

Language Arts 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate clips and readings from speeches and discussions. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with three to six lessons. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

Length: Two semesters

UNIT 1: ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE

- Lesson 1: Point of View
- Lesson 2: Plot
- Lesson 3: Theme
- Lesson 4: Transforming Ideas
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Elements of Literature

UNIT 2: LITERARY ELEMENTS

- Lesson 1: Structure and Form
- Lesson 2: Figurative Language
- Lesson 3: Connotation and Denotation
- Lesson 4: Dramatic Conventions
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Literary Elements

UNIT 3: READING STRATEGIES

- Lesson 1: Central Idea and Summary
- Lesson 2: Author's Purpose
- Lesson 3: Text and Visual Elements
- Lesson 4: Making Inferences
- Lesson 5: Synthesizing Information
- Lesson 6: Wrap-Up: Reading Strategies

UNIT 4: ANALYZING NONLITERARY TEXTS

- Lesson 1: Word Choice
- Lesson 2: Text Structures
- Lesson 3: Analyzing an Argument
- Lesson 4: Analyzing Conflicting Evidence
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Analyzing Nonliterary Texts

UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap Up

UNIT 6: SENTENCE STRUCTURE

- Lesson 1: Verb Tense and Voice
- Lesson 2: Verb Mood
- Lesson 3: Verbals
- Lesson 4: Punctuation
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Sentence Structure

UNIT 7: WORD USAGE

- Lesson 1: Context Clues
- Lesson 2: Word Relationships
- Lesson 3: Word Roots
- Lesson 4: Using Reference Materials
- Lesson 5: Spelling Rules
- Lesson 6: Wrap-Up: Word Usage

UNIT 8: WRITING

- Lesson 1: Planning and Organizing
- Lesson 2: Establishing a Formal Style
- Lesson 3: Revising and Editing
- Lesson 4: Introductions
- Lesson 5: Conclusions
- Lesson 6: Using Transitions
- Lesson 7: Wrap-Up: Writing

UNIT 9: TYPES OF WRITING

- Lesson 1: Writing and Technology
- Lesson 2: Developing Expository Essays
- Lesson 3: Developing Argumentative Essays
- Lesson 4: Identifying Argumentative Claims
- Lesson 5: Short Narratives
- Lesson 6: Narrative Techniques
- Lesson 7: Wrap-Up: Types of Writing

UNIT 10: SEMESTER WRAP UP

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap Up