

English Language Arts Brunswick School Department
Grade 8
Study of Literature
Novels, Short Stories, Plays, and Poetry

Essential Understandings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good readers use skills and strategies of the reading process to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate what they have read.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What makes themes universal? ▪ What are some reoccurring themes in literature? ▪ How are elements of fiction interrelated? ▪ How does culture affect literature? ▪ How does an author's use of literary devices contribute to a literary piece? ▪ How can applying reading strategies contribute to a more meaningful understanding of the text?
Essential Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A book may have multiple themes. ▪ Themes are common to many pieces of literature. ▪ Elements of fiction (plot, characterization, point of view, and theme) are interrelated. ▪ Literary text is affected by its cultural context. ▪ Authors use specific literary devices to involve readers. ▪ Authors use minor characters to develop the main characters. ▪ Reading strategies allow the reader to better comprehend a text.
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ symbolism, irony, tone, foreshadowing, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, synthesizing, evaluating
Essential Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and defend themes in literary works. ▪ Analyze the interrelationship among elements of fiction (e.g., how characters react to events, how plot develops theme, how point of view affects character development). ▪ Apply knowledge of a culture's social and cultural context to understand a work of fiction. ▪ Identify and recognize literary devices an author may use (e.g., symbolism, irony, tone, mood, foreshadowing, flashback, etc.) ▪ Identify and analyze examples in fiction and poetry of figurative language (e.g., simile, metaphor (review), personification, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia). ▪ Analyze characters and the relationship of major to minor characters. ▪ Identify and apply the following reading strategies: (Review strategies introduced in grades 6 and 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Synthesize (review, sort, and sift to form new ideas) ○ Evaluate (form opinions, make judgments, and develop ideas from reading)

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Related Maine Learning Results	<u>English Language Arts</u> <i>***pending legislative approval of the 2007 revised Maine Learning Results</i>
Sample Lessons And Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literature circles ▪ Whole class discussions ▪ Small group discussions ▪ Reading selections from Maine authors and poets in required.
Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Essays ▪ Quizzes ▪ Tests
Sample Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Publications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Maine Speaks Anthology</u>
Technology Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/curriculum