

Eighth Grade Common Core “I Can” Statements



Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details

RL.8.1 - Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	I Can:				
	• Define cite				
	• Find evidence for strong support				
RL.8.2 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Determine theme				
	• Analyze theme development				
	• Explain how the theme relates to the characters, setting, and plot				
RL.8.3 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Explain how dialogue and incidents moves the action, develops a character, and provokes decisions				

Craft and structure

RL.8.4 - 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.*	I Can:				
	• Define figurative language				
	○ Personification				
	○ Simile				
	○ Metaphor				
	○ Hyperbole				
	○ Onomatopoeia				
	○ Allusions				
	○ Analogies				
	○ Others:				
• Define connotative meaning					
• Explain the impact of figurative language on a literary piece					
• Determine the meaning of a word					

RL.8.5 - 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.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how structure affects meaning of two or more texts 				
RL.8.6 - Explain how differences in the point of view of characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) creates such effects as suspense or humor.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define point of view 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the similarities and differences of characters' points of views and how they create suspense or humor. 				

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

RL.8.7 - 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.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the similarities and differences between a written work and an audio/visual presentation of the same work. 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the choices made by the director and actors 				
RL 8.8 - (Not applicable to literature)					
RL.8.9 - Analyze 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.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how a modern piece is affected by or draws from myths, traditional stories, or religious works 				

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

RL.8.10 - By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band* independently and proficiently.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehend many genres of literature at my grade level 				
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Reading Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

RI.8.1 - Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	I Can:				
	• Define cite				
	• Find evidence for strong support				
RI.8.2 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Determine the central idea				
	• Explain how a central idea develops throughout the text				
RI.8.3 - Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).	I Can:				
	• Explain how people, ideas, and situations are connected in a text				

Craft and structure

RI.8.4 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Determine the meaning of words and phrases				
	• Define figurative language				
	• Define connotative meaning				
	• Define technical meanings				
RI.8.5 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Explain in detail how an author uses the structure to develop concepts				
RI.8.6 - 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.	I Can:				
	• Define point of view				
	• Determine the author's point of view in a text				
	• Explain how an author responds to others' points of view				

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

<p>RI.8.7 - Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums. 				
<p>RI.8.8 - 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.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define delineate 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if the support is relevant 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if the support is sufficient 				
<p>RI.8.9 - 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.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the similarities and differences between two written works on the same topic 				

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

<p>RI.8.10 - By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band* independently and proficiently.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehend nonfiction writing at my grade level 				
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Writing

Text Types and Purposes

<p>W.8.1 - Write arguments* to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <p>a. Introduce claim(s)*, acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.</p> <p>b. Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</p> <p>c. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.*</p> <p>d. Establish and maintain a formal style.</p> <p>e. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an argumentative paper 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define claims 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define argument 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a strong claim 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize evidence to support a claim 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include relevant evidence for and against an argument 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use credible sources 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use transitions to clarify relationships 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define cohesion 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a formal style 				
<p>W.8.2 - Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</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 aiding 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>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an informative/explanatory paper 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a topic previewing the content 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use multiple strategies to organize information 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use charts, pictures, headings, etc. to organize 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the topic with facts, details, quotes and examples 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use transitions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use descriptive vocabulary 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a formal style 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a concluding statement 				

e. Establish and maintain a formal style.					
f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.					
<p>W.8.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</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>	I Can:				
	• Write a narrative paper				
	• Develop a narrator and/or characters				
	• Develop point of view				
	• Develop a plot				
	• Use dialogue				
	• Use transitions to show relationships				
	• Use descriptive vocabulary and sensory language				
• Provide a conclusion					

Production and Distribution

W.8.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3.)	I Can:				
	• Develop grade-level appropriate writing				
W.8.5 - 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	I Can:				
	• Use revision strategies				
	• Use editing strategies				
	• Revise for a specific purpose and audience				

well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 8 .)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use feedback from teachers and/or peers 				
W.8.6 - 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.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use technology to publish writing 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show relationships between information and ideas 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use technology to collaborate 				

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

W.8.7 - Conduct short 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.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do a research project 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use several sources to answer a question 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate focused questions for research 				
W.8.8 - Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find information from print sources 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find information from digital sources 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use search terms 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define credible 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide if a source is credible 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define plagiarism 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paraphrase information 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include quotes 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cite sources 				
W.8.9 - Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. a. Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Analyze 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."). b. Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use pieces from literary texts to support my writing 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use pieces from informational texts to support my writing 				

<p>whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.").</p>					
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Range of Writing

<p>W.10 - Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write for many reasons 				
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Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration

<p>SL.8.1 - 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.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</p> <p>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and elicit elaboration, and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.</p> <p>d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding in light of the evidence presented.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in one-on-one discussions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in group discussions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in teacher-led discussions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for a discussion 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow rules for discussions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions that connect the ideas of my group members 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to questions posed by my group members 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the group's discussion 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand others' perspectives 				
	<p>SL.8.2 - Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the use and purpose of multiple forms of media 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate why information was presented in a specific format 					
<p>SL.8.3 - Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims,</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define delineate 				

evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the soundness, relevance, and sufficiency of evidence 				
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Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

SL.8.4 - 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.	I Can:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present claims logically 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define salient points 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use relevant descriptions, facts, and details with reasoning 				
SL.8.5 - Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.	I Can:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use multimedia components in a presentation to strengthen claims 				
SL.8.6 - Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 8 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)	I Can:				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use formal language in a classroom setting 				

Language

Conventions of Standard English

<p>L.8.1 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.*</p> <p>a. Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.</p> <p>b. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.</p> <p>c. Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood.</p> <p>d. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate proper usage of the eight parts of speech in writing and speaking 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the function of verbals 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use verbs in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Active voice ○ Passive voice 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indicative mood 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imperative mood 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interrogative mood 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conditional mood 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subjunctive mood 				
<p>L.8.2 - Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</p> <p>a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.</p> <p>b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission.</p> <p>c. Spell correctly.</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use capitalization and punctuation correctly. 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use punctuation to indicate a pause or break 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spell correctly 				

Knowledge of Language

<p>L.8.3 - Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.</p> <p>a. Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use proper conventions 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use verbs in multiple forms to achieve an effect 				

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

<p>L.8.4 - 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).</p> <p>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 or its part of speech.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use context clues to determine the meaning of a word 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Greek or Latin roots to determine the meaning of a word 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use print reference materials 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use electronic reference materials 				
<p>L.8.5 - Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p> <p>a. Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context.*</p> <p>b. Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.</p> <p>c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute).</p>	<p>I Can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret figurative language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similes ○ Metaphors ○ Personification ○ Idioms ○ Alliteration ○ Onomatopoeia ○ Allusions ○ Others: 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use figurative language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similes ○ Metaphors ○ Personification ○ Idioms ○ Alliteration ○ Onomatopoeia ○ Allusions ○ Others: 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find relationships between words to better understand them 				
L.8.6 - Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.	I Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use grade appropriate vocabulary 				

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