**Theme 1.1 *Hatchet***

1. shelter – a place that provides protection from the weather.

2. musty – having a stale, moldy smell.

3. slithering – a sliding, slipping movement.

4. hatchet – a small, short-handled ax.

5. rasping – having a rough, scratchy sound.

6. gingerly – carefully avoiding harm.

7. quills – sharp, hollow spines on the back of a porcupine.

8. lance – a long wooden spear used as a weapon.

9. tinder – material that catches fire easily.

10. kindling – small pieces of wood used to start fires.

11. tendrils – long, slender curling things.

12. painstaking – requiring great effort.

13. frustration – a feeling of discouragement.

**Theme 1.2 *A Passage to Freedom***

1. diplomat – one who is appointed to represent his/her government in relation to other governments.

2. refugee – a person who flees home to escape harm.

3. visa – a document giving permission to travel through another country.

4. superiors – someone with higher rank and more authority.

5. reassigned – ordered out of one job or position and put into another.

**Theme 1.3 *Climb or Die***

1. improvising – making something from available materials.

2. functioned – filled a particular purpose.

3. pitons – metal spikes with a ring at one end for a rope to pass through.

4. carabiners – oval rings that attach a rope to a piton.

5. belay – to secure at the end of a rope.

6. fatigue – extreme tiredness.

7. terrain – the type of land in an area.

8. intently – with heavy concentration.

9. desolate – having few or no people around.

10. rummaged – searched thoroughly.

11. drifts – masses of snow.

12. reassure – to put confidence back in.

13. contours – outlines or shapes of something.

**Theme 1 .4 *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***

1. royal yard – the long crossways pole that spreads the top sail of a ship.

2. seasoned – has much experience in doing something.

3. ratlines – small ropes used to support a ship’s mast (like rope ladder).

4. maim – to hurt or injure.

5. quailed – shrank back in fear.

6. audacity – courage or boldness.

7. deadeye – a flat hardwood disk used to fasten a ship’s rigging.

8. trestletree – horizontal beams used to spread smaller sails.

9. folly – lack of good sense, foolish.

10. gyrations – circular or spiral movements.

11. endeavor – an attempt or try at something.

12. ascent – an upward climb.

13. treacherous – very dangerous.

14. entangled – caught or tangled in.

**Theme 2.1 *Amelia Earhart***

1. accounting – a detailed narrative, a record of events.

2. aviation – having to do with the operation of aircraft.

3. inspiration – a positive example that encourages others to reach their goals.

4. navigator – someone who plans, records, and controls the course of a plane.

5. homing signals – signals sent out to guide planes to a landing spot.

6. static – random noises in a radio receiver that make it hard to hear what’s being said.

7. transmission – a message sent by radio.

8. grounded – forced to remain on the ground.

9. runway – strip of level ground along which aircraft take off and land.

**Theme 3.1 *Where the Red Fern Grows***

1. hides – animal skins.

2. heft – to lift something in order to see how much it weighs.

3. urgency – to do something right away.

4. wares – items for sale.

5. determination – a strong desire to reach a goal.

6. outfit – a business.

7. kennels – business where dogs are bred, raised, or boarded.

8. horehound – an old-fashioned candy flavored by the horehound plant.

9. depot – railroad station.

10. adoration – deep feelings of love.

11. bottoms – areas of land on both sides of a river.

12. provisions – supplies such as food.

13. hillbilly – a negative name for a person from the mountain areas.

**Theme 4.1 *Lost Temple of the Aztecs***

1. metropolis – a huge city, large civilization.

2. causeways – raised roadways across water or swamps.

3. tributes – gifts given to those in power by conquered people who want protection.

4. momentous – very important or memorable.

5. adorned – decorated.

6. intricate – very detailed.

7. empire – a large area made up of many territories under one government.

8. conquer – to take control of by force.

**Theme 4.2 *The Great Wall***

1. blueprint – a carefully worked plan.

2. terrain – physical features of land.

3. dynasty – rulers who are related.

4. stonemason – people who prepare and lay stones in buildings.

5. steppe – a vast, dry, grassy plain.

6. insurmountable – impossible to overcome.

7. grueling – physically difficult.

8. vying – competing.

9. imposed – used power to force someone to do something.

10. domain – a realm or territory ruled by a government.

11. massive – huge, of large size.

12. durable – able to last over a long period of time.

**Theme 4.3 *Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay***

1. Sudan – a region of North Africa.

2. caravans – several vehicles or animals traveling together.

3. medieval – a period of history (about AD 500 – AD 1450).

4. ladened – weighed down with heavy things.

5. entourage – a group of followers.

6. caravanserai – an inn with a large outdoor area where caravans stay.

7. allocated – set aside for a purpose.

8. paternal – related through one’s father.

9. maternal – related through one’s mother.

10. dissent – disagreement.

11. belligerence – warlike, unfriendly attitude.

12. vicinity – the area surrounding a certain place.

13. flourishing – developing rapidly, successful.

**Theme 5.1 *A Kind of Grace***

1. cinder – top layer made of small bits of volcanic rock.

2. unconventional – out of the ordinary.

3. consoling – comforting.

4. sprints – short races run at top speed.

5. conditioning – actions done to become more physically fit.

6. oppressive – uncomfortable; difficult to bear.

7. squad – small group of people organized for an activity.

8. legislation – a law or group of laws.

9. discouraged – having lost confidence.

10. endurance – able to withstand a difficult process or situation.

**Theme 5.2 *Under the Royal Palms***

1. accountant – someone trained to keep financial records of a business.

2. ledgers – books in which financial records are kept.

3. meticulous – extremely careful, exact.

4. certified – officially qualified to do something.

5. trinkets – small items of little value.

6. makeshift – used as a substitute for something.

7. economic – having to do with how money is made or spent.

8. venture – business involving risk of losing money.

9. relegated – put in a less important place.

10. minute – extremely small.

11. mantle – loose-fitting cape or cloak.

12. cassocks – robes reaching feet.

**Theme 5.3 *Chuck Close Up Close***

1. portrait – a painting of a person.

2. painstaking – requiring great care or effort.

3. cyan – blue color, similar to aqua blue.

4. gessoed – covered with a mixture of plaster and glue.

5. spectrum – a band of all colors that can be seen.

6. hyperrealistic – extremely real looking.

7. pixels – tiny spots that make up an image on TV/computer.

8. azure – light purplish blue color.

9. vortex – a central point that draws everything around it to its center.

10. dais – a raised platform for a speaker or honored guest.

11. abstract – does not realistically represent a person/object.

12. amoeba – a small, one-celled organism that changes shape.

13. retrospective – an art show that shows work an artist produced over their career.

14. palette – a board on which a painter mixes colors.

**Propaganda**

Definition – a way to convince or persuade you to do something. Propaganda can be misleading.

1. Overgeneralization – makes general statements based on a few facts.

2. Testimonial – a celebrity or expert makes a statement supporting the product.

3. Bandwagon – persuades consumers to do something because “everyone else” is doing it.

4. Transfer – associates a person with a product so the consumer will transfer admiration for the person to the product.

5. Faulty Cause and Effect – claims consumers will be happier as a result of using the product.

**Theme 6.1 *Adventures of Sojourner***

1. analysis – the separation of substances into parts.

2. engineers – people specially trained to design/build machines and systems.

3. maneuvers – controlled changes in movement or direction.

4. navigation – the practice of planning and controlling the course of a craft.

5. rover – a vehicle designed to explore the surface of a planet.

6. stereoscopic – seeing objects in 3 dimensions.

7. descent – going down.

8. painstaking – requiring great and careful effort.

9. retract – to pull back in.

10. virtual reality – a computer simulation of 3D space.

11. panorama – a view or picture of everything visible.

12. predicament – an unpleasant situation.

13. auxiliary – backup.

14. tempered – less harsh, less severe.

15. monitoring – keeping watch over.

**Theme 6.2 *Franklin R. Chang-Diaz***

1. aeronautics – the design and construction of aircraft.

2. qualifications – skills necessary for someone to do a particular job or activity.

3. cosmonauts – astronauts from Russia or the Soviet Union.

4. simulate – to pretend in an imitation of something.

5. rocketry – the science of designing, building, and flying rockets.

6. methodically – in a careful, orderly way.

7. visa – a document that gives permission to travel through a country.

8. plight – a difficult or dangerous situation.

9. rectify – to make right.

10. thermonuclear – relating to fusion of atoms at high temperatures.

11. soliciting – seeking to obtain.

12. preliminary – introductory.

13. visionary – a dreamer.

14. renovation – act of restoring something.

15. integration – bringing parts together, whole.

**Theme 6.3 *Beneath Blue Waters***

1. submersible – a craft that operated under water.

2. oceanographer – a scientist who studies the sea.

3. hydrothermal – relating to hot water.

4. menagerie – a collection of wild animals.

5. panoramic – visible over a wide area.

6. prow – the forward part of a ship (the bow).

7. starboard – the right side of a ship.

8. bioluminescence – the giving off of light by some creatures.

9. crustacean – a large group of hard-shelled animals with jointed parts.

10. sparse – not crowded.

11. undulates – moves in a smooth, wavy motion.

12. painstaking – requiring great effort.

13. unfathomable – impossible to measure.

**Theme 6.4 *Out There***

1. visibility – the greatest distance over which it is possible to see.

2. jetty – a stone, earthen, or wood structure projecting into a body of water to protect a harbor.

3. buoy – an anchored float often with a bell or light used to mark a passageway.

4. inquiries – requests for information.

5. render – to provide.