

Grade 8 English Language Arts Standards

Reading Informational		Reading Literature	
RI.1	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Integrated SL.3	RL.1	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. Integrated SL.3
RI.2	Analyze informational text development: a. Determine a main/central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text in relationship to supporting details. b. Incorporate the main/central idea, including its relationship to supporting details, into an objective summary. Integrated SL.2	RL.2	Analyze literary text development: a. Determine a theme of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot b. Incorporate a theme and its relationship to other story elements into an objective summary of the text Integrated SL.2
RI.3	Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories). Integrated SL.4	RL.3	Analyze literary elements: a. Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, and/or provoke a decision. Integrated SL.4
RI.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. Integrated L.3 and L.4	RL.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. Integrated L.3 and L.4
RI.5	Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.	RL.5	Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
RI.6	Determine an author's point of view/perspective in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.	RL.6	Analyze how differences in the perspectives of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
RI.7	Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.	RL.7	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.
RI.8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.		
RI.9	Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.	RL.9	Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works from around the world, including describing how the material is rendered new.
RI.10	Read and comprehend informational texts appropriately complex for grade 8.	RL.10	Read and comprehend literary texts appropriately complex for grade 8
Reading Foundational			
RF.4	Read grade-level text orally with fluency (accuracy, automaticity, and prosody) to support comprehension, in accordance with grade-level fluency norms.		

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Writing Arguments		Writing Informative Texts		Writing Narratives		Writing Other	
W.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.	W.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.	W.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.	W.4	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well the purpose and audience have been addressed.
	<p>a Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate claims or counterclaims.</p> <p>b Organize the reasons and evidence logically.</p> <p>c Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</p> <p>d Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.</p> <p>e Establish and maintain a formal style.</p> <p>f Provide a conclusion that follows from the argument presented, as appropriate to the task.</p>		<p>a Introduce a topic clearly; previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; Include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension.</p> <p>b Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.</p> <p>c Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</p> <p>d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</p> <p>e Establish and maintain a formal style.</p> <p>f Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.</p>		<p>a Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.</p> <p>b Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p> <p>c Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.</p> <p>d Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</p> <p>e Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.</p>		<p>(Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of related Writing Foundations and/or Language standards.)</p>
						W.5	<p>Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.</p> <p>Integrated SL Leverage available technology to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.</p>
						W.6	<p>Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration:</p> <p>a Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively.</p> <p>b Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source.</p> <p>c Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.</p> <p>d Quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism.</p> <p>e Follow a standard format for citation.</p>

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Speaking and Listening		Language	
SL.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly:	L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar and usage when reading, writing or speaking:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to prove and reflect on ideas under discussion. b Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. d Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Use and explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.. b Use verbs in the active and passive voice. c Use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. d Use correct shifts in verb voice and mood.
SL.2	Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentations.	L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing:
SL.3	Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.	L.3	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede). c Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech. d Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
SL.4	Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.	L.4	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context. b Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words. c Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).
SL.5	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts, demonstrating understanding of audience, task, and purpose, drawing on a full range of linguistic skills.	L.5	Accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.