

English Foundations I supports adolescent literacy development at the critical stage between decoding and making meaning from text. Through intensive reading and writing skills instruction, deep practice sets, consistent formative feedback, graduated reading levels, and helpful strategy tips, the course leads students to improved comprehension and text handling.

Semester 1 provides instruction in basic reading skills and vocabulary building. The student learns what a successful reader does to attack words and sentences and make meaning from them. Semester 2 provides instruction in basic writing skills, introduces academic tools, and demonstrates effective study skills. The student learns step-by-step processes for building effective paragraphs and learns how to use academic tools such as reference books and outlines. To provide additional support, the course uses text features and visual clues to draw students' attention to important information. The use of text features is also designed to help students internalize strategies for comprehending informational text.

Characters appear throughout the instruction to offer tips and fix-up strategies in an authentic, first-person, think-aloud format. Their inclusion makes transparent the reading processes that go on inside the mind of a successful reader. This extra metacognitive support serves to bolster student confidence and provide a model of process and perseverance.

Numerous practice opportunities are provided in the form of assessments that move from no stakes to low stakes to high stakes throughout a unit. This practice is centered on authentic and age-appropriate passages that are written in a topical framework and use controlled syntax and vocabulary. The difficulty of these passages gradually increases from a 3rd- to 5th grade reading level over the duration of the course. Additional support is offered through significant formative feedback in practice and assessment.

This course guides students through the reading, writing, and basic academic skills needed to prepare for success in academic coursework. At the end of the course, the student should be poised for continued success in the academic world. The content is based on extensive national and state standards research and consultation with reading specialists and classroom teachers. This course is built to state standards for reading and writing and informed by NCTE/IRA reading and writing standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to the Course

- Course Overview
- Introduction to the Course Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Identifying the Main Idea

- Main Idea

- Homophones
- Main Idea Wrap-Up

Unit 3: Making Inferences: Part I

- Inferences: Part I
- Context Clues: Part I
- Inferences: Part I Wrap-Up

Unit 4: Making Inferences: Part II

- Inferences: Part II
- Context Clues: Part II
- Inferences: Part II Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Recognizing Author's Purpose

- Author's Purpose
- Using Roots and Affixes: Part I
- Author's Purpose Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Mastering Fact and Opinion

- Fact and Opinion
- Using Roots and Affixes: Part II
- Fact and Opinion Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Understanding Summarizing

- Summarizing
- Roots and Affixes: Part III
- Summarizing Wrap-Up

Unit 8: Understanding Summarizing in Different Subjects

- Summarizing in Different Subjects
- Connotation
- Summarizing in Different Subjects Wrap-Up

Unit 9: Making Connections Across Texts: Part I

- Connections Across Texts: Part I
- Idioms and Other Figurative Language
- Making Connections Across Texts: Part I Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Making Connections Across Texts: Part II

- Connections Across Texts: Part II
- Mapping Words
- Connections Across Texts: Part II Wrap-Up

Unit 11: Introduction to the Course

- Course Overview
- Introduction to the Course Wrap-Up

Unit 12: Identifying Purpose and Audience

- Purpose and Audience
- Using Reference Materials: Part I
- Purpose and Audience Wrap-Up

Unit 13: Breaking Down a Paragraph

- The Paragraph
- Using Reference Materials: Part II
- The Paragraph Wrap-Up

Unit 14: Adding Details

- Details
- Finding Synonyms
- Adding Details Wrap-Up

Unit 15: Supporting Claims

- Claims and Support
- Categorizing: Part I
- Supporting Claims Wrap-Up

Unit 16: Understanding Sentence Structure

- Sentence Structure
- Reading Visual Media
- Sentence Structure Wrap-Up

Unit 17: Organizing Across Paragraphs

- Paragraph Organization
- Interpreting Maps and Timelines
- Paragraph Organization Wrap-Up

Unit 18: Using Transitions

- Transitions
- Interpreting Graphs and Charts
- Transitions Wrap-Up

Unit 19: Understanding Word Choice

- Word Choice
- Outlines: Part I
- Word Choice Wrap-Up

Unit 20: Controlling Mechanics

- Mechanics
- Outlines: Part II
- Controlling Mechanics Wrap-Up