

English Language Arts and Reading for Grade 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: Themes Across Cultures
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Elements of Literature

### UNIT 2: GENRES

- Lesson 1: Literary Genres
- Lesson 2: Poetry
- Lesson 3: Short Narratives
- Lesson 4: Wrap-Up: Genres

### UNIT 3: LANGUAGE USAGE

- Lesson 1: Figurative Language
- Lesson 2: Connotation and Denotation
- Lesson 3: Context Clues
- Lesson 4: Narrative Techniques
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Language Usage

### UNIT 4: READING STRATEGIES

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

### UNIT 5: WORD USAGE

- Lesson 1: Word Choice
- Lesson 2: Word Relationships
- Lesson 3: Word Roots
- Lesson 4: Spelling Rules

- Lesson 5: Commonly Confused Words
- Lesson 6: Wrap-Up: Word Usage

## **UNIT 6: SEMESTER WRAP UP**

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap Up

## **UNIT 7: ARGUMENTATION**

- Lesson 1: Analyzing an Argument
- Lesson 2: Analyzing Conflicting Evidence
- Lesson 3: Rhetorical and Logical Fallacies
- Lesson 4: Argumentative Essays
- Lesson 5: Identifying Argumentative Claims
- Lesson 6: Wrap-Up: Argumentation

## **UNIT 8: WRITING I**

- Lesson 1: Planning and Organizing
- Lesson 2: Revising and Editing
- Lesson 3: Using Reference Materials
- Lesson 4: Introductions
- Lesson 5: Conclusions
- Lesson 6: Wrap-Up: Writing I

## **UNIT 9: WRITING II**

- Lesson 1: Verb Tense and Voice
- Lesson 2: Punctuation
- Lesson 3: Pronouns
- Lesson 4: Using Transitions
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Writing II

## **UNIT 10: INFORMATIVE TEXTS**

- Lesson 1: Developing Expository Essays
- Lesson 2: Evaluating Graphics
- Lesson 3: Evaluating the Media
- Lesson 4: Technical Documents
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Informative Texts

## **UNIT 11: STRUCTURES AND PATTERNS**

- Lesson 1: Text Structures
- Lesson 2: Organizational Patterns
- Lesson 3: Sentence Types
- Lesson 4: Phrases
- Lesson 5: Wrap-Up: Structures and Patterns

## **UNIT 12: SEMESTER WRAP UP**

- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap Up