

English 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: STORIES BASED ON STORIES

LESSON 1: PLOT ARCHETYPES

Read: "The Apple-Tree" by Katherine Mansfield

Read and comprehend a story.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Plot Archetypes

Recognize the stages of plot, as well as plot and setting archetypes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Plot Archetypes

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Plot Archetypes

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Plot Archetypes

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 2: CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

Study: Character Archetypes

Recognize character archetypes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Point of View and Irony

Identify the point of view of a story and how dramatic irony is used.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Character Archetypes

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Character Archetypes

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Read: Independent Reading

Choose and begin reading a novel.

Duration: 4 hrs Scoring: 0 points

Discuss: Connecting to a Novel

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 3: THEMATIC ARCHETYPES

Study: Symbolism

Identify symbols, explicit details, and implicit details, and make inferences.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Symbolism and Theme

Recognize how symbols help to develop themes.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Thematic Archetypes

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Thematic Archetypes

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Write a Summary

Write objective and subjective summaries.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: STORIES BASED ON STORIES

Review: Stories Based on Stories

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Stories Based on Stories

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 2: STRUCTURE AND MEANING

LESSON 1: THE FORM OF A STORY

Read: "The Treasure of Lemon Brown" by Walter Dean Myers

Read and comprehend a story.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: The Form of a Story

Recognize different genres and media of stories.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: The Form of a Story

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Form of a Story

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Compare and Contrast Stories

Compare and contrast the genre and medium of two stories.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 2: POETIC DEVICES

Read: A Selection of Poems

Read and comprehend a selection of poems.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Poetic Devices

Recognize a variety of poetic devices and their effect on poems.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Poetic Devices

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Poetic Devices

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Poetic Devices

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 3: POETIC STRUCTURE

Study: Poetic Structure

Recognize the meter and structure of poems.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Poetic Structure

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Poetic Structure

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Poetic Structure

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: STRUCTURE AND MEANING

Review: Structure and Meaning

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Structure and Meaning

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 3: INFORMATIONAL WRITING

LESSON 1: READING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY

Study: Word Meaning, Part 1

Use context clues to determine word meanings.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Word Meaning, Part 1

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Word Meaning, Part 1

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Read: An Example Informational Essay

Read and comprehend an essay.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

LESSON 2: PLANNING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY

Study: Parts of an Essay

Recognize the parts of an informational essay.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Parts of an Essay

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Parts of an Essay

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Plan an Informational Essay

Plan and organize an informational essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 3: WRITING AN INFORMATIONAL ESSAY

Study: Writing as Craft: Punctuation

Recognize and use correct punctuation.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Writing as Craft: Capitalization and Spelling

Recognize and use correct spelling and capitalization.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Writing as Craft

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Writing as Craft

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Write an Informational Essay

Write and revise an informational essay and participate in peer review.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Review: Informational Writing

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Informational Writing

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 4: CREATIVE WRITING

LESSON 1: PLANNING A WORK OF FLASH FICTION

Read: From *Alicia in Wonder Tierra* by Silvia Gonzalez

Read and comprehend part of a play.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Storytelling

Understand how staging, dialogue, and description develop a story.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Creative Writing

Recognize the elements of an engaging story.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Storytelling and Creative Writing

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Storytelling and Creative Writing

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: WRITING A WORK OF FLASH FICTION

Study: Writing as Craft: Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences

Recognize and correctly use phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Writing as Craft

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Writing as Craft

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Write a Work of Flash Fiction

Write a work of flash fiction using narrative techniques.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 3: REVISING FLASH FICTION

Study: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Recognize tone, style, mood, and voice in texts.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Tone, Style, Mood, and Voice

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Revise a Work of Flash Fiction

Revise a work of flash fiction.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: CREATIVE WRITING

Review: Creative Writing

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Creative Writing

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

LESSON 1: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Review: Semester Review

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Exam: Semester Exam

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the semester.

Duration: 1 hr 15 mins Scoring: 50 points

UNIT 6: NONFICTION

LESSON 1: LITERARY NONFICTION

Read: A Work of Literary Nonfiction

Read and comprehend an excerpt from a work of literary nonfiction by John Steinbeck.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Literary Nonfiction

Understand how to find the purpose, perspective, and message in a work of literary nonfiction.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Literary Nonfiction

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Literary Nonfiction

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Literary Nonfiction

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 2: INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Read: Three Informational Texts

Read and comprehend three visually-organized documents.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Informational Texts

Identify the characteristics of visually-organized documents.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Graphics

Analyze the use of graphics to support understanding.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Informational Texts

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Informational Texts

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Evaluate an Informational Text

Write objective and subjective summaries of texts.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 3: CORRESPONDENCE

Study: Word Meaning, Part 2

Use strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Word Meaning, Part 2

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Word Meaning, Part 2

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Write a Letter

Write a letter using domain-specific vocabulary.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: NONFICTION

Review: Nonfiction

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Nonfiction

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 7: PERSUASIVE TEXTS

LESSON 1: CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS

Read: Conflicting Accounts

Read and comprehend four texts that discuss women's suffrage.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Conflicting Accounts

Identify how authors' perspectives and biases are revealed in texts.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Conflicting Accounts

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Conflicting Accounts

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Conflicting Accounts

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 2: RHETORIC

Study: Rhetoric

Understand audience appeals and rhetorical devices.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkpoint: Rhetoric

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Rhetoric

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Read: Political Ads

Watch and comprehend two political ads from opposing candidates.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Practice: Analyze Political Ads

Analyze how texts use rhetoric to persuade readers.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 3: ANALYZING ARGUMENTS

Read: Example Argumentative Essay

Read and comprehend a sample student essay about internet access.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Study: Analyzing Arguments

Identify the traits of argumentative writing, including claims, reasons, and evidence.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Analyzing Arguments

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Analyzing Arguments

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Discuss: Analyzing Arguments

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: PERSUASIVE TEXTS

Review: Persuasive Texts

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Persuasive Texts

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 8: ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

LESSON 1: RESEARCH, PART 1

Study: Research, Part 1

Understand how to narrow down a research topic and find sources.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Research, Part 1

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Research, Part 1

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: RESEARCH, PART 2

Study: Research, Part 2

Determine whether sources are credible and relevant.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Research, Part 2

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Research, Part 2

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Plan an Argumentative Essay

Plan a researched argumentative essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 3: WRITING AS CRAFT**Study: Writing as Craft: Pronouns and Verbs**

Confirm understanding of pronouns and verbs.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Writing as Craft

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Writing as Craft

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Write an Argumentative Essay

Write and revise a researched argumentative essay.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING**Review: Argumentative Writing**

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Argumentative Writing

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 9: MULTIMEDIA**LESSON 1: WORKING IN GROUPS****Study: Working in Groups**

Understand how to work well in a group of peers.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Working in Groups

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Working in Groups

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Create Lessons

Work with a group of peers to create two short lessons.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 2: GIVING SPEECHES

Study: Giving Speeches

Recognize the techniques for giving an effective speech.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Giving Speeches

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Giving Speeches

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Prepare a Speech

Prepare a five-minute speech on an important topic.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

Discuss: Peer Evaluation

Participate in a discussion.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 3: MEDIA

Study: Media

Understand how media can be used to enhance a speech.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 0 points

Checkup: Media

Review important ideas and information from the lesson.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Media

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 10 points

Practice: Adapt a Speech

Adapt a speech to a different audience and situation.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 45 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: MULTIMEDIA

Review: Multimedia

Review key terms and objectives from this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Multimedia

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 30 points

UNIT 10: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

LESSON 1: SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Review: Semester Review

Review key terms and objectives from this semester.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Exam: Semester Exam

Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the semester.

Duration: 1 hr 15 mins Scoring: 50 points

