



Yale-New Haven  
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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2016 Volume II: Literature and Identity

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## **Liber-acy: Liberation from Trauma through Literacy**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 16.02.05  
by Jessica Margarita Grande

This unit is developed for an 8th grade English class using *Monster* by Walter Mosley as the core text. The overarching inspiration can be used for all grade levels along with the knowledge of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) scores, and recent studies related to trauma informed care in education. The unit meets national Common Core language arts standards along with New Haven social emotional standards. Through the study of poetry, scenes and literature, students will be doing self reflective analysis of themselves and literary texts with the hope that a message of resilience can be developed. Writing will be a tool for academic and social/emotional self improvement. The activities range from creating a found poem, writing a scene, and creating a narrative.

(Developed for English Language Arts, grade 8; recommended for English, grades 8-12)

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