

# 2025-2026 ELA 3rd Grade Pacing Guide

## AT-A-GLANCE

### [3rd Grade BEST Benchmark Check List](#)

Unit Strategies and Skills with Benchmarks (Spotlight)		Unit Essential Question:
Quarter 1: August 11 - October 10, 2025		
Review and establish Routines in Benchmark mini-lessons		
<b>Unit 1</b> R.2.2 Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support it R.2.1 Identify text structure: comparison R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic R.3.2 Summarize: Use central idea and relevant details R.1.4 Understand features of poetry V.1.3 Context clues to determine meaning C.1.4 Expository essays C.3.1 Use prepositions and prepositional phrases C.3.1 Form and use regular present tense verbs C.3.1 Ensure subject/verb agreement		<b>Unit 1: Animal Adaptation</b> <i>How do living things survive in their environment?</i>
<b>Unit 2</b> R.3.2 Summarize: Include plot and theme R.1.3 Explains how characters development and contribute to plot, theme V.1.3 Identify and explain figurative language-similes V.1.3 Use context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases C.1.3 Opinion essay C.3.1 Use simple modifiers C.3.1 Form, and use irregular past-tense verbs C.3.1 Review regular verb tenses		<b>Unit 2: Ways Characters Shape Stories</b> <i>How do our actions influence our lives?</i>
Quarter 2: October 15 - December 19, 2025		
<b>Unit 3</b> R.2.1 Identify text structure: cause/effect; chronology R.2.1 Explain how text features contribute to meaning R.2.2 Identify central idea and explain how relevant details support it R.3.2 Summarize: Use central idea and relevant details R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.4 Expository essays C.3.1 Form and use irregular past-tense verbs C.3.1 Using commas and quotation marks for direct quotations C.3.1 Appropriately use pronouns		<b>Unit 3: Government for the People</b> <i>Why do people participate in government?</i>
<b>Unit 4</b> R.1.3 Explain characters' perspectives R.3.2 Summarize: Include plot and theme R.1.1 Explain how character develop throughout the plot V.1.3 Identify and explain figurative language (hyperbole/idiom) V.1.3 Use context clues to determine the meaning of words and phrases C.1.2 Write narratives C.3.1 Form and use simple modifiers C.3.1 Use commas to indicate direct access		<b>Unit 4: Comparing Points of View</b> <i>What makes people view the same experience differently?</i>
Quarter 3: January 5 - March 13, 2026		
<b>Unit 5</b> R.2.1 Identifying text structure: chronology, cause/effect R.2.3 Explain author's purpose, claims, and evidence R.2.4 Identify an author's claim and explain how evidence supports it R.2.1 Explain how text features contribute to meaning R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic V.1.3 Use word relationships to determine meaning V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.3 Write opinion essays		<b>Unit 5: Advancements in Technology</b> <i>What is the value of innovation?</i>

<p>C.3.1 Form and use compound sentences C.3.1 Form and use irregular plural nouns C.3.1 Use man causes and subordinate clauses</p>	
<p><b>Unit 6</b> R.1.1 Explain how character develops throughout a plot R.1.2 Explain a theme and how it develops V.1.3 Use context clues and reference materials to determine meaning C.1.3 Write an opinion response to a text-based prompt C.3.1 Form and use irregular plural nouns C.3.1 Use simple modifiers</p>	<p><b>Unit 6: Making Decisions</b> <i>What helps us solve problems?</i></p>
<p><b>Unit 8</b> R.1.2 Explain a theme and how it develops R.2.1 Explain how text features contribute meaning R.2.1 Identify text structures R.3.2 Summarize: Include plot and theme R.1.3 Explain different characters' perspectives R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic R.3.1 Identify and explain figurative language: metaphors and personification V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.3.1 Use simple modifiers C.3.1 Using principal modals to indicate mood of a verb C.3.1 Ensure subject-verb agreement with intervening clauses and phrases C.3.1 Form and use perfect verb tenses</p>	<p><b>Unit 8: Weather and Climate</b> <i>How do we understand change?</i></p>
<p>Quarter 4: March 23 - May 29, 2026</p>	
<p><b>Unit 10</b> R.2.3 Explain the development of the author's purpose R.2.1 Identify text structure: cause/effect R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic V.1.3 Use context clues to determine multiple meaning words V.1.3 Identify and explain figurative language: metaphors C.3.1 Use subordinate clauses C.3.1 Form and use irregular past-tense verbs C.3.1 Use appositives F.1.3 WS: derivational suffixes (-ing, -ment, -ness)</p>	<p><b>Unit 10: Forces and Interactions</b> <i>How do understanding science help us achieve our goals?</i></p>
<p><b>Unit 9</b> R.2.4 Identify an author's claim and explain how evidence supports it R.3.3 Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic R.1.2 Explain a theme and how it develops R.3.2 Summarize: Include plot and theme V.1.3 Use figurative language to determine meaning V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.3.1 Recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and run-ons C.3.1 Form and use compound sentences C.3.1 Form and use subordinate clauses F.1.3 WS: suffixes -able, -ful, -less, ist F.1.3 WS: prefixes dis-, un-, pre-, re-, pro-</p>	<p><b>Unit 9: Spending Time and Money</b> <i>What do our economic choices tell us about ourselves?</i></p>