

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade

8

A resource to help you support your child's learning

In grade eight, students will read major works of fiction and nonfiction from all over the world and from different time periods. They will also conduct research that will require the analysis of resources and accurate interpretation of literary and informational text. Activities in these areas will include:

- Identifying what a reading selection explicitly says and drawing inferences based on evidence
- Analyzing the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts
- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient
- Connecting information and ideas in writing
- Analyzing the purpose of information presented in diverse media formats, such as video clips
- Participating in class discussions
- Developing a large vocabulary of multi-use academic words and phrases
- Interpreting figures of speech, such as puns or verbal irony, in context

In grade eight, students will read a wide range of literature, including stories, plays, and poems. They will read to learn about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

Reading Literature

Grade Seven Reading	Grade Eight Reading	Grade Nine Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot. Students also provide an objective summary of the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and reader create suspense or humor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students analyze a particular point of view or experience is reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States.

Reading for Information

Grade Seven Reading	Grade Eight Reading	Grade Nine Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students cite several pieces of evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students cite evidence from the text that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students cite evidence from the text to support an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (such as how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (such as print or digital text, video, or multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (such as print, video, and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

Writing

Writing tasks in grade eight may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Seven Writing	Grade Eight Writing	Grade Nine Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students introduce a topic and develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (such as articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform or explain the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary appropriate for the complexity of the topic.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for materials about those topics.
3. It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Make time for conversation. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
5. Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
6. Use websites to read books or articles online. Libraries also have computers students can use.

Partnering with your child's teacher

Ask your child's teacher questions like:

- Is my child producing quality work?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What additional support or resources can I provide my child at home?

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English go to <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy> or <http://www.commoncoreworks.org>.