

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grades 6-8

Deepen analysis through discussion, evidence, and response.

Students examine how texts develop ideas, how authors shape meaning, and how evidence supports an interpretation. Grade-level skills connect reading analysis with argument, explanatory and narrative writing, presentation, and language conventions.

IN THIS OVERVIEW

01 Grade 6

02 Grade 7

03 Grade 8

A topic overview, not a fixed lesson sequence. Instructional priorities are shaped by student needs and program goals.

TOPICS AND SKILLS

Grade 6

Key Ideas and Details

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of explicit text and inferences. Determine a theme or central idea that is supported by details. Describe how a story's plot unfolds and how the characters respond or change.

Craft and Structure

Determine the meaning of words and phrases. Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the structure of a text. Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Read and comprehend literature in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Text Types and Purposes

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Conventions of Standard English

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

TOPICS AND SKILLS

Grade 7

Key Ideas and Details

Cite textual evidence to support analysis of the text. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development. Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.

Craft and Structure

Determine the meaning of words and phrases. Analyze how a drama's or poem's form or structure contributes to its meaning. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version. Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Text Types and Purposes

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Conventions of Standard English

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

TOPICS AND SKILLS

Grade 8

Key Ideas and Details

Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

Craft and Structure

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts. Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors. Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Text Types and Purposes

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Conventions of Standard English

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.