**Focus:** The Human Condition— Through thematic study, we will explore the human condition. Per condition.org, “'The human condition' is a phrase typically used with respect the *generality* of situations that humans face in 'getting along with each other and the world', situations that are difficult to encompass in some way because of hang-ups or predispositions of one kind or another or just simple ignorance.”

**Text-Based Essential Questions:**

**Constructing Identities**

• How do we form and shape our identities? • In a culture where we arebombarded with ideas and images of “what we should be,” how does one form an identity that remains true and authentic for her/himself? • What turning points determine our individual pathways to adulthood? • In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?

**Heroes**

• Do the attributes of a hero remain the same over time? • When does a positive personality trait become a tragic flaw? • What is the role of a hero or “sheroe” (coined by Maya Angelou) in a culture? • How do various cultures reward / recognize their heroes and “sheroes”? • Why is it important for people and cultures to construct narratives about their experience? • What is the relevance of studying multicultural texts? • How does the media shape our view of the world and ourselves? • In a culture where we are bombarded with other people trying to define us, how do we make decisions for ourselves?

**Spirit**

• In the face of adversity, what causes some individuals to prevail while others fail? • What is the meaning of life? • What is the meaning of life and does that shape our beliefs regarding death? • Are we governed/guided by fate, free will, a greater power, or do we fall somewhere on the spectrum between?

**Love and Sacrifice**

• If any, what are the boundaries of love and sacrifice, and where does one draw the line between them? • What are the factors that move individuals / communities / nations to great sacrifice and what are the consequences?

**Nature in the Balance**

• What are the responsibilities of the individual / society / superpowers in regard to the health of the environment? ( local, regional, national or international context can be used) • What are the consequences of being unconcerned with nature’s balance/harmony?

**The Pursuit of Happiness**

• What is happiness and what is the degree of importance in one’s life? • To what extent does a culture / society / subculture shape an individual’s understanding or concept of happiness?

**Relationships and Community**

• What are the elements that build a strong friendship? • How do friendships change over time? • What impact does family have during different stages of our lives? • What can we learn from different generations? • How is conflict an inevitable part of relationships? • How do you know if a relationship is healthy or hurtful? • What personal qualities help or hinder the formation of relationships? • How are people transformed through their relationships with others? • What is community and what are the individual’s responsibilities to the community as well as the community’s responsibilities to the individual?

**Adversity, Conflict, and Change**

• How does conflict lead to change? • What problem-solving strategies can individuals use to manage conflict and change? • How does an individual’s point of view affect the way they deal with conflict? • What personal qualities have helped you to deal with conflict and change? • How might if feel to live through a conflict that disrupts your way of life? • How does conflict influence an individual’s decisions and actions? • How are people transformed through their relationships with others? • What is community and what are the individual’s responsibility to the community as well as the community’s responsibility to the individual?

**Tentative Course Outline** – Some of the units will overlap.

*Dreamland Burning*-(discussion/activities/essay)

Writer’s Workshop

Parts of speech review

Clauses and phrases

Sentence modeling

Paragraph composition

Schaeffer method/CQA

Embedding quotes

Active vs. Passive Voice

Dialogue

Archetypes and *The* *Odyssey* (Sketch notes and Archetype Compare/Contrast Essay)

Suspense Unit (Various short stories and collaborative MYP Creative Essay)

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian (*Annotation and MYP Literary Analysis)

*The Glass Castle* (Dialectical journal and MYP Research Essay)

Poetry Unit

*Into the Wild* (Dialectical journal and Synthesis Essay)

Other possible works

*The Secret Life of Bees*

*Macbeth* or *Midsummer Night’s Dream*

*Fahrenheit 451*

Reading for Pleasure-Your choice of novel

Modified and adapted from condition.org and dayofreading.org