

8th Grade ELA – 2nd Edition

Unit 1

- Understand the function of verbs, participles, and appositive phrases.
- Understand adverbial phrases and clauses as well as subordinating conjunctions.
- Understand relative pronouns and differentiate between main versus subordinating clauses.
- Correctly identify antecedents, parallel structures, and consistent tenses in a variety of complete sentences.
- Use conventions of capitalization.
- Use correct punctuation marks.
- Use correct spelling.
- Understand the difference between formal and informal when writing or speaking.

Unit 2

- Define fluency and comprehension and check your understanding.
- Use context clues and author's word choices to aid comprehension.
- Understand how to decode unfamiliar words.
- Recognize Greek and Latin roots.
- Use a dictionary to discover meaning, pronunciation, part of speech, and syllabication.
- Assess how root words, prefixes, and suffixes create meaning.
- Practice word decoding through the use of analogies.

Unit 3

- Learn the five steps of the writing process.
- Understand the six purposes of writing.
- Understand the importance of planning before writing.
- Know how to gather information for your writing project.
- Write a thesis statement that expresses the main idea.
- Organize your facts by using an outline, a mind map, or a chart.
- Develop a rough draft using the information from your graphic organizer.
- Write an introduction (including a thesis statement), supporting paragraphs, and a solid conclusion.
- Revise, edit, and publish your final draft.
- Understand the components and structure of a narrative.
- Write an imaginative story to entertain the reader by following the steps of the writing process.
- Understand the elements of story writing, including word choice, characterization, mood, flashback, and foreshadowing.
- Understand the characteristics of a personal narrative.
- Use the writing process to write a personal narrative.

Unit 4

- Read grade-level texts with fluency and comprehension.
- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about theme and genre in literary texts.
- Analyze literary works that share similar themes across cultures.
- Analyze how the central characters' qualities influence the theme of a fictional work and resolution of the central conflict.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction.
- Analyze plot developments to determine whether and how conflicts are resolved.
- Explain how the values and beliefs of particular characters are affected by the historical and cultural setting of a literary work.
- Analyze different forms of point of view, including limited versus omniscient, and subjective versus objective.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of poetry.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about how an author's use of sensory language creates imagery in a literary text.

- Explain the effect of figurative language, such as similes and extended metaphors, on a literary text.
- Compare and contrast the purposes and characteristics of different poetic forms.
- Write poems using poetic techniques, figurative language, and graphic elements.
- Compare and contrast mythologies from various cultures.
- Apply knowledge of literary terms to a fictional work.

Unit 5

- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the author's purpose in cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structural patterns and features of literary nonfiction.
- Explain the character's decisions based on the historical and cultural setting of a work of nonfiction.
- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about expository texts.
- Summarize main ideas, supporting details, and relationships among ideas in an expository text.
- Distinguish factual claims from opinions in expository texts.
- Write a multi-paragraph essay to convey information about a topic.
- Write effective introduction and concluding paragraphs for an expository essay.
- Write a clearly stated purpose or controlling idea.
- Logically organize facts and details with no unnecessary information.
- Use a variety of sentence structures, rhetorical devices, and transitions to link paragraphs.
- Synthesize and make logical connections between ideas within a text and across two or three texts.
- Analyze procedural texts for missing or unnecessary information.
- Evaluate graphics for their clarity in communicating meaning or achieving a specific purpose.
- Understand the parts of a business letter and the procedure for writing a business letter.
- Write a letter that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information.

Unit 6

- Develop a research plan and brainstorm to decide on a topic.
- Formulate an open-ended research question to address the topic.
- Determine, locate, and explore relevant sources.
- Evaluate sources for reliability and validity and explain the usefulness of sources.
- Gather information from sources by taking notes and avoiding plagiarism.
- Record bibliographic information from sources for all information gathered.
- Narrow or broaden research question based on research and investigation.
- Develop a tentative outline and a thesis statement.
- Create a final outline for the research paper.
- Write an introductory paragraph with a well-stated thesis.
- Arrange evidence to explain the topic and give reasons for conclusions.
- Summarize and paraphrase information gathered from sources.
- Integrate quotations and citations into the written text to maintain a flow of ideas.
- Write a concluding paragraph with a restated thesis.
- Revise the rough draft by evaluating ideas, evidence, word choice, style, and tone.
- Proofread and edit to correct errors in mechanics, spelling, grammar, usage, and sentence structure.
- Polish any rough areas and write a final draft.
- Create a multimedia presentation from the research essay.

Unit 7

- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions from informational texts.
- Synthesize ideas from several sources to gain understanding about an author's background.
- Make inferences and draw conclusions from evidence given in a fictional mystery story.
- Demonstrate reading fluency and comprehension.
- Use context to determine or clarify the meaning of unfamiliar words.

- Identify words from other languages that are used in written English.
- Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to determine the meanings and synonyms of words.
- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural and historical contexts.
- Explain figures of speech, such as metaphors and idioms, used in a fictional work.
- Analyze linear plot development to determine whether and how conflicts are resolved.
- Analyze how the central characters' qualities influence the theme of a fictional work and resolution of the central conflict.
- Analyze different forms of point of view.
- Write responses to literary texts that demonstrate the use of writing skills for a multi-paragraph essay and provide evidence from the text using quotations.

Unit 8

- Choose and read a nonfiction book as a primary or secondary source.
- Make predictions, ask questions, define an author's purpose, and analyze informational text.
- Define and recognize elements of persuasive writing and rhetorical devices.
- Analyze elements of persuasion in a political speech.
- Define, recognize, and analyze fallacies.
- Define and analyze stereotyping and prejudice.
- Analyze and compare arguments and appeals in persuasive essays.
- Analyze and plan an argumentative essay.
- Compose a multi-paragraph argumentative text using genre characteristics.
- Research for valid sources and cite them using Modern Language Association (MLA) format.
- Revise and edit for spelling and grammar errors.
- Deliver a persuasive speech.
- Evaluate a speaker's argument and presentation skills.

Unit 9

- Understand the purposes of various types of media.
- Analyze how words, images, graphics, and sounds work together in various forms to impact meaning.
- Interpret how visual and sound techniques influence the message.
- Evaluate the role of media in focusing attention on events and informing opinion on issues.
- Evaluate various techniques used to create a point of view in media.
- Evaluate the impact of media on the audience.
- Understand the use of propaganda techniques in media.
- Assess the correct level of formality and tone for successful participation in digital media.
- Use comprehension skills to listen attentively to others in formal and informal settings.
- Follow and give complex oral instructions to perform specific tasks, answer questions, or solve problems.
- Summarize formal and informal presentations.
- Speak clearly and to the point, using the conventions of language.
- Use eye contact, speaking rate, volume, enunciation, a variety of natural gestures, and conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively.
- Advocate a position using anecdotes, analogies, and/or illustrations.
- Work productively with others in teams.
- Participate productively in discussions, plan agendas with clear goals and deadlines, set time limits for speakers, take notes, and vote on key issues.

Unit 10

- Read with fluency and comprehension.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of drama and provide evidence from the text to support understanding.
- Use a dictionary or thesaurus to determine the meanings of words.
- Analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the theme and genre of a literary work.

- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support understanding.
- Analyze how playwrights characterize their protagonists and antagonists through the dialogue and staging of their plays.
- Gather information from a range of relevant print and electronic sources.
- Analyze how the central characters' qualities influence the theme of a fictional work and resolution of the central conflict.
- Analyze linear plot developments to determine whether and how conflicts are resolved.
- Analyze different forms of point of view.
- Understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about how an author's sensory language creates imagery in a literary text.
- Use context to determine or clarify the meanings of unfamiliar words.
- Explain how the values and beliefs of particular characters are affected by the historical and cultural setting of the literary work.
- Write responses to literary texts that demonstrate the use of writing skills for a multi-paragraph essay and provide sustained evidence from the text using quotations when appropriate.