

Language Arts Grade 8

Course Syllabus/State Standards

Prerequisites-Students will have been exposed and/or engaged to 7th grade standards upon entering 8th grade.

Suspense (9 weeks) - A variety of short stories will be read throughout the first 9 weeks.

Selections may include the following full text or excerpts:

- "Let 'Em Play God" NF
- "The Monkey's Paw" F
- "Sorry, Wrong Number" D
- "Violence in the Movies" NF
- "A Night to Remember" NF
- "Cujo" F
- "Lord of the Flies" F
- "Ten Days in a Mad-House" F
- "The Tell-Tale Heart" F
- "Annabel Lee" P
- "The Bells" P

Students will read and analyze a variety of suspenseful texts and be asked to consider the different strategies used to create suspense in each medium.
(StudySync)

Students will study various literary devices including, but not limited to the following:

- Author's purpose and POV
- Theme
- Story Elements
- Plot; Textual Evidence
- Character
- Poetic Elements
- Word Meaning
- Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots

Students will study key grammar skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Suffixes -ible and -able
- Words often Confused
- Verb Moods
- Adjective Suffixes

Students will study key writing skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Organize Narrative Writing
- Introductions
- Narrative Techniques and Sequencing
- Descriptive Details
- Writing Dialogue
- Audience and Purpose
- Conclusions
- Transitions

STATE STANDARDS COVERED:

8.RL.1; 8.RL.2.1; 8.RL.2.2; 8.RL.2.3; 8.RL.3.2; 8.RN.2.1; 8.RN.2.2; 8.RN.2.3; 8.RN.3.2; 8.RN.3.3; 8.RN.4.1; 8.RN.4.3; 8.RV.1; 8.RV.2.1; 8.RV.2.4; 8.W.1; 8.W.3.1; 8.W.3.3; 8.W.4; 8.W.6.1; 8.W.6.2; 8.SL.1; 8.SL.2.1; 8.SL.2.2; 8.SL.2.3; 8.SL.2.4; 8.SL.2.5; 8.ML.1; 8.ML.2

In Time of War (9 weeks) - A variety of texts will be read throughout the second 9 weeks.

Selections may include the following full text or excerpts:

- “Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat” NF
- “Anne Frank: The diary of a Young Girl” NF
- “The Diary of Anne Frank” D
- “The Boy in Striped Pajamas” F
- “Teaching History Through Fiction NF
- “Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler’s Shadow” NF
- “Parallel Journeys” NF
- “Dear Miss Breed” NF
- “Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech” NF
- “Remarks in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust” NF

Students will explore the brave, critical, and illuminating choices that those in extreme conflict are forced to make, and the ramifications of these choices.

Students will study various literary devices including, but not limited to the following:

- Textual Evidence
- Central or Main Idea
- Informational Text Elements
- Dramatic Elements
- Theme
- Media
- POV
- Character
- Arguments and Claims
- Compare and Contrast
- Reasons and Evidence
- Author’s Purpose and POV
- Informational Text Structure

Students will study key grammar skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Using Commas with Clauses
- Active and Passive Voice
- Transitive and Intransitive Verbs
- Using the dash
- Verb Moods

Students will study key writing skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Audience, Purpose, and Style
- Research and Note-Taking
- Thesis Statement
- Organize Argumentative Writing
- Supporting Details
- Introductions and Conclusions
- Transitions
- Sources and Citations

STATE STANDARDS COVERED:

8.RL.1; 8.RL.2.1; 8.RL.2.2; 8.RL.2.3; 8.RL.3.2; 8.RN.2.1; 8.RN.2.2; 8.RN.2.3; 8.RN.3.2; 8.RN.3.3; 8.RN.4.1; 8.RN.4.3; 8.RV.1; 8.RV.2.1; 8.RV.2.4; 8.RV.3.2; 8.W.1; 8.W.3.1; 8.W.3.3; 8.W.4; 8.W.5; 8.W.6.1; 8.W.6.2; 8.SL.1; 8.SL.2.1; 8.SL.2.2; 8.SL.2.3; 8.SL.2.4; 8.SL.2.5; 8.SL.4.1; 8.SL.4.2; 8.ML.1; 8.ML.2; 8.ML.2.1

A Moral Compass (9 weeks) - A variety of texts will be read throughout the third 9 weeks.

Selections may include the following full text or excerpts:

- “Abuela Invents the Zero” F
- “Home” F
- “A Celebration of Grandfathers” F
- “Mother to Son” P
- “Little Women” F
- “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” F
- “Born Worker” F
- “Ode to Thanks” P
- “The Little Boy Lost” and “The Little Boy Found” P
- “A Poison Tree” P
- “Mandatory Volunteer Work for Teenagers” NF

Students will explore the complexities of how people become who they are as well as investigate ways to realize their potential in the world.

Students will study various literary devices including, but not limited to the following:

- Theme
- Character
- Central or Main Idea
- Tone
- Plot
- POV
- Media
- Story Structure
- Allusion
- Poetic Structure
- Figurative Language
- Connotation and Denotation
- Word Relationships
- Author’s Purpose and POV
- Reasons and Evidence
- Compare and Contrast

Students will study key grammar skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Participles and Participial Phrases
- Spelling Possessive Forms
- Using Commas
- Verbals
- Verb Moods
- Ellipses and Dashes

Students will study key writing skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Thesis Statements
- Audience and Purpose
- Organize Argumentative Writing
- Supporting Details
- Introductions
- Transitions
- Conclusions
- Style
- Sources and Citations
- Career Development

STATE STANDARDS COVERED:

8.RL.1; 8.RL.2.1; 8.RL.2.2; 8.RL.2.3; 8.RL.3.2; 8.RN.2.1; 8.RN.2.2; 8.RN.2.3; 8.RN.3.2; 8.RN.3.3; 8.RN.4.1; 8.RN.4.3; 8.RV.1; 8.RV.2.1; 8.RV.2.4; 8.RV.3.1; 8.RV.3.2; 8.W.1; 8.W.3.1; 8.W.3.3; 8.W.4; 8.W.5; 8.W.6.1; 8.W.6.2; 8.SL.1; 8.SL.2.1; 8.SL.2.2; 8.SL.2.3; 8.SL.2.4; 8.SL.2.5; 8.SL.4.1; 8.SL.4.2; 8.ML.1; 8.ML.2; 8.ML.2.1

The Civil War (9 weeks) - A variety of texts will be read throughout the fourth 9 weeks.

Selections may include the following full text or excerpts:

- "A House Divided" S
- "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: The Life of an American Slave" NF
- "Across Five Aprils" F
- "Paul Revere's Ride" P
- "Speech to the Ohio Women's Conference: And Ain't I a Woman" S
- "Sullivan Ballou Letter" NF
- "Civil War Journal" NF
- "The Red Badge of Courage"
- "Gettysburg Address" S
- "Chasing Lincoln's Killer" NF
- "O Captain My Captain" P

Students will explore the impact of the Civil War from a variety of perspectives, as well as research the effects of civil conflicts around the world that continue to this day.

Students will study various literary devices including, but not limited to the following:

- Informational Text Structure
- Tone
- Informational Text Elements
- Figurative Language
- POV
- Character
- Connotation and Denotation
- Compare and Contrast
- Media
- Figures of Speech
- Theme
- Argument and Claims
- Central of Main Idea
- Textual Evidence
- Poetic Structure

Students will study key grammar skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Commas, Ellipses, and Dashes
- Active and Passive Voice
- Verbals (Participles/Infinitives)
- Compound Sentences

Students will study key writing skills including, but not limited to the following:

- Thesis Statements
- Audience and Purpose
- Organize Informative Writing
- Supporting Details
- Introductions
- Body Paragraphs and Transitions
- Conclusions
- Style
- Sources and Citations

STATE STANDARDS COVERED:

8.RL.1; 8.RL.2.1; 8.RL.2.2; 8.RL.2.3; 8.RL.3.2; 8.RN.2.1; 8.RN.2.2; 8.RN.2.3; 8.RN.3.2; 8.RN.3.3; 8.RN.4.1; 8.RN.4.3; 8.RV.1; 8.RV.2.1; 8.RV.2.4; 8.RV.3.1; 8.RV.3.2; 8.RV.3.3; 8.W.1; 8.W.3.1; 8.W.3.3; 8.W.4; 8.W.5; 8.W.6.1; 8.W.6.2; 8.SL.1; 8.SL.2.1; 8.SL.2.2; 8.SL.2.3; 8.SL.2.4; 8.SL.2.5; 8.SL.4.1; 8.SL.4.2; 8.ML.1; 8.ML.2; 8.ML.2.1

NECESSARY ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Level 1-define, identify, recall, state

Level 2-cause/effect, compare, context clues, distinguish, infer, interpret, organize, predict, summarize

Level 3-assess, site evidence, critique, develop logical argument, draw conclusions, revise

Level 4-analyze, connect, prove, synthesize

Instructional Resources Used in This Curriculum:

- StudySync
- IXL
- BrainPop
- YouTube
- Accelerated Reader
- ReadWorks

Novel Units

- The Outsiders
- Times of Change: Vietnam and the 60s
- Tuck Everlasting
- The Cay
- The Lord of the Flies
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond
- White Fang
- Tuck Everlasting
- The Cay
- The Lord of the Flies
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond
- White Fang
- The Call of the Wild
- Night
- The Diary of Anne Frank
- Tom Sawyer

Activities & Resources

Through ConnectEd/Studysync students are able to complete a variety of tiered activities for each unit such as extended writing projects and research. These may be assigned individually or as small groups.

Additional text selection resources are available and may be tiered in ConnectEd/Studysync. Examples of these resources are the grammar, vocabulary, and access (1-4) handouts/digital downloads.

Teacher Resources

Teachers may access pacing, scope, and sequence guides for each unit and reading selection in ConnectEd/Studysync.

Assessments

ConnectEd/Studysync end of the unit assessments and end of the year assessment will be used to assess the unit skills and may be modified for the students' levels. See also hard copy of assessments in curriculum folder labeled "Grade 7 ELA Core Assessments for Each Unit and Final.pdf."