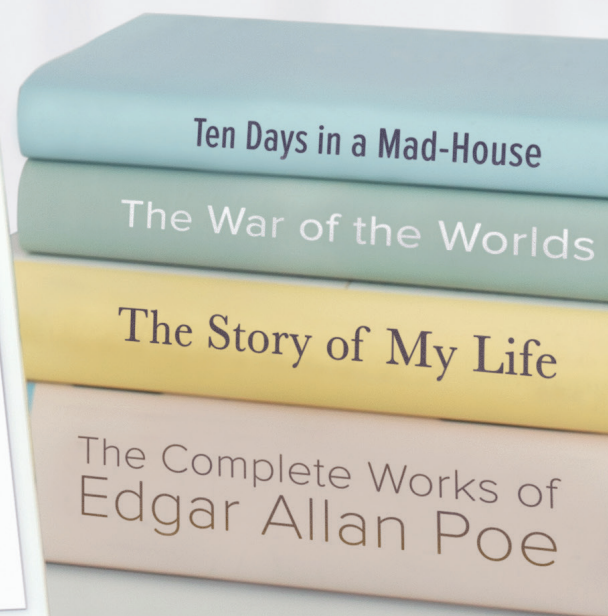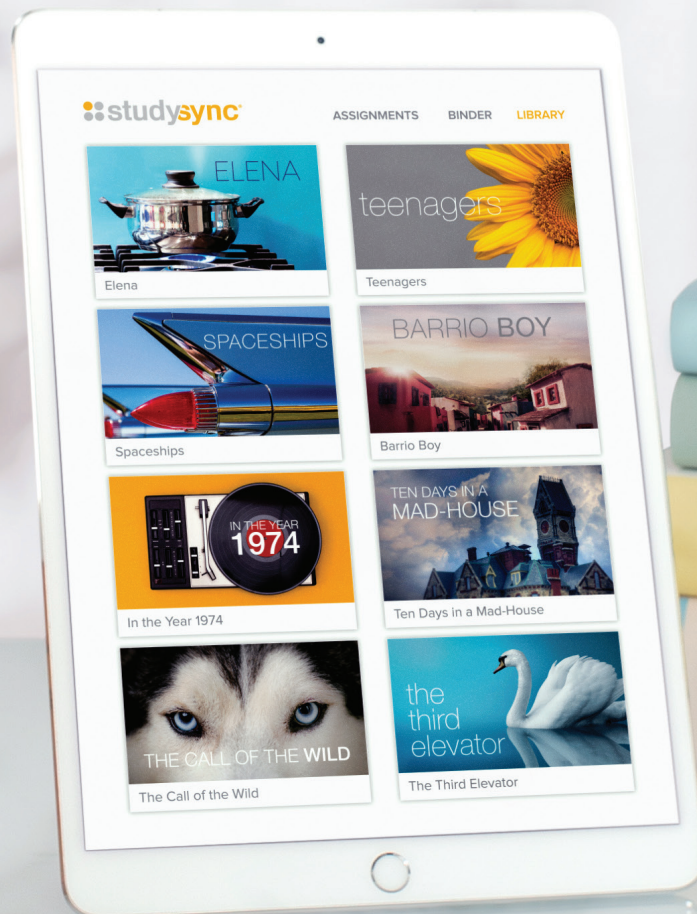# AN INTRODUCTION TO

studysync®

A Comprehensive ELA Curriculum for Grades 6-8

BRING LITERATURE TO LIFE

Welcome to StudySync – a rigorous, student-centered curriculum that connects learning to students' lives beyond the classroom.

- ✓ Includes six units per grade for 180 days of integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking instruction

- ✓ Features a continuously growing library of over 1,700 classic and contemporary texts

- ✓ Supports interchangeable print and digital use

- ✓ Enhances instruction with rich multimedia and digital tools

- ✓ Automatically embeds scaffolds so ALL students reach their potential
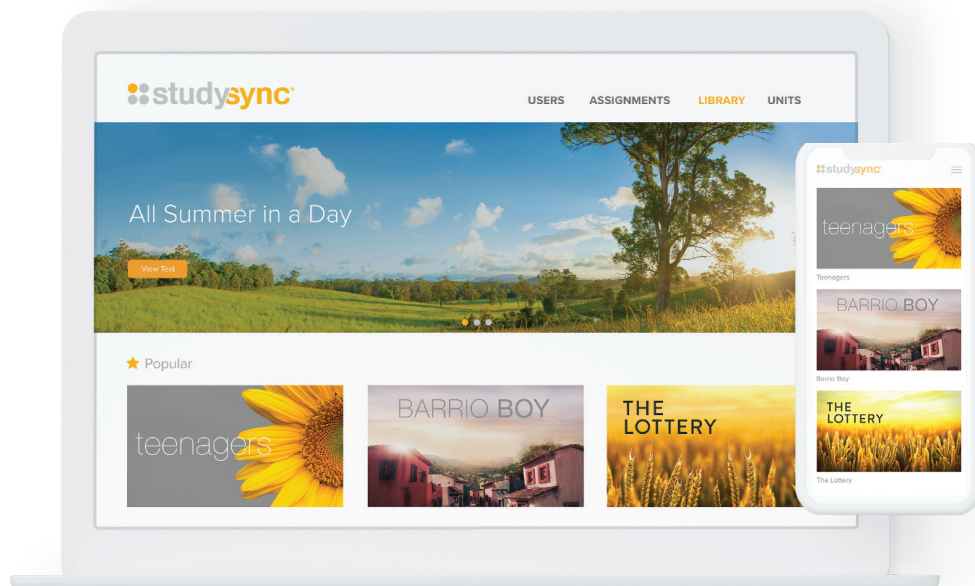
Student Print Edition

Teacher Print
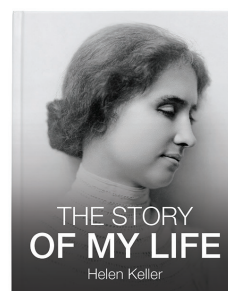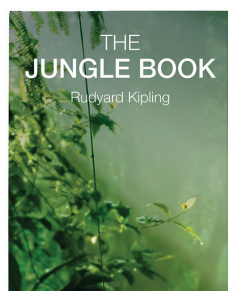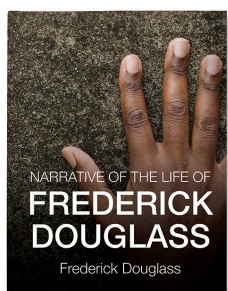
Novel Options

Imagine ALL your students...

✓ Equally engaged with rigorous content

✓ Building skills and reaching academic goals
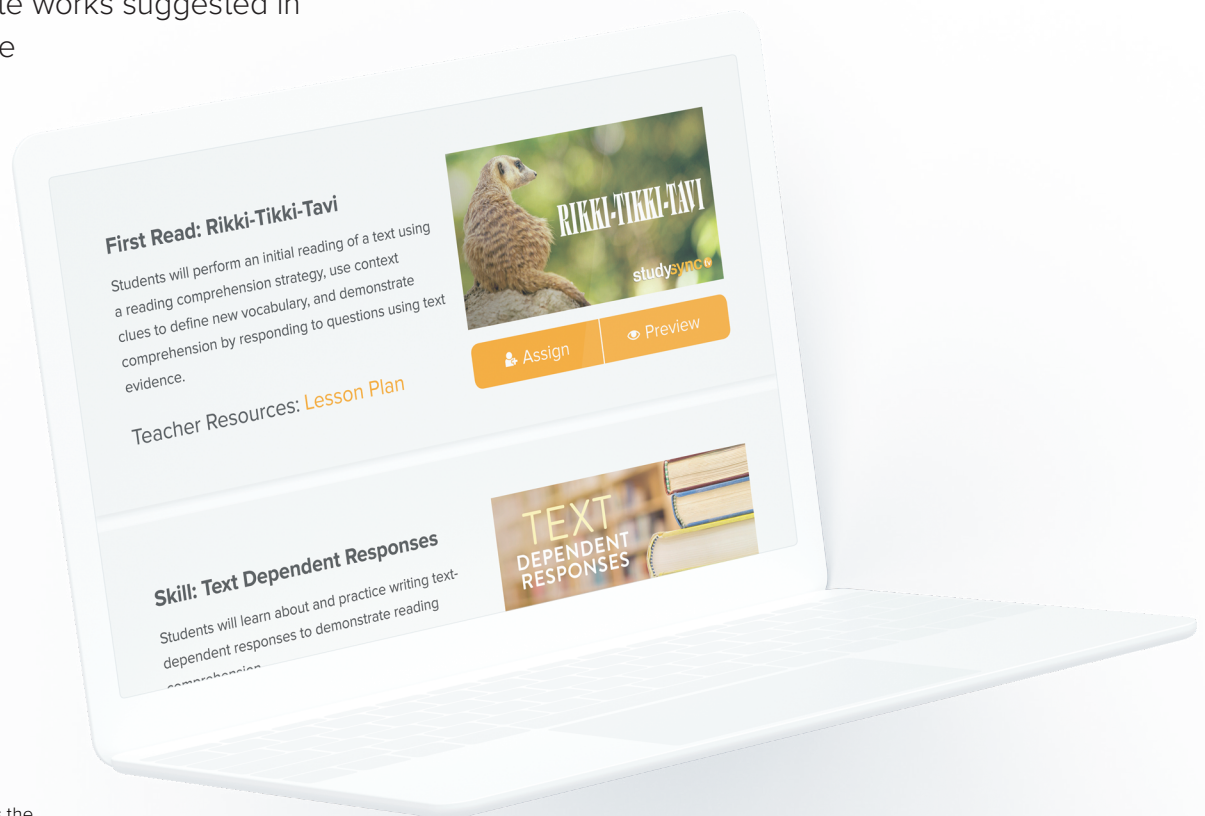
✓ Inspired to read, write, and learn

Comprehensive Student and Teacher Digital Experience

IT'S ALL POSSIBLE WITH STUDYSYNC

LEAD TO ACHIEVEMENT

StudySync's integrated reading and writing routines hone language and reading comprehension skills as students analyze and respond to increasingly complex texts.

✓ Dr. Douglas Fisher's close reading routine of a First Read, Skill, and Close Read ensures progress toward mastery

✓ Two comparative text sets in every unit challenge students to compare within and across genres

✓ Self-Selected Reading Lessons empower students to choose texts to read on their own

✓ Novel Studies provide the curriculum support to teach from any of the 18 complete works suggested in each grade

First Read: Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Students will perform an initial reading of a text using a reading comprehension strategy, use context clues to define new vocabulary, and demonstrate comprehension by responding to questions using text evidence.

Teacher Resources: Lesson Plan

Assign | Preview

Skill: Text Dependent Responses

Students will learn about and practice writing text-dependent responses to demonstrate reading comprehension

StudySync offers **embedded grammar and writing** opportunities throughout each lesson and unit.

StudySync's **Extended Writing Projects** challenge students to compose in multiple writing forms including:

- ✓ **Fictional narrative**
- ✓ **Informational text**
- ✓ **Argumentative literary analysis**
- ✓ **Correspondence**

Specific writing skills in each Extended Writing Project teach students the genre characteristics and craft necessary for writing in that specific form.

✓ **Teach Writing With Embedded Grammar Instruction**

- Students apply language and genre conventions throughout the writing process

- Student writing models track the evolution of a sample student's writing as students work on their own

- Anonymous peer review creates an authentic audience for student writing

- A dynamic digital binder keeps a portfolio of all student work that follows them from grade-to-grade
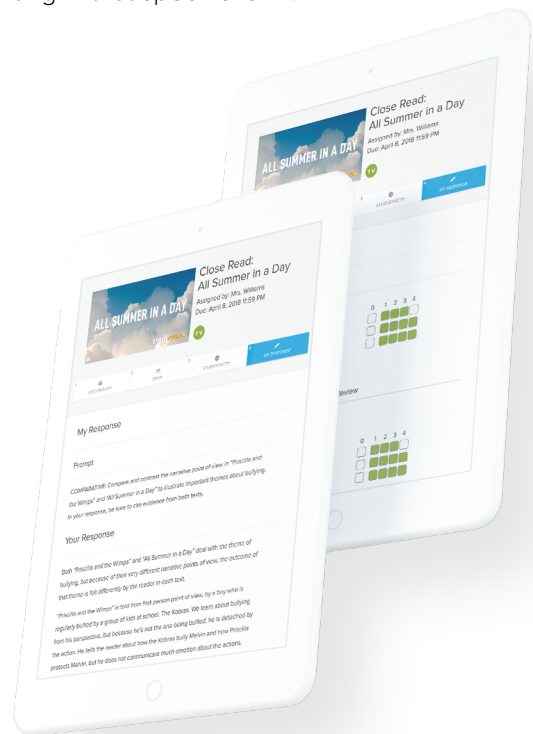
NEW CONTENT ADDED DAILY

StudySync's continuously growing library includes short stories, poems, excerpts and complete texts of novels and dramas, essays, speeches, primary source documents, and Blasts. **New texts are added every month.**

Every text features reading comprehension quizzes, text-dependent questions, and writing prompts.

MARIGOLDS
Marigolds

SEVENTH GRADE
Seventh Grade

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT THE NEW SCHOOL
Commencement Address at the New School

THE LOTTERY
...tery

The Museum
The Museum

HEART OF DARKNESS
Heart of Darkness

...URE OF ...WN

12 (FROM 'GITANJALI')
12 (from Gitanjali)

BARRIO BOY
Barrio Boy

...C... THE...
Catch the Mo...

FROM THE LOST LETTERS OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS
from the Lost Letters of Frederick Douglass

ELENA

DREAM PSYCHOLOGY
PSYCHOANALYSIS FOR BEGINNERS
Dream Psychology

HAMLET
Hamlet
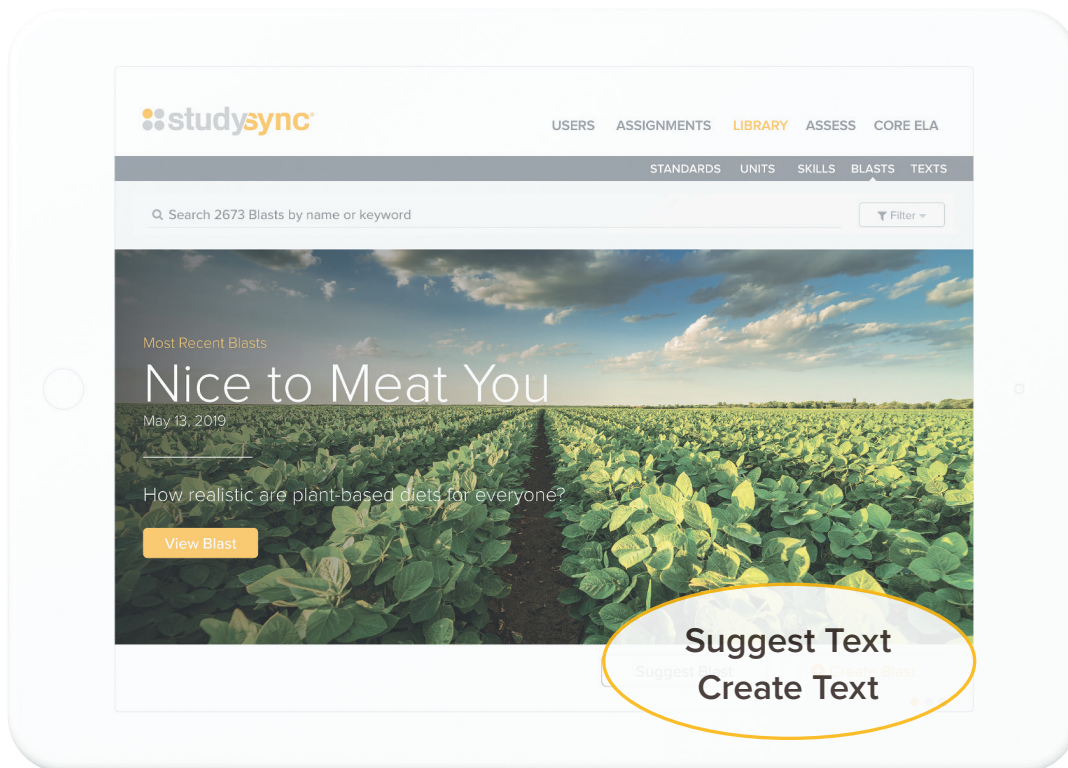
Add your own library items or request the texts that you want to see in the library.
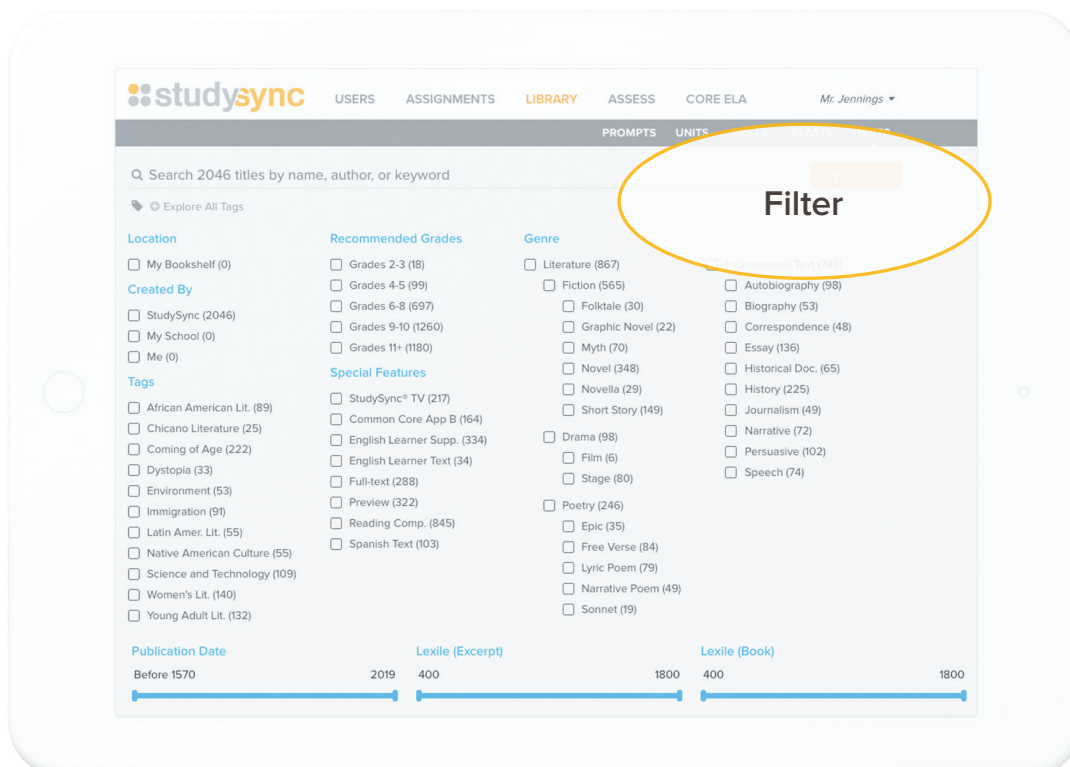
Search the library by genre, grade level, topic, or even Lexile®-level.

BLASTS

Blasts are short, high-interest read/write assignments that deliver content around relevant topics and current events to students in a familiar, social media format. A new Blast is published every school day.

Blast articles are available at three different Lexile®-levels.

Top 10 Blasts

Students compete anonymously to make the Top 10 list.

Top 10 Blasts

Rated By Peers. How do you compare?

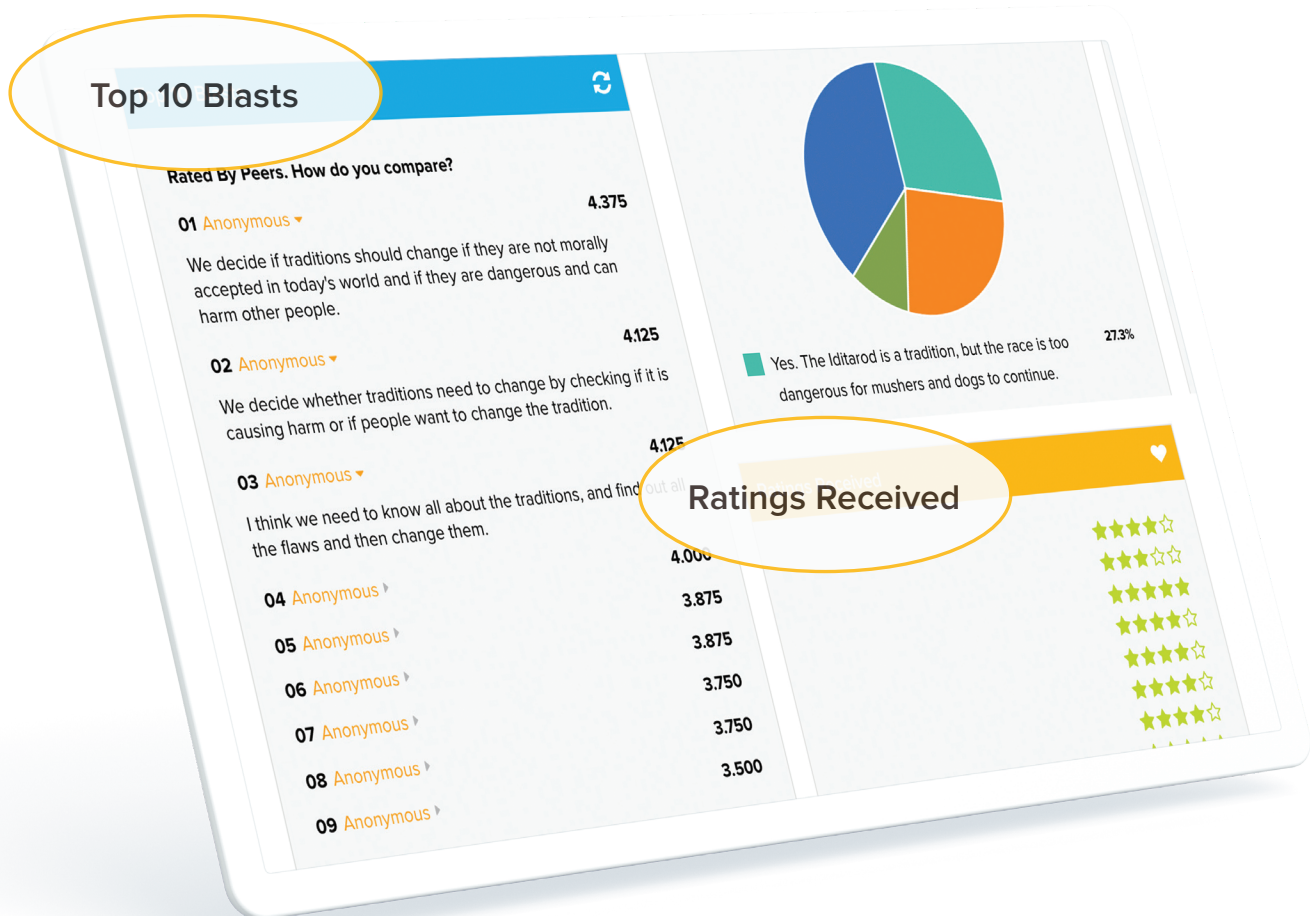01 Anonymous ▾   4.375

We decide if traditions should change if they are not morally accepted in today's world and if they are dangerous and can harm other people.

02 Anonymous ▾   4.125

We decide whether traditions need to change by checking if it is causing harm or if people want to change the tradition.

03 Anonymous ▾   4.125

I think we need to know all about the traditions, and find out all the flaws and then change them.

04 Anonymous ▸   3.875
05 Anonymous ▸   3.875
06 Anonymous ▸   3.750
07 Anonymous ▸   3.750
08 Anonymous ▸   3.500
09 Anonymous ▸

■ Yes. The Iditarod is a tradition, but the race is too dangerous for mushers and dogs to continue.   27.3%

Ratings Received

Immediate Feedback

Peer reviews provide immediate feedback on students' writing on a platform mediated by teachers.

ACCESS FOR ALL

Every student using StudySync has the same opportunity and access regardless of native language, proficiency level, or physical, social, and emotional ability.

EL Resources

English language learner resources are designed to match the thematic focus, text structure, and writing form of the unit. They include two leveled texts and an Extended Oral Project.

EL Texts	Differentiated Text Levels	Skill and Standard Instruction
	BEGINNING 380L | 277 words **INTERMEDIATE** 510L | 388 words **ADVANCED** 610L | 446 words **ADVANCED HIGH** 730L | 547 words **Use this text in place of, or as an extension to "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi."**	• Sight Vocabulary and High-Frequency Words • Seeking Clarification • Analyzing Expressions • Conveying Ideas • Spelling Patterns and Rules
	BEGINNING 200L | 320 words **INTERMEDIATE** 520L | 393 words **ADVANCED** 620L | 456 words **ADVANCED HIGH** 740L | 550 words **Use this text in place of, or as an extension to *Stargirl* or "Seventh Grade."**	• Classroom Vocabulary • Taking Notes • Language Structures • Retelling and Summarizing • Subject-Verb Agreement
	In this Extended Oral Project, students write and perform a dramatic scene. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.	• Acquiring Vocabulary • Sentence Lengths

GO ONLINE!
See **page 13** of the Digital Guide to access StudySync's EL Resources online.

Automatic scaffolds appear for students at the press of a button.

Term	Definition	Image
anxious *ansioso/a*	wanting something, but with a feeling of not being sure *querer algo, pero con el sentimiento de no estar seguro/a*	
automatically *automáticamente* COGNATE	happening without thought or action *que sucede sin pensamiento ni acción*	

Visual Glossary and Spanish Cognates

Visual glossaries allow EL students to access a text along with their proficient peers.

Directions:
Use the speaking frames as you discuss the text.

Scaffolds

1. Rikki-tikki was a mongoose that lived _____. One day a _____ washed him out of his home. He was rescued by a small _____ and his family.

2. Nag is a "big, black _____ that makes a "_____ cold sound." This description suggests that Nag shoudl be _____.

Speaking and Sentence Frames

Speaking and sentence frames help EL students with class discussion.

🔊 AUDIO   ✏ ANNOTATION   ↕ NUMBERS

Read

This is the story of the great war that Rikki-tikki-tavi fought single-handed, through the bath-rooms of the big bungalow in Segowlee cantonment. Darzee, the Tailorbird, helped him, and Chuchundra, the musk-rat, who never comes out into the middle of the floor, but always creeps round by the wall, gave him advice, but Rikki-tikki did the real fighting.

▶ 00:03 / 20:39   🔊 ━━━━━●━━ 🔊 Highlight ◀ Slow ✕

Audio with Variable Speed and Text Highlight

Text phrases highlight while the audio plays. Students and teachers can reduce the rate a text is read by up to 25% with no loss of resolution.
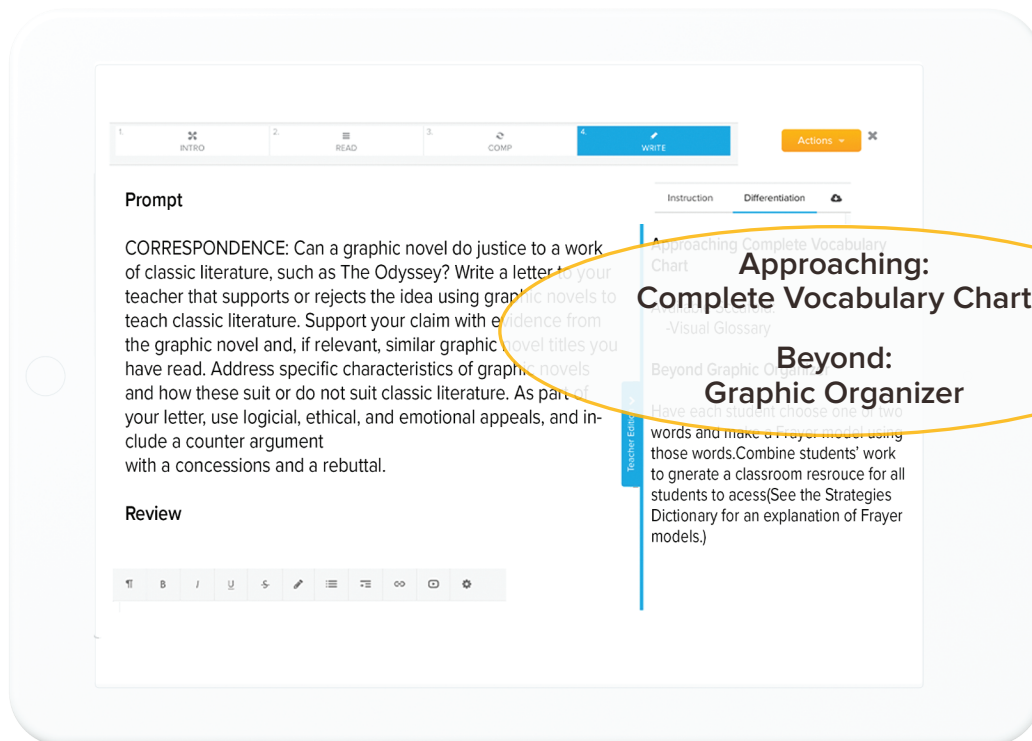
ACCESS FOR ALL

Students with Different Abilities

StudySync offers a variety of accessability features, customization options, and instructional strategies to address the needs of students with different abilities **compliant with WCAG version 2.0 AA guidelines.**
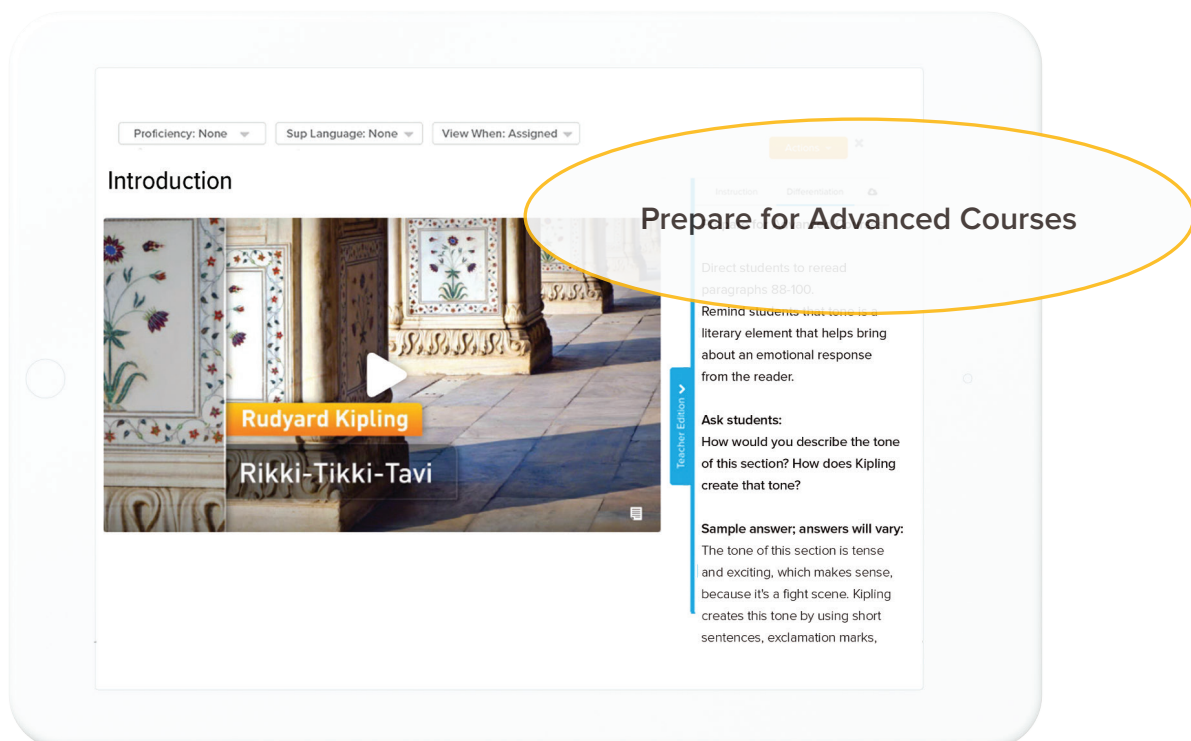
- ✓ Student content is interoperable with standard screen readers.

- ✓ The digital subscription provides a high-contrast option and uses visual clues in addition to colors to convey information.

- ✓ The student subscription can be used with keystrokes or voice commands for students who are unable to use a mouse.

Approaching and Beyond Grade-Level Learners

Prompt

CORRESPONDENCE: Can a graphic novel do justice to a work of classic literature, such as The Odyssey? Write a letter to your teacher that supports or rejects the idea using graphic novels to teach classic literature. Support your claim with evidence from the graphic novel and, if relevant, similar graphic novel titles you have read. Address specific characteristics of graphic novels and how these suit or do not suit classic literature. As part of your letter, use logicial, ethical, and emotional appeals, and in-clude a counter argument
with a concessions and a rebuttal.

Review

Instruction   Differentiation

Approaching Complete Vocabulary
Chart

-Visual Glossary

Beyond Graphic Organizer

Have each student choose one or two words and make a Frayer model using those words.Combine students' work to gnerate a classroom resrouce for all students to acess(See the Strategies Dictionary for an explanation of Frayer models.)

**Approaching:
Complete Vocabulary Chart**

**Beyond:
Graphic Organizer**

Teachers can access point-of-use differentiation to both support and challenge all levels of learners.

Proficiency: None   Sup Language: None   View When: Assigned

Introduction

Rudyard Kipling
Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Prepare for Advanced Courses

Direct students to reread paragraphs 88-100.

Remind students that tone is a literary element that helps bring about an emotional response from the reader.

Ask students:
How would you describe the tone of this section? How does Kipling create that tone?

Sample answer; answers will vary:
The tone of this section is tense and exciting, which makes sense, because it's a fight scene. Kipling creates this tone by using short sentences, exclamation marks,

The Prepare for Advanced Courses section of the lesson plan, found in the print and digital Teacher's Edition, gives Beyond Grade-level learners additional extension activities.
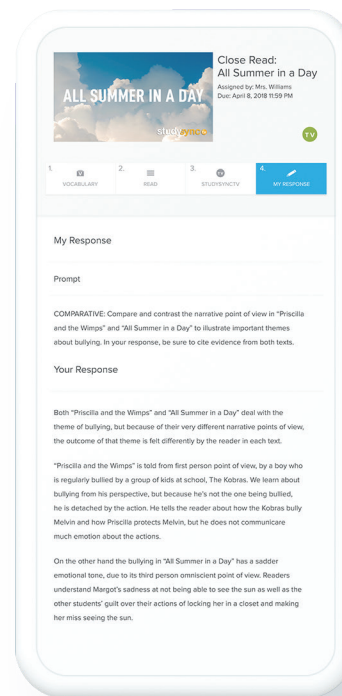
AMPLIFY STUDENT VOICES

StudySync helps students think critically and thoughtfully as they build their own unique voices and communicate with one another through peer review and collaboration.
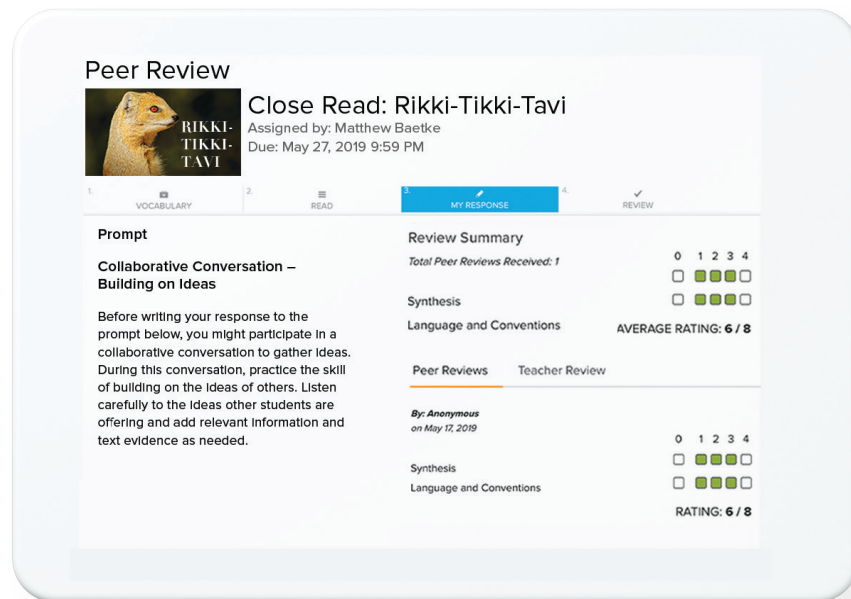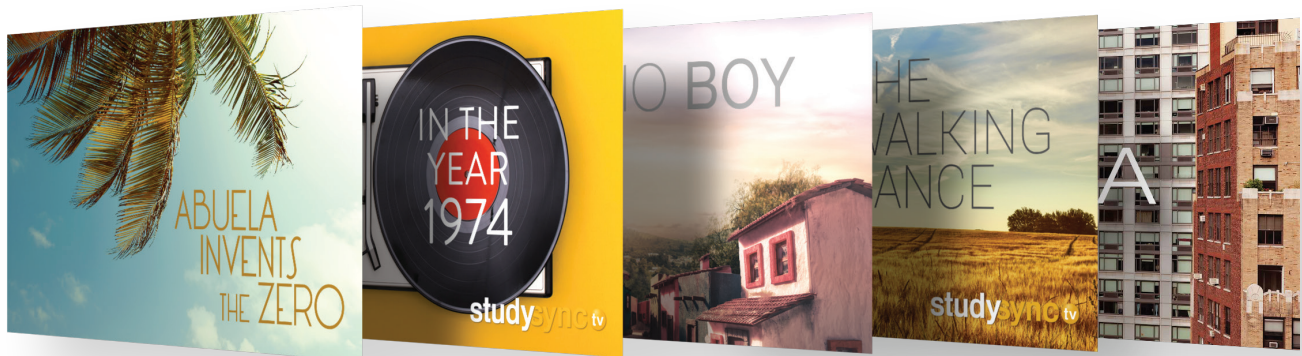
Peer Review

Anonymous Peer Review creates a community of writers and gives students an authentic audience to provide immediate feedback every time they write.

StudySync celebrates culture as a fundamental aspect of learning. Our literacy instruction recognizes, appreciates, and provides access and support to students from all cultures.
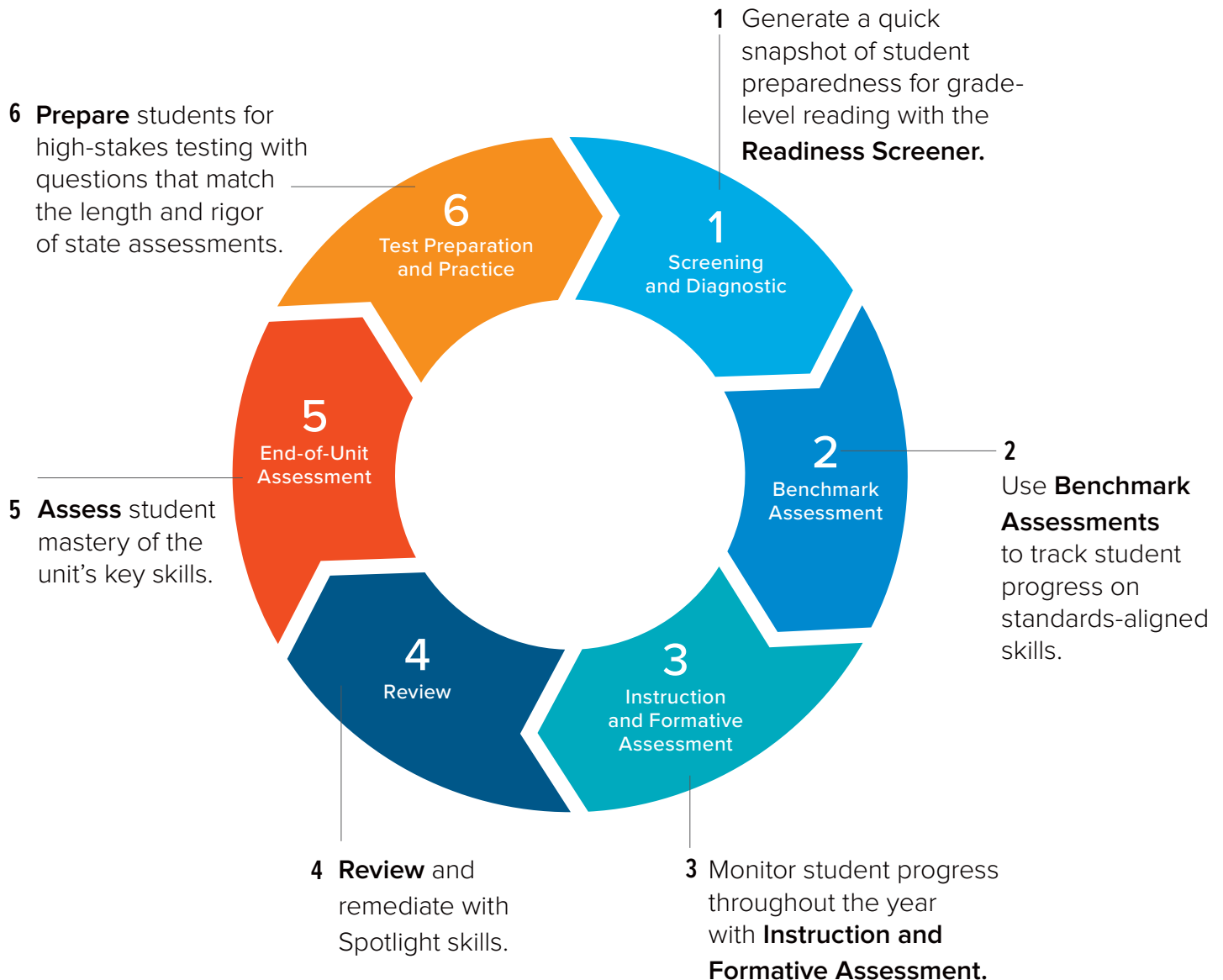

✓ **Help Students Make Meaningful Connections to Texts**

- A diverse and varied table of contents, rigorous grade-level expectations, and scaffolds enable all students to thrive academically

- Videos incorporated into the instructional path feature a diverse cast of students to accurately reflect and inspire diverse classroom audiences

- Collaboration and communication lay the groundwork for StudySync's student-centered focus around listening and speaking instruction
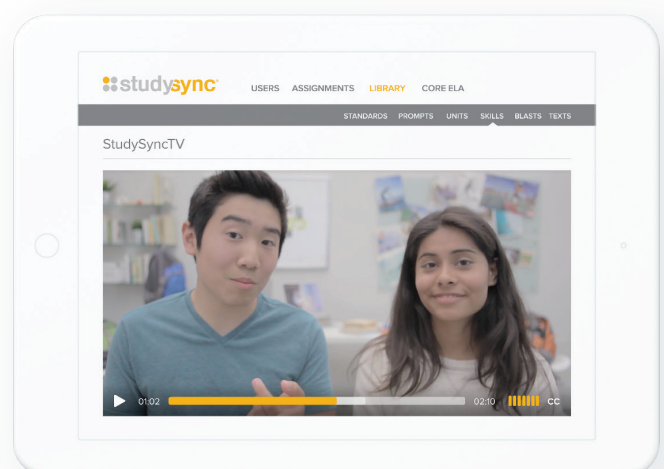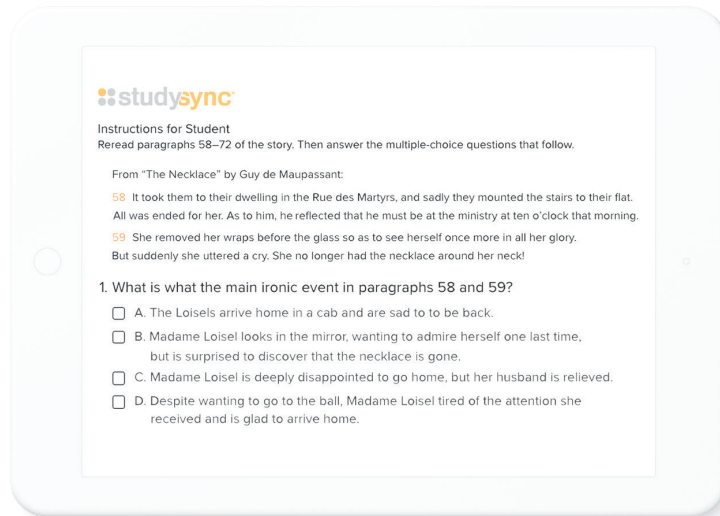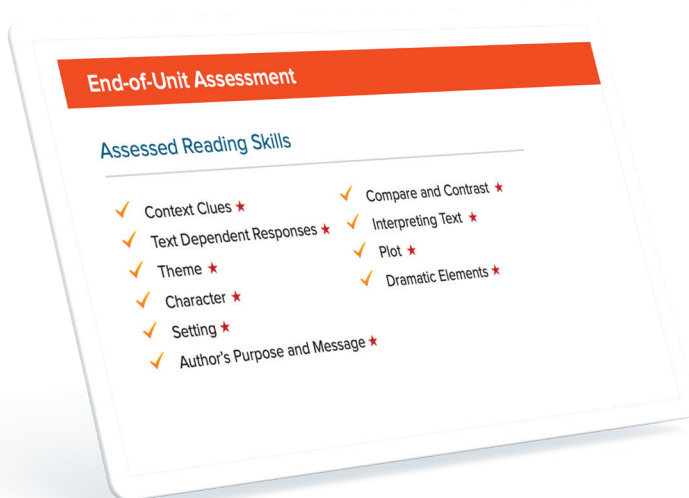
DATA-DRIVEN ASSESSMENT

Gauge progress and inform instruction as students prepare for high-stakes testing.

6 Prepare students for high-stakes testing with questions that match the length and rigor of state assessments.

1 Generate a quick snapshot of student preparedness for grade-level reading with the **Readiness Screener.**

6 Test Preparation and Practice

1 Screening and Diagnostic

5 End-of-Unit Assessment

2 Benchmark Assessment

4 Review

3 Instruction and Formative Assessment

2 Use **Benchmark Assessments** to track student progress on standards-aligned skills.

5 Assess student mastery of the unit's key skills.

4 Review and remediate with Spotlight skills.

3 Monitor student progress throughout the year with **Instruction and Formative Assessment.**

Instruction and Formative Assessment

End-of-Unit Assessment

Screening and Diagnostic

TEACH YOUR WAY

With **StudySync** you have the option to teach our core instructional path, or you may choose to create your own curriculum using our library and unit creator.

The core curriculum is delivered in interchangeable print and digital format, ensuring successful instruction in every classroom, online or off.

✓ **Lesson Plans and Planning Pages Prepare Teachers For Every Lesson**

- Each lesson embeds activities across domains to ensure students are building critical skills every day

- Progress monitoring charts detail what standards are covered and guide towards reteaching and remediation

✓ **Differentiation and Scaffolding**

- Differentiation and scaffolding shows strategies for adjusting exercises

- Grouping charts offer suggestions to create a dynamic, student-centered learning experience

Choose Your Classroom Setup

Grouping suggestions in every lesson plan help students collaborate and practice independently.

WHOLE GROUP	SMALL GROUPS	ON THEIR OWN
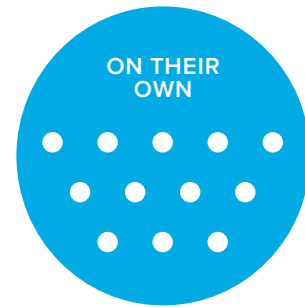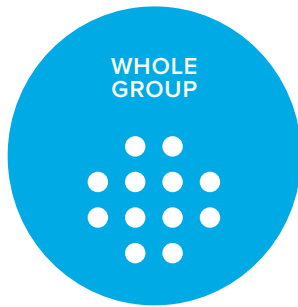
ACTIVITY	WHOLE GROUP	PAIRS OR SMALL GROUPS	ON THEIR OWN
Complete Vocabulary Chart			✓
Complete Skill Focus		✓	✓
Writer's Notebook			✓
Watch and Discuss StudySyncTV®	✓		
Collaborative Conversation		✓	
Review Prompt and Rubric	✓		✓
(Optional) Prewrite with Graphic Organizer			✓
Peer Review and Reflect			✓
(Optional) Connect to Extended Writing Project	✓		
(Optional) Beyond the Book	✓		

studysync®

BRING LITERATURE TO LIFE

Get started at **mheonline.com/studysync**

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