



CURRICULUM AT A GLANCE

GRADE 8 ELA

The Grade 8 English curriculum builds on the skills, strategies, and classroom practices developed in grades 6 and 7. In reading, we emphasize personal choice, reading volume and complexity, and abstract thinking about literature while also strengthening skills in close reading of shared texts in preparation for high school. Building off previous work, students dive deeper into close reading and analysis of character, theme, and craft. In writing, students are once again exposed to the three major modes (narrative, explanatory and argument), but a greater emphasis is put on research skills and literary essay writing as students prepare to transition to high school. A high instructional focus is put on writing structure, elaboration, fluency, and craft. In addition, students continue foundational study of language conventions, vocabulary acquisition and use, and critical speaking and listening skills.

Grade 8 ELA	
Unit Name	Learning
Unit 1: Close Reading for Character Analysis through Novel Study	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● learn strategies for and practice active, close reading of both shorter and longer text passages. ● practice inference through the study of character. ● analyze the development of a character using traditional methods of characterization (what a character says, does, thinks and what others say, think and how they act towards that character). ● explore personal connections (similarities and differences) to characters within the text.
Unit 2 : Writing Character Analysis	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● apply the critical reading of the previous unit to craft a character-based analysis. ● formulate claims that are complex, clear, and arguable. ● introduce claim(s) and organize evidence clearly. ● integrate evidence within writing using context. ● support claim(s) with clear reasons and integrate relevant evidence from the text using MLA citation. ● provide analysis to connect evidence to the claim.
Unit 3: Contemporary Book Clubs	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● continue to build their fiction reading skills as they explore contemporary issues in their book club novel.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● explore the role of social commentary and think about the messages authors convey about the world we live in ● analyze how authors use literary elements (i.e. symbolism, allusions , archetypes) to create social commentary, and develop themes. ● analyze the development of a character ● craft responses to literature that are grounded in inferential thinking and use evidence to support claims
<p>Unit 4:</p> <p>Author's Craft in Narrative Nonfiction</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● identify and practice reading for different purposes within multiple texts in order to understand the relationships between a reader's purpose and an author's purpose. ● define and identify nonfiction craft moves (extreme language, use of evidence, contradictions, and text structures). ● critically evaluate an author's purpose in an informational text. ● understand how an author's craft and purpose influences the reader.
<p>Unit 5:</p> <p>Engaging with <i>Shakespeare</i>:</p> <p>A Deeper Study of Theme</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● track motifs across the text in order to analyze the development of multiple themes. ● discover text-to-self connections through thematic discussions as well as modernizing the text through paraphrase. ● analyze how specific lines of dialogue or incidents contribute to the evolution of a theme. ● understand and consider the subtext of a scene and how it contributes to a developing theme. ● employ multiple interpretations, including film, to evaluate motifs and the themes they represent. ● employ and cite evidence to construct written responses. ● synthesize motif patterns and construct accurate thematic statements.
<p>Unit 6:</p> <p>The Literary Essay</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● apply the critical reading of film and short fiction to craft a theme based synthesis essay. ● synthesize across texts to formulate claims that are complex, clear, and arguable. ● support claim(s) with clear reasons and integrate relevant evidence from the text using MLA citation.
<p>Unit 7:</p> <p>Reading Memoir</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● discover which writing techniques are valuable in the genre of memoir. ● readers will know and be able to identify literary devices in memoir and explain their purpose. ● explain the connection between literary devices, craft moves and an author's purpose. ● determine how authors create a sense of empathy in the reader. ● identify the components of an individual author's style and evaluate how their style achieves purpose.

<p>Unit 8:</p> <p>Writing Memoir</p>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● develop a personal narrative that has been drafted, revised and polished.● emulate the craft moves of mentor authors in their own writing.● employ memoir techniques to create a sense of empathy in the reader.● evaluate their own writing for evidence of craft.
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