

1-Week Unit Plan for *Unshattered*

Note for Educators:

This 1-week unit plan is designed to cover **Chapters 1–7** of *Unshattered* as an introduction to the novel’s key themes, characters, and conflicts. However, all activities, discussions, and project ideas can be **adapted to span the full novel**, which includes **28 chapters**. For longer units (2–4 weeks), consider extending the reading and incorporating deeper literary analysis, character arcs, and culminating projects.

Grade Level: 8–10

Themes: Grief, Resilience, Identity, Tradition vs. Change

Standards: Reading Comprehension, Literary Analysis, Writing, Speaking & Listening

Day 1 – Introduction & Context

Objective: Build background knowledge and prepare students to engage deeply with the novel.

• Activities:

- Read the book synopsis aloud. Introduce the novel’s themes and historical/cultural context (1990s Senegal).
- Class brainstorm: *What does it mean to be “unshattered”?*
- Short mini-lesson on Senegal (location, traditions, modernization trends). ○ Begin reading **Chapters 1–2** as a class (teacher read-aloud, popcorn reading, or pairs).

• In-Class Follow-Up:

- Quick-write: *What is Bakari feeling? What questions do you have about his world so far?*

Day 2 – Character & Conflict

Objective: Analyze Bakari’s internal and external struggles.

• Activities:

- Reread selected scenes from Chapters 1–2. Identify conflict: internal (grief, identity) and external (tradition, loss).
- Students complete a **Character Map** for Bakari (traits, challenges, desires, growth).
- Small groups: Compare Bakari’s loss or challenges to characters from other books or real-life experiences.

- **In-Class Reading:** Begin or complete **Chapters 3–5** silently or in small groups.
- **Extension (if time):** Journal entry from Bakari’s perspective.

Day 3 – Tradition vs. Ambition

Objective: Explore the tension between cultural expectations and personal dreams.

• **Activities:**

- Do Now: *What is one tradition you follow, and how does it shape you?* (Short reflective write-up)
- Class discussion: What traditions define Bakari’s community? How do they support him—or hold him back?
- Group Work: Make a T-chart of Tradition vs. Ambition moments in the novel.

• **In-Class Reading:** Read selected excerpts from **Chapters 6–7** and annotate for moments of cultural tension.

Day 4 – Symbolism & Theme

Objective: Analyze symbolism and synthesize meaning from the text.

• **Activities:**

- Mini-lesson: What is a symbol? What could represent “resilience” in the book?
- Group activity: Identify and explain at least 2 symbols in *Unshattered* (objects, memories, moments).
- Art/Visual Task: Create a **Resilience Map** — a visual timeline or concept map that shows how Bakari moves from grief to strength.

• **Optional Reading Time:** Continue with assigned reading in class or provide a quiet reading period.

Day 5 – Synthesis & Expression

Objective: Reflect on the novel’s meaning and apply it personally or creatively.

• **Project Options (Choose 1):**

- **Personal Essay:** Reflect on a time when you felt challenged and what helped you stay “unshattered.”
- **Creative Writing:** Write a future scene—where is Bakari five years after the end of the novel?

- **Art/Collage:** Create a visual metaphor for one of the themes (grief, hope, identity, tradition).
- **Group Presentation:** Analyze one theme (e.g., tradition vs. change) with examples from the book.
- **Class Wrap-Up Discussion:**
 - What does Bakari teach us about grief and healing?
 - What does it *really* mean to be unshattered?

Assessment Options

- **Participation:** in reading, discussions, group work
- **Written Work:** journal entries, character maps, symbol analysis
- **Final Project:** assessed with a rubric (criteria: understanding, creativity, effort, connection to theme)

2. Final Project Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Theme Understanding	Deep, insightful understanding of the theme.	Clear understanding with minor gaps.	Basic understanding of theme.	Misunderstood or lacks theme connection.
Textual Connection	Strong use of specific evidence or references.	Some relevant examples or references used.	Few references or unclear connections.	No clear connection to the book.
Creativity & Expression	Original, engaging, and thoughtful.	Creative and expressive, with effort shown.	Some creativity present.	Minimal creativity or incomplete work.
Effort & Presentation	Excellent organization and polished work.	Well-organized and mostly error free.	Adequate effort, some disorganization.	Sloppy or rushed work.

• *Total Score: /16*

3. Discussion Guide for *Unshattered*

Use these questions for small groups, class discussions, or reflective

writing. **Character & Identity**

1. How does Bakari change from the beginning to the end of the novel?
2. What internal battles does he face, and how do they shape his identity?

Grief & Resilience

3. What does the novel teach us about grieving in silence vs. seeking support?
4. What does it mean to be “unshattered”? Who or what helps Bakari stay that way?

Tradition vs. Change

5. In what ways does tradition offer comfort? In what ways does it create conflict?
6. How does Bakari’s view of tradition shift throughout the story?

Setting & Culture

7. How does the Senegalese setting influence Bakari’s choices and worldview?
8. What details from the 1990s context are important to understanding the story?

Symbols & Imagery

9. What objects or memories serve as symbols of hope, loss, or strength?
10. How does the author use sensory detail to evoke emotion?

Personal Reflection

11. Have you ever felt caught between two expectations (e.g., family vs. personal goals)?
12. How can reading a story like *Unshattered* build empathy and understanding?