



Curriculum Overview

Subject: Language Arts

Grade: 8

By the end of the year, you can expect your child to:

- Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text
- Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision
- 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
- 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
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor
- Evaluate the choices made by the directors or actors by analyzing the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script
- Analyze and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new

- Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories)
- Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences, to develop and to refine a key concept
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea
- 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
- Analyze and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
 - A. Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically
 - B. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text
 - C. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence
 - D. Establish and maintain a formal style
 - E. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content

- A. Introduce a topic and organize ideas, concepts, and information, using text structures (e.g., definition, classification, comparison/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) and text features (e.g., headings, graphics, and multimedia)
- B. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples
- C. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts
- D. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic
- E. Establish and maintain a formal style/academic style, approach, and form
- F. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences
 - 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
 - B. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters
 - 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
 - D. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events
 - E. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events