Essential Question(s) (contentious, real-world, interesting to kids, sustainable)	Sub-themes/ questions	Big writing genre	Writing skills & practice	Texts that address the EQ	Reading skills & practice
Illusions: Can we see things as they really are? Should we?	How does the media shape our views? What is reality? How do we judge what we think to be true? When do we have an obligation to tell the truth? Is perception reality? How do we know who and what to trust?	Research paper (unsolved mysteries-- written from a narrative perspective within the mystery; students research to find the solution -- or at least their hypothesis--to the mystery)	•MLA format •documenting quotes •finding information •discerning reliable sources •taking notes •participial phrases •FANBOYS comma rule •voice •word choice •Detail and description •Narration •Dialogue	•*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor •"Anger for Hire" (*Reader's Digest*) •"The Cost of Cool" (PBS) •"Button, Button" by Richard Matheson •"To Serve Man" (*Twilight Zone*) •"The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street" by Rod Serling-- screen play •"The War Prayer" by Mark Twain •"War of the Worlds" by Orson Welles •Advertisements •Political campaign materials	•Propaganda techniques-- reading advertising •Create own advertisement for a ridiculous item using ad techniques •EQ writing •AWBR about first impressions •Cases about trustworthiness •"True colors" pre-reading •Mob cases •Beauty/cool hunt •Picture preview •Optical illusions-- generalizing message •Symbolism with tangerines