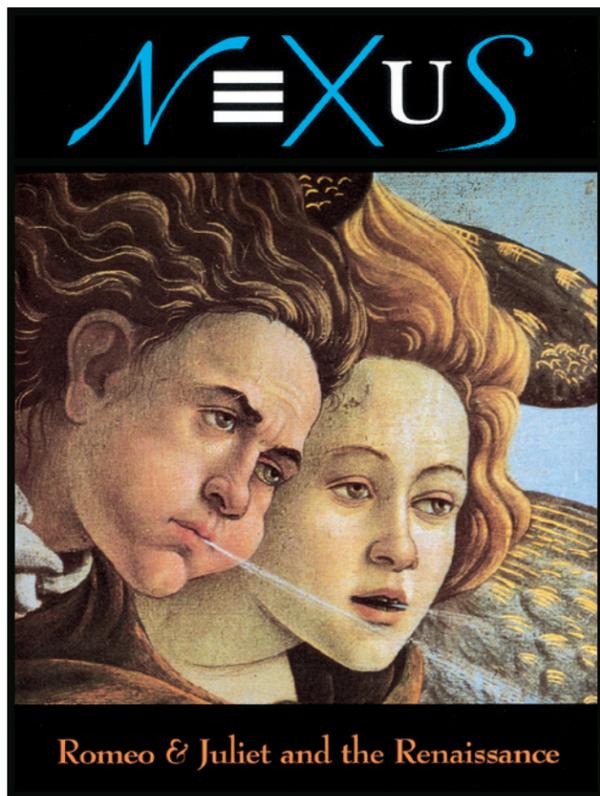
AN 11TH-CENTURY MUSICAL REVOLUTIONARY: Examines the work of Guido of Arezzo, whose important book on medieval music theory, *Micrologus*, laid the foundation for Western musical notation. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of recognizing musical patterns in sight singing.

THE TREBUCHET, THE NIGHTMARE WEAPON OF THE MIDDLE AGES: We explore the history and physics associated with the most powerful weapon of the Middle Ages.

PLUS 4 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE; ST. MARGARET & HER ROYAL SONS; BRAVEHEART & THE BRUCE: SCOTLAND'S HEROES; & MEDIEVAL ARMOR & THE AGE OF KNIGHTS.

INTEGRATED *ROMEO & JULIET* UNIT

ROMEO & JULIET AND THE RENAISSANCE



Romeo & Juliet and the Renaissance

In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Shakespeare's figurative language, metaphor & myth in the play and in Renaissance art, Shakespeare's theater, Renaissance fashion as it reflects the period and clarifies parts of the play, the history of the real Capulets and Montagues, and more.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include metaphor/analogy in the play, in Renaissance painting and in physics (the discovery process of Galileo and Da Vinci), as well as patterns in literature and music.
- ◆ Includes 2 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY *ROMEO & JULIET* AND THE RENAISSANCE

LITERATURE & HISTORY

SHAKESPEARE'S THEATER: Takes students to a 17th-century performance of *Romeo & Juliet* so they can see how the logistics of the Elizabethan stage affected the way Shakespeare wrote.

THE RENAISSANCE: Links Shakespeare to the Renaissance humanist tradition.

ITALIAN FAMILY FEUDS: This chapter places the Montague/Capulet feud in its true historical context, which clarifies many key aspects of the play. Also, Italian family feuds are linked to the birth of the Renaissance.

WORD GAMES: Using game formats, this chapter examines four language patterns that Shakespeare uses over and over in his plays. For example, Shakespeare's wit exchanges are taught as games of Pun Pin Pong. Shakespeare's use of opposites is compared to contrasts in rock lyrics. We also examine his period-specific metaphors, which are windows into themes of the play and help students better understand the period.

FASHION, THE MIRROR OF HISTORY: Mercutio's fashion statements (regarding French styles) are a point of departure for examining Renaissance fashions that reflect the manners and mores of the period.

THE REBIRTH OF VENUS—MYTHOLOGY IN ART & LITERATURE: This chapter looks at the rebirth of Greco-Roman mythology and explores it in *Romeo and Juliet* and in paintings by Botticelli.

With an impressive group of contributors and consultants, Publisher/Editor Jesse Bryant Wilder has put together a stunning set of challenging materials that will provide outstanding learning experiences for secondary students.

TEMPO, G&T journal of Texas.

ART, MUSIC & SCIENCE LINKED TO LITERATURE

THE EXPLORES OF PICTURE SPACE, AGE OF REDISCOVERY: One-point perspective is taught using Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. We read the metaphors and contrasts in the painting with the aid of student-friendly quotes from the writings of Leonardo.

LEONARDO DA VINCI—RENAISSANCE MAN: Students learn to emulate several features of Leonardo's discovery processes.

SOUNDS & ROUNDS OF THE RENAISSANCE: This chapter teaches students one of the composition methods of the Renaissance, imitative counterpoint.

CHILD STARS OF STAGE & SONG: This chapter looks at the phenomenon of boy actors (many of whom were members of children's choirs) playing the women's roles in Shakespeare's plays.

CHARIOTS OF THE SKY: Explores how Leonardo da Vinci used observation and analogy to discover the secrets of flight.

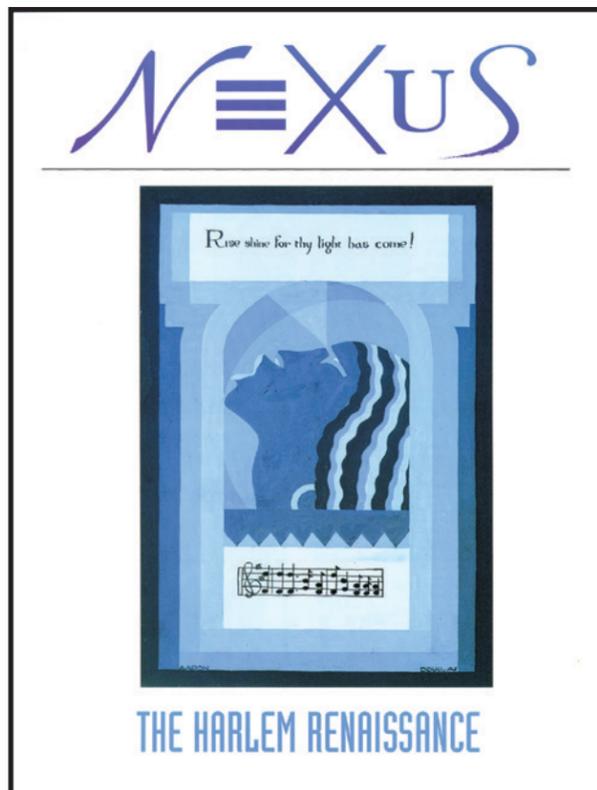
GALILEO, THE MAN & THE MOON: Explores Galileo's discovery process—how he used analogy to discover there are mountains on the moon.

THE SPOTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: Galileo and the sunspot controversy.

PLUS 2 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: MERCUTIO vs. MR. MANNERS; ENGLISH THEATER; and 7 ONLINE LESSONS.

INTEGRATED HARLEM RENAISSANCE UNIT

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE



In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Harlem Renaissance poetry, short stories and plays in relation to African-American history, music, theater and art.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include metaphor, contrasts, and patterns in literature, art, and music.
- ◆ Students also learn the guiding Harlem Renaissance philosophies of W.E.B. Du Bois and others.
- ◆ Includes 2 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and theater as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

LITERATURE & HISTORY

WHEN HARLEM WAS HEAVEN: An electrifying overview of the Harlem Renaissance, the Jazz Age and the Roaring Twenties.

HARLEM RAP, FIGURES OF SPEECH: A fun way to explicate figurative language using Harlem Slang and rap lyrics.

THE GREAT MIGRATION: Examines the events that led to the Harlem Renaissance, from Reconstruction through W.W.I.

UP FROM BAM—STORIES OF THE MIGRATION: We examine migration-related short stories by Zora Neale Hurston and Dorothy West and link them to black history and students' experiences.

SONGS OF THE SEVENTH SON: We help students interpret poems by Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps, Claude McKay, Helene Johnson, and others that were inspired by W.E.B. Du Bois's notion of "double-consciousness" and other period philosophies, prejudices, and outlooks.

BLACK THEATER: Traces the history of black theater from *Shuffle Along* to Langston Hughes's early comedies.

LANGSTON HUGHES + POETRY = BLUES: Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet Yusef Komunyakaa explores Langston Hughes's blues and jazz-influenced poetry.

HUGHES'S INFLUENCE ON LATER POETS: Yusef Komunyakaa explores Hughes's influence on contemporary poetry.

"Songs of the Seventh Son" is one of many thoughtful chapters in the *Harlem Renaissance* volume of NEXUS...Each volume... is a hybrid of a well-written interdisciplinary textbook and a lively, attractive magazine." *Classroom Notes Plus*, NCTE

ART & MUSIC LINKED TO LITERATURE

RENAISSANCE VISIONS—THE ART OF AARON DOUGLAS:

Teaches students to "read" the visual metaphors, contrasts and symbols of leading Harlem Renaissance artist Aaron Douglas and the black history that his paintings and murals chronicle.

JELLY 'N JAZZ:

This chapter explores the music of Jelly Roll Morton, emphasizing pattern recognition, and teaches students to recognize and write jazz counterpoint, i.e., New Orleans polyphony.

ROOTS OF THE BLUES:

Teaches students to understand the structure of the blues and its West African roots.

DAT FEEL GOOD ACHE: DA BLUES:

Chronicles the evolution of the blues from the Mississippi Delta to the Chicago Blues.

PLUS 2 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: STRUCTURE OF THE BLUES & Creating Illustrated Blues Poems based on a Langston Hughes/Aaron Douglas collaboration.

INTEGRATED LION IN WINTER UNIT

THE LION IN WINTER & THE MIDDLE AGES

COURTLY LOVE
AN ATTITUDE TOWARD
I taught you dancing, art, and language and
how and how to love what's best

THE LOVE POETS
I had at one time, most often
I loved poetry and power and the young men who came

Arab Astronomy
The sky is packed with stars
What eyes the star man must have had to see a star in

troubadours of ROCK

GREGORIAN CHANT

NEXUS
Fall 1995 vol. 1

The Lion in Winter and the Middle Ages

In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

- Goldman's modern classic in relation to 12th-century feudalism, pilgrimages, relic cults, and the Crusades.
- The volume also examines the courtly love tradition in troubadour poetry and early Arthurian Romance as promoted by Eleanor of Aquitaine and her daughter Marie of Champagne.
- ◆ Gothic architecture, medieval music and medicine, and Arab astronomy are also explored in relation to the play and its historical characters.
- ◆ Includes 2 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY THE LION IN WINTER & THE MIDDLE AGES

LITERATURE & HISTORY

- THE PLAY'S THE THING:** Introduction to *The Lion in Winter*, its plot and characters, and we explore ways to stage the play.
- COURTLY LOVE, AN ATTITUDE TOWARD WOMEN:** Courtly love was disseminated throughout Europe from the courts of Eleanor of Aquitaine and her daughter Marie, the Countess of Champagne. It was also promoted in the Arthurian romances of Chretien de Troyes, one of which—*Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart*—was commissioned by Eleanor's daughter, Marie.
- THE LOVE POETS:** Companion piece to "Courtly Love..." This chapter looks at the lyrics and culture of the troubadours, focusing on troubadours connected with the Plantagenets and Eleanor of Aquitaine.
- PILGRIMAGE TO CRUSADE:** This chapter explores the Crusades in terms of characters in the play who participated in them, which makes these so-called "holy wars" fascinating and memorable to students. Their interest in Richard the Lionheart, Eleanor of Aquitaine and King Philip II of France transfers to the Crusades in which they participated.
- FEUDALISM:** Feudalism is examined in relation to the central conflict of the play, which again personalizes this aspect of European history for the students and captivates them. This approach gives students a much deeper understanding of both the play and the medieval world.
- RELIC CULTS & THE GUELPH TREASURE:** To understand the Crusades, one must first understand relic cults. In this chapter, we focus on the Guelph Treasure, a medieval collection of elaborate reliquaries, many of which were acquired by Eleanor and Henry's son-in-law, Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony. [This chapter also helps students better understand *The Canterbury Tales*, by clarifying the many allusions in Chaucer's work to relic cults.]
- MAGNA CARTA:** This chapter looks at the significance of the Magna Carta, then and now. [Students, of course, know the signer of the Magna Carta, King John, from the play and the Robin Hood legend.]

"Even if the play is not your principal focus, this unit is an excellent introduction to medieval life and literature." – The College Board

ART, MUSIC & SCIENCE LINKED TO LITERATURE

- GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE:** This chapter examines the birth of Gothic architecture and the blend of religion and politics that made it possible in the Ile de France during the reign of Louis VII, Eleanor of Aquitaine's first husband.
 - CHARTRES:** A sister story to "Gothic Architecture," this chapter takes students inside the great cathedral of Chartres.
 - GREGORIAN CHANT:** This chapter explores chant and its influence on later music, including a Simon & Garfunkle hit.
 - MUSIC FOR THOMAS BECKET:** This chapter examines medieval motets which were written in honor of Thomas Becket, Henry II's chancellor and later archbishop of Canterbury.
 - MEDIEVAL MEDICINE:** We explore the first experiential science, medieval medicine, which paved the way for modern experimental science.
 - ARABIC ASTRONOMY:** In the 12th century most astronomical advances were made in the Arabic world. We look at some Arabic contributions and offer several possible reasons why the West lagged behind.
 - PHYSICS OF THE CROSSBOW:** Leonardo da Vinci's studies of the aerodynamics of the crossbow. He also anticipated other laws of mechanics from his crossbow studies, including vector addition, Hooke's spring law, and the neutral plane.
 - TROUBADOURS OF ROCK:** To show students the relevance of troubadour culture today, we examine the lyrics of rock-and-roll poet/singers, who, to an extent, continue the medieval performance tradition.
- PLUS 3 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: Heraldry; The Struggle for the Vexin; and Characters & Places in the Play.

INTEGRATED *GRAPES OF WRATH* UNIT

STEINBECK IN FOCUS—
The Art of Seeing

WHEN THE LAND BLEW AWAY
The Dust Bowl Crisis

FDR & THE GREAT DEPRESSION
THE ABCS OF THE NEW DEAL

HARVESTING STEINBECK'S SYMBOLS ⇄

THE MAN BEHIND THE WRATH

THE GRAPES OF WRATH & THE AMERICAN DREAM

NEXUS

THE GRAPES OF WRATH & THE AMERICAN DREAM

In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Steinbeck's masterpiece in relation to the Dust Bowl crisis, the New Deal, WPA art and theater, Swing music, cinema, and science of the Great Depression.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include observation skills (as employed by Steinbeck) in literature and science, & theme/variation and repetition in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Depression music, and art.
- ◆ Includes 4 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY *THE GRAPES OF WRATH & THE AMERICAN DREAM*

LITERATURE & HISTORY

THE MAN BEHIND THE WRATH: We explore the influences that made John Steinbeck the man he was. We also examine Steinbeck's struggles with the powerful California Associated Farmers, members of Congress and the FBI.

WHEN THE LAND BLEW AWAY: We link the Dust Bowl crisis to Woody Guthrie's songs, to Dorothea Lange's photos for the Resettlement Administration, and to *The Grapes of Wrath*.

HARVESTING STEINBECK'S SYMBOLS: What is the purpose of chapter 3 in *The Grapes of Wrath* and its principal character, the relentless land turtle? We look at why Casy compares himself to the turtle, and we explore the spiritual evolution for which Casy strives.

STEINBECK IN FOCUS, THE ART OF SEEING: We focus on the truck driver's observation skills (chap. 2) as well as those of other characters and of Steinbeck himself. In the novel Steinbeck promotes empathy and teaches us to see through stereotypes. We explore how some people in *Grapes* use thought and language to rationalize their mistreatment of the "Okies."

MAN IN THE MACHINE AGE: We examine the many parallels between Charlie Chaplin's 1936 masterpiece *Modern Times* and Steinbeck's novel.

FDR & THE GREAT DEPRESSION, THE ABC'S OF THE NEW DEAL: We look at the causes of the Depression and Roosevelt's key New Deal programs, including AAA, which dramatically affected the Dust Bowl migration.

UNCLE SAM IN THE LIMELIGHT: We examine the Federal Theater Project, a very important and controversial leg of the WPA. In particular we focus on the Living Newspapers of the Federal Theater Project, which were dramatizations of current events. Living Newspapers are ideal for linking history, literature, journalism, and theater in collaborative student projects.

STEINBECK, THE GROUP THEATRE & PEOPLE'S THEATERS: This chapter explores views that Steinbeck and many 30's theater artists shared—a belief in the human family and a belief that art can and should provoke social change. In conjunction with this, we examine the most important theater movement in America, The Group Theater.

"The exercises in this exhilarating volume focus on observation skills; theme, variation, and repetition in the novel; period music, and art. Its 11 chapters reveal the social production of art in action by showing the interpenetration of all the arts—painting, music, film, journalism, theater, and novels—to produce social changes. **It is a sure-fire hit with students.**" —The College Board

ART, MUSIC & SCIENCE LINKED TO LITERATURE

NEW DEAL ART: We examine WPA and Treasury Department art, focusing on four murals that can be read like visual poems.

THE SCIENCE OF SEEING: Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts co-wrote *Sea of Cortez*. We show that Steinbeck used the same observation methods to investigate marine life in the Gulf of California as he does in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

THE DEPRESSION'S UPBEAT—SWING: We examine swing culture, the evolution of the music from Louis Armstrong's and Fletcher Henderson's bands, and the musical structure of swing.

PLUS 4 ONLINE SUPPLEMENTS: WORD PORTRAITS; THE HISTORY OF ART IN THE NEW DEAL ERA; AMERICA TRANSFORMED—THE WPA & THE ARTS; REPETITION IN MUSIC & LITERATURE. In the latter we compare Steinbeck's use of repetition in the global or general chapters of *The Grapes of Wrath* to the use of repetition in *Ecclesiastes*, Beethoven's 5th Symphony and Swing. (The use of repetition is also explored in visual art in the magazine chapter NEW DEAL ART.) In WORD PORTRAITS, students learn to write character sketches in the manner of Steinbeck, using observation skills and descriptive verbs.

INTEGRATED JULIUS CAESAR UNIT

JULIUS CAESAR & ANCIENT ROME FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

JULIUS CAESAR
Father of the Roman Empire

ROMAN ART
Reality or Mirage

GRUESOME GAMES:
The Gladiators & Arenas of Rome

AFTERMATH OF THE ASSASSINATION

Love Lessons, Censorship & THE POLITICS OF ROMAN POETRY

NEXUS

JULIUS CAESAR & ANCIENT ROME, FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

In this interdisciplinary unit students explore:

Figurative language and human insight passages in both the play and the writings of the real Julius Caesar, metaphor & myth in Roman poetry and art, the influence of Roman playwrights on Shakespeare, and the exciting history of the real characters in the play.

- ◆ Cross-curriculum thinking skills taught and exercised in this unit include metaphor in the play, and in Roman art, as well as patterns and contrasts.
- ◆ Includes 3 Online Supplements and guidelines with dozens of interdisciplinary activities in literature, history, art, music, and science as well as suggested ancillary readings for reports and further study.

CONTENT SUMMARY JULIUS CAESAR & ANCIENT ROME

JULIUS CAESAR: FATHER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: We introduce students to the flesh-and-blood Caesar, based on ancient accounts from Sallust, Appian, Dio Cassius, and Plutarch, as well as Cicero's letters and Caesar's own writings.

NOBLEST ROMAN: We explore the human side of the relationships between the real Brutus, Caesar, Cassius and Portia, which dramatically heightens students' interest in and understanding of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

AFTERMATH OF THE ASSASSINATION: We link the historical Mark Antony, Octavius/Augustus and Cicero to the play.

BLOOD OF THE REPUBLIC, BATTLE OF PHILIPPI: To bring acts IV and V of the play to life, we take students through a powerful, narrative re-enactment of the battle based on ancient accounts and modern scholarship.

GRUESOME GAMES: THE GLADIATORS & ARENAS OF ROME (with a SUPPLEMENT on Spartacus): Building on the interest in gladiators generated by Ridley Scott's film, we examine the Roman games and their political functions as employed by Julius Caesar and the emperors of Rome.

SHAKESPEARE, CAESAR & MYSTERIES OF THE MIND: Students learn to link Shakespeare's and Julius Caesar's (from *The Civil War*) human insight passages—passages that reveal aspects of human nature—to their own lives. They also explicate metaphors and other figurative language in the play and in Caesar's writings, in some cases with the aid of cartoons.

LOVE LESSONS, CENSORSHIP, & THE POLITICS OF ROMAN POETRY: We focus on Latin poems by Ovid, Horace & Catullus (many of them humorous) that reflect Roman life and help students better understand Caesar's time.

FROM SENECA TO SHAKESPEARE: (AP supplement) We explore the influence of Seneca on Shakespeare.

CATAPULTS, ROMAN WAR MACHINES: Students learn the physics and math used to design catapults, including how to extract cube-roots using calipers, as the Roman's did, and how to calculate firing distances based on the weight of armatures, etc. SCIENCE/HISTORY SUPPLEMENT: Solar Heating in Ancient Rome.

ROMAN ART: REALITY OR MIRAGE: We look at myth-based mosaics that include visual metaphors, symbolism, and contrast, as well as Roman portraiture and sculptures. With the NEXUS interactive approach, students learn to read and interpret the mosaics, thereby reinforcing their figurative language reading skills through visual means.

DETACH AT DOTTED LINE

NEXUS ORDER FORM THE INTERDISCIPLINARY NEXTBOOK FOR STUDENTS

(Minimum order—one CLASS SET of a volume: 25 copies)

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