

Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts!

Dear Student,

Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts! Throughout this course, we will focus on reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking. By the end of the year, you will grow as a critical thinker and improve your ability to ask thoughtful questions and analyze information. Each unit is designed to build real world skills that go beyond the classroom. Please review the information below and reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

✉Mrs. Plant

aplant@geneseoschools.org

I can...read & comprehend text independently & proficiently. RL.8.10; RI.8.10	I can...cite evidence that strongly supports an analysis of what the text says. RL.8.1; RI.8.1	I can...determine the central idea of a text & analyze its development. RL.8.2; RI.8.2	I can...analyze how a text makes connections and propels the story. RL.8.3; RI.8.3	I can...determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text. RL.8.4; RI.8.4
I can...determine the author's point of view or purpose in a text. RL.8.6; RI.8.6	I can...use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading or listening. L.8.1	I can...acquire and use academic words and phrases and gather vocabulary knowledge. L.8.6	I can...engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions. SL.8.1	I can...write arguments to support claims with clear reasons & evidence. W.8.1
I can...write informative texts to examine a topic. W.8.2	I can...develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing & prewriting. W.8.5	I can...conduct short research projects to answer a question. W.8.7	I can...draw evidence from text(s) to support analysis, reflection, and research. W.8.9	I can...write routinely over extended time frames. W.8.10

4- Exceeds	3- Proficient	2- Approaching	1- Below
I get this & can teach it to a friend!	I get this on my own and show independence.	I'm starting to get this with some help.	I don't get this at all and I need extra help!



Curriculum: In ELA-8, we focus on four units of study that can be found in the classroom textbook, *Collections*. Each unit includes a variety of activities designed to explore complex themes, analyze information, expand vocabulary and increase understanding. Please review the units of study below.

Unit 1 Title: Anne Frank's Legacy (*Collections*, 277-391)

Selected Reading: *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett, *After Auschwitz* by Elie Wiesel, *Courage in Denmark* by The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *Wilderness* by Carl Sandburg, *Identity* by Julio Noboa Polanco

Themes: identity, perspective, discrimination, persecution, genocide, empathy, tolerance

Performance Tasks: narrative writing, expository writing, plot diagram, character analysis

Unit 2 Title: The Thrill of Horror (*Collections*, 87-139)

Selected Reading: *What Is the Horror Genre?* by Sharon A. Russell, *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe, *The Raven* by Edgar Allan Poe, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Themes: fear, suspense, dystopia, influence, choice, freedom, complexity of emotions

Performance Tasks: literary analysis, story elements, character development, symbolism

Unit 3 Title: Culture and Belonging (*Collections*, 1-85)

Selected Reading: *I Have A Dream* by Martin Luther King Jr., *As Brave As You* by Jason Reynolds, *Harlem* by Langston Hughes, *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou

Themes: culture, civil rights, segregation, racism, justice, bravery, resilience, advocacy

Performance Tasks: expository writing, reasoning, figurative language, symbolism

Unit Title 4: Approaching Adulthood (*Collections*, 211-276)

Selected Reading: *There Will Come Soft Rains* by Sara Teasdale, *Hanging Fire* by Audre Lorde, *Teenagers* by Pat Mora, *When Do Kids Become Adults?* from "Room for Debate" New York Times

Themes: work, future/career, connection, community, independence

Performance Tasks: research-based writing, multi-media campaign, student portfolio

Flocabulary: Flocabulary videos are used to enhance student understanding of the four units of study. To learn more about Flocabulary, go to <https://www.flocabulary.com/about-us/>.

Flocabulary's impact on teaching & learning

Flocabulary's educational hip-hop videos and research-based curricular tools increase academic performance through an emphasis on vocabulary and literacy across the curriculum.

Increases vocabulary knowledge



Dramatic increase in vocabulary proficiency after using Flocabulary, especially students of a lower socioeconomic status.

Raises state test scores



25% increase on state reading tests after using Flocabulary.

Engages underserved students



97% of educators are able to engage the "most challenging to engage students" when using Flocabulary.

Student Name: _____

Guardian Name: _____

Circle One:

YES, we read the ELA Welcome Letter

No, we did NOT read the ELA Welcome Letter

Comments/Questions/Concerns:

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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