

English 12 students will spend the year reading and discussing literature that revolves around the theme of **Leadership** and the qualities of a good leader through units aligned to the Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Content Standards (HSCE).

Some of the **essential questions** we will discuss during our course of study are:

- What rules or principles do I use for how I treat others?
- What responsibility do I have to society?
- How do I resolve my responsibilities to my self with those to my family members, my school, my community and the world?
- How can I effectively articulate my opinions and perspectives?
- Who is in a position to help me affect change?
- What can I do to avoid repeating mistakes made in history?
- What leadership skills have I developed?
- What leadership qualities will I need to take with me from high school?
- What qualities define a good world leader?
- How can I create the world I want to live in?
- How can I use my talents to create new opportunities for myself and for others?

## Anchor Texts

### First Semester

***The Great Gatsby***. A novel by the American author F. Scott Fitzgerald. First published on April 10, 1925, it is set in Long Island's North Shore and New York City during the summer of 1922.

\****Macbeth***. Among the best-known of William Shakespeare's plays, and his shortest tragedy, *Macbeth* is believed to have been written between 1603 and 1606. Often regarded as archetypal, the play tells of the dangers of the lust for power and the betrayal of friends.

### Second Semester

***Their Eyes Were Watching God***. A 1937 novel and the best-known work by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel garnered attention and controversy at the time of its publication, and has come to be regarded as a seminal work in both African-American literature and women's literature.

***Things Fall Apart***. A 1959 English-language novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe. It is a staple book in schools throughout Africa and widely read and studied in English-speaking countries around the world. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first African novels written in English to receive global critical acclaim.