

Billings K-8 English Language Arts Glossary Aligned with Montana Content Standards

Term	Where it is found	Meaning	Example
Academic language	Reading for Informational Text	Specific vocabulary that is critical for communicating in an academic environment	Students will use explicit vocabulary to engage in academic content to understand concepts in all disciplines
Adages	Language	A saying that contains a general truth and has gained credibility by being used over time	Don't burn your bridges; don't count your chicken before they hatch; a picture is worth a thousand words
Affixes	Writing	A word element, usually a prefix or suffix, that can be attached to a base or root to form a new word	Re-, un-, -ing, -ed, -ous, pre-, -tion, -sion
Alliteration	Reading for Literature	The repetition of the initial sounds in neighboring words or stressed syllables	Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
Allude to significant characters found in mythology	Reading for Literature	A literary device that casually or indirectly refers to a character (in this case) in mythology	I wish I had received blessing from Cupid on Valentine's Day.
Author's purpose	Speaking and Listening	What the author intends to communicate in their writing. The author may want to persuade, entertain, or inform.	Newspapers- to inform Harry Potter- to entertain Magazines- to inform and/or entertain Newspaper editorial- to persuade
Blog	Writing	(Web=Log=blog) A discussion of information site, with an electronic, "running" log. The most recent entries are posted at the top of the electronic page; older postings are archived	On the Lead 21 website, we use the Writing Tool as a student blog. Kidblog is a great resource for students' online blog. Some teachers write a classroom blog to keep parents informed.
Central Message	Reading for Literature	The theme or main idea the author wishes to convey about a subject.	<i>"The Tortoise and the Hare"</i> - Slow and steady wins the race; Just because a person has talent does not mean he or she will be successful. You must always work hard and try your best
Character traits	Reading for Literature	Words that describe the character's personality or physical features. Characters traits can be static or dynamic.	Harry Potter is loyal, modest, trustworthy, brave, and has a lightning shaped scar on his forehead. Ramona Quimby is bright, stubborn, and mischievous.

Clarifies	Speaking and Listening	Clear up	The student will clarify something they did not understand
Close Reading	Reading for Informational Text	Careful and purposeful rereading of a text	Students will focus on what the author had to say, what the author's purpose was, what the words mean, and what the structure of the text tells us while bringing their own ideas to bear on that text
Collaborative	Speaking and Listening	working together to achieve something	Students will participate in collaborative discussions
Comparative adjectives and adverbs	Language	Adjectives used to compare the difference between two nouns-formed by adding -er to adjectives and adverbs	The winter is colder than the summer. The black dog is older than the white dog. Jim works harder than his father.
Concluding statement or section	Writing	One or several sentences that wrap up a writing piece	Every classroom should have at least five computers. (opinion) It was the most unbelievable day of my young life (narrative)
Conjecture	Writing	A conjecture is an initial guess one has based on the level of knowledge currently held.	In Lead 21, a conjecture is given after generating questions pertaining to a particular subject. What is the best guess based on what is known?
Coordinating conjunctions	Language	Words that connect words, phrases, and clauses. <i>For, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so</i> are coordinating conjunctions	The stew is so thick you can eat it with a fork or spoon. My cat loves having his head scratched, but he hates having his nails clipped.
Correlative conjunctions	Language	A paired set of conjunctions that links words, phrases, and clauses	Not only, either ...or, neither...nor, so...as, both...and
Demonstratives	Language	Pronouns or adjectives that point out which item is being referred to in a sentence	This, that, these, those
Derivational suffixes	Reading Foundational Skills	A suffix added to a root or stem to form another word. Derivational suffixes often turn a word into a different part of speech	Like (verb) – likeness (noun), recreation (noun)- recreational (adjective), write- writer (noun)
Determiners	Language	Words used in front of nouns to indicate whether something specific or something of a particular type is being references	A, an, the, this, that, those, these, my, your, his, her, its, our, their

Dialect	Language	A provincial, rural, or socially distinct variety of a language that differs from the standard language	Ya'll. You guys, fixin'to, howdy, hello
Digital media	Language	Electronic media where data is stored in digital form	Hard drives and computer networking are examples of storage types: video, DVD, e-books, CDs, and the internet are forms of digital media
Diverse cultures	Reading for Literature	Recounting fables and folktales from different cultures	Variations of Cinderella from other cultures: <i>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, Cinderella, The Moss Covered Gown</i>
Diverse partners	Speaking and Listening	Using a variety of work and discussion partners for instructional and collaborative purpose	Students working together who are at the same or different academic levels
Domain-specific words and phrases	Reading for Informational Text	Words or phrases that are associated with a particular domain or field of study, such as science, social studies, math, etc.	When studying weather, domain-specific words could include cumulus clouds, tornado, forecast, thunderstorm, or cold front
Drama	Reading for Literature	A prose or verse composition intended for actors to impersonate characters and perform the dialogue and action. Elements include cast of characters, setting, dialogue, and stage directions	The students were reading the play "The Fisherman and his Wife". Reader's Theater is a form of drama.
Drawing conclusions	Reading for Literature	Combining several pieces of information to make an inference	If you see smoke filtering out of the kitchen and the smoke alarm is buzzing, you might conclude that there might be a fire in the kitchen.
Elaborate	Speaking and Listening	Give more details about something	The student asked the speaker to elaborate on his opinions about fire prevention.
Electronic menus	Reading for Informational Text	A menu found on a website that links the reader to online information. It can also appear as a list of options that can be used to navigate a website.	PICASSO has electronic menus for locating grade level information, handbooks, and CRCT Remediation information.
Explicit	Reading for Informational Text	Stating clearly and in detail	Students will clearly express their thoughts, leaving nothing to be implied.
Explicitly	Speaking and Listening	Expressed clearly	The student will provide evidence stated explicitly in text.

Expression	Speaking and Listening	Inflection in voice	The student read with good expression or prosody.
Fable	Reading for Literature	A brief story that included a moral or a lesson. Fables often include talking animals that reveal a general truth about human nature.	Aesop's fables such as <i>The Fox and the Crow</i> , <i>The Lion and the Mouse</i> , and <i>The Crow and the Pitcher</i>
Figurative	Reading for Literature	Counter to a literal usage, figurative use of language is the use of words or phrases in a manner where the literal meaning of the words is not true or does not make sense, but implies a non-literal meaning which does make sense or that could be true.	Simile, metaphor, hyperbole, idiom, and personification are all types of figurative language.
First hand account	Reading for Informational Text	A person who actually sees some act, occurrence, or thing and can give an eyewitness account	John saw a child fall from the bridge and he jumped in to save her. A first hand account would be told by someone who witnessed John jumping in to save the child.
First person narrative	Reading for Literature	In a first person narrative, the story is relayed by a narrator who is also a character within the story. The narrator reveals the plot by referring to this viewpoint character as "I" or when plural, "we".	<i>Just Grandma and Me</i> by Mercer Mayer <i>Superfudge</i> by Judy Bloom
Fluency	Speaking and Listening	Reading smoothly or Reading like you talk	Students will read their work fluently.
Folktale	Reading for Literature	A traditional story that attempts to explain or provide some understanding of the world. The stories are passed down from one generation to the next and are rooted in traditions of a group of people.	Some examples of folktales are <i>The Nightingale</i> , <i>The Seventh Sister</i> , and <i>The Wolf and the Seven Kids</i>
General academic words and phrases	Reading for Informational Text	The vocabulary critical to understanding the concepts of the content taught in schools. In general, it is language common to written texts but not used in speech.	Concept, analyze, approach, percent, period, interpret, infer, connect, define, more than, fewer than, reasonable responds
Genre	Reading for Literature	A type or category of literature	Poetry, drama, biography, science fiction, and essays are all types of genre.

Graphemes	Reading Foundational Skills	All of the letters and letter combination that represent a phoneme	Any letter of the alphabet; ph, f, gh for phoneme /f/; ou, vowel + consonant + silent e
Historical text	Reading for Informational Text	A primary or secondary source written about an historical period or event	A diary from a pioneer's trip across America, a copy of the Constitution or Declaration of Independence
Hyperbole	Reading for Literature	A description that is exaggerated for emphasis	From Paul Bunyan: "Well now, one winter it was so cold that all the geese flew backward and all the fish moved south and even the snow turned blue. Late at night, it got so frigid that all spoken words froze solid afore they could be heard. People had to wait until sunup to find out what folks were talking about the night before."
Hyperlink	Reading for Informational Text	A word or picture that when activated will take you to another page if you click on it	Students will click on hyperlinks to navigate their way through websites when browsing information.
Icons	Reading for Informational Text	An image, picture, or representation or something; an image that controls a computer operation	A picture of dog to signify a dog; a picture of a loudspeaker on a computer to signify the sound level
Idiom	Reading for Literature	A word or phrase that is not taken literally. They often refer to a dialect or jargon of a group of people.	Examples: She was sick as a dog. He could smell a rat.
Indefinite pronouns	Language	Words that replace nouns without specifying which nouns they replace	Another, everybody, anything, each, either, anybody, everyone, nobody, somebody, someone
Inference	Reading for Informational Text	Conclusion based on evidence and reasoning	Students will draw conclusions based on their background knowledge and the author's clues to form a deduction
Inflectional endings	Reading Foundational Skills	An inflection that is added to the end of a root word	Makes, walked, jumping (s, ed, and ing are inflectional endings)
Informative/explanatory texts	Writing	Informational writing; explanatory texts examine and explain how or why something happens	A report on a particular time period or world leader; a piece of writing explaining how the Grand Canyon was formed or how the United States became involved in WWII
Inquiry	Reading for Informational Text	A question you ask in order to get information	Students will ask questions in order to seek more knowledge about something or to find out why something happened.
Interrogatives	Language	Words that form questions, such as <i>who, what, where, when, and why</i>	Who is coming over today? When are they coming? How long will they stay?

Irregular words	Reading Foundational Skills	In spelling, words containing letters that are infrequently used for speech sounds and do not match their pronunciation	Enough, said, who
Key details	Reading for Informational Text	In an expository/informational text, the major details that support the main idea	The major details related to a key event, such as the Battle of Yorktown: who fought, when it was fought, who won
Key events	Reading for Informational Text	The major events that occur in an informational text	The caused or battles of the Civil War or major events in a person's life (biography)
Key ideas	Speaking and Listening	The main points in a speech	In a speech about running for student council, the key ideas might be why the student is a candidate, why a person should vote for him/her, or what changes he/she would make if elected
Latin suffixes	Reading Foundational Skills	Word ending that can be traced back to Latin	Able-like able , ible- flexible , tion- creation
Linking words or phrases	Writing	Words and phrases that connect ideas within categories of information, much like transitional words	Later that day, also, another, and more, but
Literal language	Reading for Literature	Language that is factual and contains no exaggeration or metaphorical phrases	<i>It's raining today</i> is literal; <i>It's raining cats and dogs</i> is not literal
Main idea	Reading for Informational Text	The most important thing the paragraph or section of a text says about the topic	Recycling is expensive in the short term, but yields long-term savings. All mammals are the same in certain ways.
Main topic	Reading for Informational Text	The main subject discussed in the text. A topic can be expressed as a noun or a noun phrase	Recycling, mammals
Media	Speaking and Listening	all the organizations that provide information	The student received his information from the multi-medias of a television program and a newspaper.
Metaphor	Reading for Literature	a word or phrase used to compare two unlike objects, ideas, thoughts or feelings to provide a clearer description.	"Life is a journey. Enjoy the ride."
Meter	Reading for Literature	The arrangement of words in poetry, including accented syllables or number of syllable in a word or line	In the following example, the bolded words are accented syllables that show the meter of the poem. In "The Road Less Taken", when it is read aloud: The woods are snowy , dark , and deep

Mood	Reading for Literature	Counter to a literal usage, figurative use of language is the use of words or phrases in a manner where the literal meaning of the words is not true or does not make sense, but implies a non-literal meaning which does make sense or that could be true.	The mood of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" is gloomy, dismal, sorrowful, and mysterious.
Moral	Reading for Literature	The lesson to obtained from a fable	<i>Slow but steady wins the race</i> from "The Hare and the Tortoise"; <i>Be prepared or work comes before play</i> from "The Ant and the Grasshopper"
Morphology	Reading Foundational Skills	Describes patterns for word formation	Word inflections, affixes, and derivations (roots and bases)
Multimedia	Speaking and Listening	Using a mixture of sounds, words, pictures, to give information	Students will work to publish their creations adding sound, words, and pictures especially on the computer
Mythology	Reading for Literature	A set of stories, traditions, or beliefs associated with a particular group or the history of an event	In Roman mythology, there is the story of Cupid, who is the son of Venus and Mars and is the god of love.
Narrative writing	Writing	A genre of writing that develops real or imagined experiences or events, usually told in sequence with descriptive details. Narratives can be eyewitness accounts, poetry, news/magazine articles, diaries, autobiographies, biographies, and retellings.	Fictional narratives include <i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</i> by Robert O'Brien, <i>Ramona Quimby</i> by Beverly Cleary, <i>Lily's Purple Plastic Purse</i> by Kevin Henkes. Informational narratives include <i>Eleanor</i> by Barbara Cooney, <i>14 Cows for America</i> by Carmen Deedy, <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i> by Robert Coles
Non-literal language	Reading for Literature	Language enriched by word images and figures of speech	It's raining cats and dogs; I fell and almost broke my neck; I can't think of any more ideas because I've hit a wall.
Nuances in word meaning	Language	A subtle or slight degree of difference in the meaning of words	The meaning of automated vs. automatic, tan vs. brown, thin vs. lean vs. skinny, curious vs. nosy
Opinion pieces	Writing	A piece of writing that states and supports a position or viewpoint on a topic but does not necessarily persuade. The purpose is to express beliefs about a topic.	A paper that supports or does not support the New Deal, space exploration, or dropping the atomic bomb on Japan.
Orient the reader	Writing	In narratives, it's setting the stage to tell the story. It established and/or introduces the plot, characters, events, etc. in the story.	<i>It is June 2002, and a very unusual ceremony begins in a far-flung village in western Kenya. (14 Cows for America by Carmen Deedy)</i>

Overall structure (in a text)	Reading for Literature Reading for Informational Text	Understanding that a literary story consists of three parts; the beginning (characters and setting are introduced, and the problem is encountered), the middle (events leading up to the resolution of the problem), and an ending (the problem is resolved). In informational text, the structure could be question-answer, cause-effect, chronological order, compare-contrast, problem-solution, etc.	In the <i>Three Little Pigs</i> , the wolf blows down two of the pigs' houses at the beginning of the story; the third pig builds a brick house in the middle of the story, and the pigs defeat the wolf at the end of the story. Biographies are generally written in chronological order; <i>If you Lived at the Time of the Civil War</i> is written in a question-answer format.
Pace	Speaking and Listening	rate of speed	The student spoke at an understandable pace.
Pacing	Writing	Moving a narrative story along or slowing it down to build tension, maintain reader interest, and develop story events	The footsteps grew louder...and louder...and closer...and closer...until finally they stopped next to the trunk where I was hiding. A hand slowly opened the lid as I held my breath. Would I be found?
Perfect verb tenses	Language	A verb that is formed using the word <i>had</i> (past perfect), <i>have</i> (present perfect, or <i>will have</i> (future perfect) with the past participle of a verb	Had written, have written, will have written
Personal pronouns	Language	Personal pronouns are used in place of specific persons or things	I, we, you, he, she, it, they
Personification	Reading for Literature	Giving human characteristics to non-living things or ideas	The sun was smiling on the field of flowers.
Phonemes	Reading Foundational Skills	Individual speech sounds that are combined to create words in language system. Phoneme awareness requires progressive differentiation of sounds in spoken words and the ability to think about and manipulate those sounds.	Vowel phonemes: a-cat, e-bread Consonant phonemes: d-dog, r-wrong
Point of view	Reading for Informational Text	A position from which things are observed	Students will form an opinion, attitude, or judgment on a piece of literature

Possessive pronouns	Language	Pronouns that replace nouns and show ownership	His, hers, ours, mine, theirs, your, yours, its
Prose	Reading for Literature	The ordinary language used in speaking or writing. It has no specific meter or rhythm and more closely matches everyday speech.	<i>Frog and Toad</i> , Arnold Lobel; <i>Number the Stars</i> , Lois Lowry; <i>Henry Mudge</i> , Cynthia Rylant
Proverbs	Language	A short saying of a general truth that is well-known and repeated; one that comes from common experience	All that glitters isn't gold; an absence makes the heart grow fonder; a journey of a thousand miles begins with one small step.
Recount	Speaking and Listening	To tell a story or describe an event	The student will recount the main ideas and details presented to them by a speaker.
Recount stories	Reading for Literature	Oral reconstruction of a previously read text; to retell in detail. A recounting is not a summary of a text.	This story was about a young girl and her family, moving from Africa to...
Register	Language	Language used for particular purpose or in a particular setting	There is language that's appropriate to use at school, which differs from language that might be used with a friend or at home
Retell	Speaking and Listening	To tell a story again	The student will retell information presented to them
Rime	Reading Foundational Skills	The part of a syllable which consists of its vowel and any consonant sounds that come after it	Example: In cat, c is the onset and at is the rime
Scaffolding	Reading for Literature Reading for Informative Text	The gradual withdrawal of teacher support through instruction, modeling, questioning, and feedback. The purpose is to provide support to students so they can meet standards independently.	<i>I do</i> -Read aloud, modeled writing; <i>We do</i> -Shared reading, interactive and shared writing; <i>You do</i> -Independent reading and writing
Scientific text	Reading for Informational Text	An informational text that is logically organized and written on a math or science topic.	Any Gail Gibbons or Seymour Simon, such as <i>Snakes</i> , or <i>The Brain</i>
Second hand account	Reading for informational text	An account obtained from someone other than the actual eyewitness	John saw a child fall from the bridge and he jumped to save her. A second hand account would be told by someone who talked to a person who had witnessed the event.

Segment	Reading Foundational Skills	Splitting up a word into its individual phonemes	Cat has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/
Shades of meaning	Language	A phrase used to describe small, subtle differences in meaning between similar words/phrases.	Kid and youth both refer to young people but carry differing views and ideas about them.
Shared research	Writing	A collaboration of students and teacher together working on a systematic investigation to establish facts and collect information on a subject.	A class informational book or research project
Simile	Reading for Literature	a figure of speech where two unlike things are compared, generally by using the word like or as	<i>"The baby's smiles were as sweet as sugar."</i>
Spatial and temporal relationships	Language	Words/phrases used to show space and time	After dinner that night , we went looking for them.
Stanza	Reading for Literature	An arrangement of lines of verse in a pattern usually repeated throughout the poem. Typically, each stanza has a fixed number of verses or lines, a prevailing meter, and a consistent rhyme scheme. A stanza may be a subdivision of a poem, or it may constitute the entire poem.	<i>Roses are red, Violets are blue, Sugar is sweet, And so are you.</i>

Successive readings	Reading Foundational Skills	Reading and rereading in an uninterrupted sequence	During the shared reading of a poem, children first echo read with the teacher and then read chorally perhaps a few times, to increase fluency
Sufficient accuracy	Reading Foundational Skills	Reads on-level text (prose and poetry) with purpose and understanding; using context to confirm or self-correct, rereading as necessary	On the DRA 2, students must score in the independent or Advanced range of accuracy for it to be considered sufficient in determining their independent reading levels.
Summarize information presented quantitatively	Speaking and Listening	Orally summarize information gleaned from charts, graphs, data, etc.	Orally summarize observations about data from a chart showing the number of endangered animals in the world
Superlative adjectives and adverbs	Language	Adjectives used to compare the differences between two nouns-formed by adding-est to adjectives and adverbs	Comparative of hard=harder Superlative of hard=hardest
Synthesize	Writing	Combine into a coherent whole, drawing from more than one source	Writing summatively from two or more sources, bringing about one fluid, cohesive viewpoint is an important skills all writer must develop
Tag question	Language	A statement followed by a mini-question	That's right, don't you think?
Tall Tale	Reading for Literature	A fictional story that exaggerates or stretches the truth. The heroes are "larger than life" and tell about the courage many had while exploring.	Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill are both tall tales.
Technical procedures	Reading for Informational Text	The steps in a "how-to" set of directions in a particular content area	How to start a computer, how to read an informational text

Technical text	Reading for Informational Text	Text that includes straightforward explanation and/or instructions dealing with a particular technical subject	Student council application, an application to be in a club, requirements/directions for chorus tryouts, a list of steps to accomplish a goal
Temporal words	Writing	Words and phrases related to time and frequency	An hour later, in what seemed like just a second, month, decade, century, millennium
Text complexity	Reading for Literature Reading for Informational Text	The inherent difficulty of reading and comprehending a text combined with reader ability and the task he/she is asked to do	It includes book levels, like Fountas and Pinnell levels A-Z; knowing how to read different genres; difficulty of concepts included in a text and not just word calling; background knowledge on what's being read
Text complexity band	Reading for Literature Reading for Informational Text	A range of text difficulty corresponding to grade spans	Examples of texts students should be able to read independently. K: <i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i> by Tomie Depoala 1: <i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> by Tedd Arnold 2-3: <i>Poppleton in Winter</i> by Cynthia Rylant 4-5: <i>The Black Stallion</i> by Walter Farley
Text evidence	Reading for Informationl Text	Supporting proof or verification in certain text	Students will provide reasons or explanation for their opinion
Third person narrative	Reading for Literature	The narrator is an unspecific, uninvolved person that conveys the story, but he/she is not a character of any kind within the story being told.	Examples: <i>Thank You, Mr. Falker</i> -Patricia Polacco; <i>Muggie Maggie</i> -Beverly Cleary
Time order words	Reading for Informational Text	Indicates the order in which something happened	Students will use time order words such as: first, second, third, finally, to convey the time order in which something happened
Tone	Reading for Literature	The way an author conveys their attitude about a character or particular subject matter	" <i>It was a dark and stormy night</i> " sets a scary, uneasy tone. " <i>The sun was shining brightly on the meadow</i> " sets a happy tone.
Verse	Reading for Literature	A line or stanza of a poem. A verse is often written on successive lines.	The meanest girl I ever met is Mary Ellen Wright, An if a lion came along and ate her with one bite, I'd cry and cry and cry and cry

			Just to be polite. By Judith Viorst
Vowel teams	Reading Foundational Skills	A combination of two , three, or four letters that make a vowel sound	(short vowels) head, hook (long vowels) boat, sigh, weigh (diphthongs) toil, house
Webtools	Writing	Webtools are Web 2.0 tools, online software/programs/applications for creating, collaborating, editing and sharing.	Educators are required to help students develop 21 st Century skills in this digital age and webtools are excellent teaching tools that demonstrate results.
Wide reading of a range of text types	Reading for Literature	Having an established time for writing that is consistently followed in the daily schedule	Teaching Writing Workshop daily for 30 minutes at the same time each day