

HIGH SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

***The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler**

English Language Arts, 12th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Set over the course of four years in the dystopian future, Lauren is a teenage girl living with her family in a community gated from the outside world. Unfortunately, the gates are more of a meager fence, and the outside world is full of chaos: robbers, murderers, and cannibals. Lauren's family must work daily to protect themselves and their neighbors, but they fear a large-scale attack that may force them to flee. The worst ultimately happens, and Lauren ends up separated from her family. On top of all this, Lauren has a special skill: as an empath, feeling all the physical and emotional sensations of those around her. This makes her particularly vulnerable to danger as she makes her way North to a new place to call home, finding enemies and allies along the way.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM*

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

- **Unit 1: Language and Perspective**
 - Essential Question: "How does language influence perspective?"
- **Unit 3: Personal Responsibility**
 - Essential Question: "How does personal responsibility affect not only the individual but also the world as a whole?"
- **Unit 4: Universal Human Experience**
 - Essential Question: "How can reading reveal universal truths about the human experience?"

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 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.12.5
- 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.12.1
- 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.12.11
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.12.12

Updated Fall 2020

**based on BV School District Curriculum adopted Fall 2020*