

***Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga**

English Language Arts, 9th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

This is a coming of age story of a girl living in Africa in the 1960s. The colonization this female protagonist encounters contributes to racial tension as well as class struggles. The central conflict in this memoir deals with this young girl's quest for advancement from her primitive existence to an educated, civilized way of life. Through the various relationships, she understands the challenges of different lifestyles and moves from an idealistic perspective to a more realistic view of life.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Personal Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How does the process of reading, speaking and writing inform our ability to grasp our own identity?"
- **Unit 2: The Individual and the Community**
 - Essential Question: "How does community influence identity?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.9.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.9.2
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.9.4
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.9.7
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. RL.9.10
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.9.11
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.9.12

- Read and comprehend high quality dramas, prose, and poetry of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for Grades 9-10. RL.9.13
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.9.3
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.9.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.9.6
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.9.9