

# ELA: Highlights

## Grade 8

### What your Middle School Student will learn . . .

Students will explore the following units of study:

- Sharing: What's the Story?
- Reporting: They Say, I Say
- Debating: Who's to Judge?
- Making it New: Enduring Themes

### What your Middle School Student will do . . .

- Draw on his/her knowledge of text structure and elements of fiction to gain meaning
- Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to develop experiences, events, and characters to convey experiences and events
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events
- Develop informative pieces when they have analyzed a topic and have chosen facts, definitions, quotations, graphics, and multimedia that are relevant and support comprehension
- Evaluate an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints
- Write arguments that distinguish his/her claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence using credible sources
- Analyze a modern work of fiction based on themes, characters, and patterns of events from traditional works
- Analyze the development of central ideas through a text and its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot

### What families will see . . .

- Extended written responses to reading
- Reader's and writer's notebook entries
- Reading logs
- Independent reading and analysis of challenging texts
- Completed written pieces

### How families can help . . .

- Encourage reading at home
- Read a variety of publications
- Read and comment on writing
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- Participate in book groups
- Keep open communication with your child's teachers