

English Language Arts 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and informational styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate one another's speeches and adjust to new audiences and situations. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

The two-semester course is arranged in units that each center on a set of skills or a broad topic. Each unit has four lessons: three instructional lessons and one lesson of assessment. The instructional lessons include a variety of activities, such as direct instruction, assignments, discussions, and both formative and summative assessments. The assessment lesson presents the unit test after giving students a chance to review. Throughout the course, students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored applications.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Stories Based on Stories

- Plot Archetypes
- Character Archetypes
- Thematic Archetypes
- Wrap-Up: Stories Based on Stories

Unit 2: Structure and Meaning

- The Form of a Story
- Poetic Devices
- Poetic Structure
- Wrap-Up: Structure and Meaning

Unit 3: Informational Writing

- Reading an Informational Essay
- Planning an Informational Essay
- Writing an Informational Essay
- Wrap-Up: Informational Writing

Unit 4: Creative Writing

- Planning a Work of Flash Fiction
- Writing a Work of Flash Fiction
- Revising Flash Fiction
- Wrap-Up: Creative Writing

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up**Unit 6: Nonfiction**

- Literary Nonfiction
- Informational Texts
- Correspondence
- Wrap-Up: Nonfiction

Unit 7: Persuasive Texts

- Conflicting Accounts
- Rhetoric
- Analyzing Arguments
- Wrap-Up: Persuasive Texts

Unit 8: Argumentative Writing

- Research, Part 1
- Research, Part 2
- Writing as Craft
- Wrap-Up: Argumentative Writing

Unit 9: Multimedia

- Working in Groups
- Giving Speeches
- Media
- Wrap-Up: Multimedia

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up
