

# ***Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell**

Approved for use in Grade 12

## **Summary**

Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers" - the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band. — Hachette Book Group

## **Connection to Curriculum**

Through inspiring stories individuals and groups, *Outliers: The Story of Success* illuminates the value of hard work, coincidence of time and place, and how they connect with unique opportunity to foster excellence. All four Grade 12 units can be supported by this text; Unit 2 and Unit 4 stand out as connections through their Essential Questions. Unit 2's question, "How is human experience and behavior similar, regardless of place or time?" is given evidence in the book's chapters defining the "Rule of 10,000" in which something practiced that many times is a prerequisite for mastery — an assertion that spans athletes, musicians, and entrepreneurs. Unit 4's questions "How do new perceptions of the world spark revolutions in thought and in action?" are supported by the book's challenge that success is not based on innate genius but through practice.

## **Standards**

RL 6: Determine an author's point of view and purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness, or beauty of a text.

W 9: Draw evidence for literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research.

**A Note on the Text**

#1 New York Times Bestseller.

**Additional Unit Design Connections**

Outliers, as a work on nonfiction, lends itself to expanding reading strategies in ELA beyond fiction. The wide breadth of disciplines included in the book allow for many cross discipline project possibilities.