

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

Kindred by Octavia Butler

English Language Arts, 11th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Beginning in 1970s California, a young African American woman named Dana lives with her husband and appears to have a normal life. That is, until one day she becomes dizzy, her typical surroundings disappear and she awakens in the past: early 1800s in Maryland. The story of *Kindred* transports the reader through time as our character encounters the horrors of slavery.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **Unit 1: Language and Perspective**
 - Essential Questions: “How do texts reflect society both historically and linguistically?” and “How can crafting your story reflect personal identity?”
- **Unit 3: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Questions: “How does sustained inquiry of the past inform and motivate change?” and “How do we prepare for an uncertain future?”
- **Unit 4: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Questions: “How can we challenge and develop our perspective on a real world issue?” and “How can I use my voice to create an impactful contribution?”

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.11.1
- 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.11.2
- Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama. RL.11.3
- 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.11.5
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to

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- comprehend more fully when reading.RL.11.10
- 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.11.11
 - Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RI.11.12
 - Read and comprehend grade-level appropriate nonfiction literature. RI.11.13