

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Werner Pfennig is a teenage German boy living in an orphanage with his younger sister Jutta, left parentless after the death of their father in a coal mine explosion. Werner, whose brilliant scientific mind draws him to a love of radio technology, fears that the mines are his only future. That is, until he applies to join an elite Nazi military school. There, he faces immense challenges and dangerous opportunities to transform his fate.

Marie-Laure LeBlanc is a young blind girl living in Paris, France, just before German occupation. Her father, a locksmith for Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, painstakingly designs miniature models of the city streets so Marie can learn how to navigate the world on her own. Fears of German attack force them to leave their familiar Parisian apartment behind and flee to Marie's great-uncle's home in Saint-Malo. Unbeknownst to Marie, her father hides an important package from the museum: the mysterious and possibly cursed Sea of Flames stone that one German leader is desperate to track down. Set over the course of 30 years, we see how Marie and Werner's wartime experiences become interconnected and their lives forever altered.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **Unit 2: Complex Issues**
 - Essential Question: "How can examining complex issues from different perspectives influence people?"
- **Unit 3: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Question: "How does personal responsibility affect not only the individual but also the world as a whole?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- 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.12.2
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant. RL.12.6
- Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem, evaluating how each version interprets the source text. RL.12.7
- Demonstrate knowledge of foundational works of American and world literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics. RL.12.9