**Thematic Unit: Belonging**

**Short Story Styles Key Terms**

**Tall Tale** - An exaggerated, far-fetched story that is obviously untrue but is told as though it should be believed.

**Myth** - A made-up story that explains the existence of a natural phenomenon (such as where thunder comes from or how the sun shines) which often include gods, goddesses, or other supernatural characters.

**Fable** - A short, simple story, usually with animals as characters, designed to teach a moral truth.

**Exposition** - The background of a story usually presented at the beginning in order to understand the story properly.

**Foreshadowing** - Hints of what is to come in the action of a play or a story.

**Suspense** - Nervous uncertainty; tension.

**Rising Action** - The events in a conflict that lead to a climax.

**Climax** - The point where forces in conflict meet; turning point.

**Falling Action** - The conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist unravels, with the protagonist winning or losing against the antagonist; events that occur after the climax has been reached.

**Resolution** - When the falling action unwinds to conclusion—all ends are tied.

**Dénouement** - When the falling action unwinds to conclusion—all ends are tied; another word for the resolution.

**Characterization** - The way in which an author presents and defines characters.

**Direct Characterization** - When the writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

**Indirect Characterization** - When the writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.


**Narrator** - The voice that relates, or tells, the events; the speaker.
**Conflict** - A struggle between two or more forces.

**Man v. Man Conflict** - An external conflict where a character has an argument, disagreement, struggle, or other type of problem with another character.

**Man v. Nature Conflict** - An external conflict where a character has a problem with outside forces in nature such as weather, animals, and land.

**Man v. Society Conflict** - An external conflict where a character encounters a struggle with the laws or beliefs of a group.

**Man v. Himself Conflict** - An internal conflict where the character struggles deciding what to do or think.

**Implied Setting** - The time and place of the story suggested by clues within the text.

**Stated Setting** - The time and place of the story clearly stated in the text.

**Protagonist** - The main character of story.

**Antagonist** - The person or force that opposes the main character.

**Point of View** - The perspective of a narrator.

**First Person** - The point of view where the narrator uses the pronoun "I."

**Third Person** - The point of view where the narrator uses the pronouns "he," "she," "it" or "they."

**Omniscient** - The point of view where the narrator is "all-knowing" or sees and hears everything.

**Theme** - The meaning behind story.

**Tone** - The attitude of the writer conveyed through writing.

**Dialect** - A particular form of a language or accent that is peculiar to a specific region or social group.

**Dialogue** - Conversations between or among characters.

**Plot** - The sequence of events in a story.

**Flashback** - An involuntary memory that takes the reader back in time.