

ARC Core Literature Genre Lab Pacing Guide: Grades 3–4*

Goal: By the end of this Unit, students will have moved IRLA levels and will demonstrate beginning expertise in analyzing literature by publishing a comparative analysis essay and a narrative piece.

	Week	ELA Focus	IRLA Expert Coaching
Defining the Genre: Reading It & Writing About It	1	Introduce Genre Review of Literary Elements (RL.3/9) Constructed Response #1 Pre-Assessment on Key Question: <i>What is a theme/message of this text and how is it conveyed through particular story elements?</i>	Rate of Conferencing: 14 Days or Less All students receive strategic reading instruction (either one-on-one or in small groups) at least every 2 weeks. Readers working at emergency/at-risk levels receive more frequent coaching.
	2	Character: Theme Analysis (RL.2/3/9) • Theme/Message • Protagonist • Antagonist • Supporting Characters Constructed Response to Key Question	
	3	Setting: Theme Analysis (RL.2/3/9) • Historical Basis of Texts in the Genre • Physical Setting • Social Setting: Culture • Social Setting: The Rules Constructed Response to Key Question	
	4	Plot: Theme Analysis (RL.2/3/9) • Historical Basis of Texts in the Genre • Conflict & Resolution • Key Scenes • Dialogue Constructed Response to Key Question	
Analyzing the Genre: Literary Essay	5	Draft Comparative Analysis Essay (W.1/R.8/9) • Logical Organization • Body Paragraphs • Introduction & Conclusion	Rate of Reading Growth Every student is on track to make 2+ months of growth. • Readers working at emergency levels move 1+ IRLA levels. • Readers working at at-risk levels make 4+ months of growth.
	6	Revise, Edit, Publish, & Present Essay (W.4/5/RI.6/RL.1/2/5) • Revise for Powerful Language: Analogies • Revise for Powerful Language: Word Choice • Revise for Powerful Language: Linking Words	
Creating in the Genre: Short Story	7	Drafting Practice: Quick-Writes (W.3) • Why Write Stories? • Drafting Characters • Drafting Settings • Drafting Event Sequences • Narrator/Point of View	
	8	Draft & Revise Short Story (W.3/4/5) • Story Structure • Pacing • Tone	
	9	Edit, Illustrate, & Publish Short Story Literature Discussion Groups Post-Assessment on Key Question	

*Weeks are approximate. Teachers should feel welcome to expand or condense as needed.