



Reading-Language Arts

Grade 8

1st Nine Weeks

This academic overview can be used to monitor and support your child's at-home learning progress
Unit 1: Read like a Writer, Write like a Reader

Student Learning Targets

- I can understand and appreciate the power of narrative, stories, and poems to share our beliefs, passions, and experiences,
- I can make connections, inferences, use text evidence, and use resources to determine word meaning to support my interpretation of text.
- I can explain the connections between reading and using writing to become a better writer.
- I can analyze texts to understand the parts and choices writers make to engage the reader and communicate a message.
- I can draft, revise, and edit routinely in a digital writer's notebook and while writing stories and poems.
- I can use independent reading of my own self-selected texts to improve my reading skills.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- What do the stories and poems we read say about the life around us?
- How do writers craft or create powerful narratives?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Narrative: a story or the structure of a story
- Textual evidence: selected words or phrases from text
- Message: an author's theme or controlling idea

Unit 2: Challenges of Individuality

Student Learning Targets

- I can understand the power of fiction and literary nonfiction to share my world and learn about our fellow human beings.
- I can paraphrase and summarize, make inferences, use text evidence, and use context to determine word meaning to support my interpretation of text.
- I can analyze texts for plot, characterization, setting, and figurative language to understand how writers use author's craft to achieve a specific literary purpose, using text evidence to support my thinking.
- I can draft, revise, and edit my own narrative texts, sharing my stories.
- I can synthesize new understanding by reading for theme in a text, and synthesize across multiple texts to draw conclusions about themes from multiple texts.
- I can continue practices of independent reading and writing in a writer's notebook to strengthen my literacy skills.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- What are the parts (author's craft) of a narrative that make it good?
- How do you create stories when you write?
- How do readers determine a text's theme? How do themes in text help us live richer lives?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Literary nonfiction: biographies, autobiographies, personal narratives
- Author's craft: choices writers to make to engage the reader
- Author's purpose: the reason why an author creates a text and why an author makes writing choices
- Synthesize: to combine understanding from parts of a text to create new understanding