

Middle School ELA Curriculum Guidelines

[A Research-Based Approach](#)

8th grade

Informational 11 weeks	<p>Maintaining an Independent Reading Life (2 weeks)</p> <p>Literary Nonfiction - Partnerships - (5 weeks) In this unit, students will read nonfiction books and other media and learn how to make the most of these portals to fascinating times, places, and people—not to escape our world, but to better understand and address its issues. The book-length nonfiction that middle schoolers will read possesses a unique blend of heart-rending storytelling and challenging density. The skills of this unit are essential for students coming of age in an era of global collaboration and vital in the development of a truly informed, critical citizen.</p> <p>Investigative Journalism - (4 weeks) Students will learn to use sharp observations of life to write news and investigative articles about meaningful topics, crafting vivid narratives and elaborating multiple perspectives. They'll write to shine a light on issues in their community and to actively stir their readers to take action.</p>
Reading Literature/ Narrative Unit 9 weeks	<p>Reading Literature Unit - Classics (5 weeks) Students will study how reading classic literature helps readers become more well-rounded individuals in today's society and compares themes in classic literature to themes in modern literature. This unit aims to introduce all your students to reading classics. This means engaging students with texts that are valued as cultural literacy, knowing that not all your students will necessarily read every word of these texts, but that all of your students can appreciate the themes, characters, archetypes, and literary traditions these texts introduce. Students will study structures, themes, and craft, paying attention to how these uncover and bring forward meanings. They will discover strategies for navigating a difficult and higher level text, and they will begin to develop skills in literary criticism.</p> <p>Literary Essay (4 weeks) Students return to literary essays, writing arguments and counterarguments about themes in texts, supporting their positions with details of plot, character, and author's craft.</p>
Book Clubs 4 weeks	<p>Dystopian/Fantasy Book Clubs (4 weeks) Readers will develop skills in reading more complex fiction texts: analyzing symbolism, deepening character analysis, understanding story arcs, and reading critically with questions in mind. Meanwhile, they will build on their work with reading notebooks, strengthening their ability to transfer their skills from one context to another, and supporting their increasing independence as readers and thinkers. In this unit, readers will explore social relationships through series, characters, dystopian worlds, and our current world.</p>

Argumentative 4 weeks	Position Papers - Research Argumentative - In this unit students learn to compose principled arguments by drawing on evidence, contextualizing their positions, and addressing multiple perspectives.
Poetry 2 weeks	<u>Analyzing poetry</u> Students will analyze various types of poetry to identify text evidence that supports opinions, inferences, and theme. Additionally, students will study the structure, format, and craft to develop a deeper understanding of the poem. The analysis will help students write and identify a summary of the poem. Students will also analyze language to determine tone and meaning, as well as compare poems to determine the author's perspective.
2 weeks	<u>Testing as a Genre</u>
32 weeks	Total number of weeks