

2025-2026 Fifth Grade ELA Pacing Guide

AT-A-GLANCE

[5th Grade BEST Benchmark Checklist](#)

Unit Strategies and Skills with Benchmarks (Spotlight)	Unit Essential Question
Quarter 1: August 11 - October 10, 2025	
Welcome Back	
Unit 1 R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support the central ideas R.2.1 Explain how text features contribute to overall meaning R.2.4 Track the development of an argument R.2.3 Analyze an author's perspective or purpose R.3.2 Summarize an informational text: include central idea and relevant details V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.4 Write expository essays C.3.1 Use conjunctions to join words and phrases C.3.1 Vary sentence structure	Unit 1: Cultivation Natural Resources <i>How do we decide which resources we should develop?</i>
Unit 2 R.1.1 Analyze how story elements contribute to plot R.1.3 Describe how authors develop a character's perspective R.3.2 Summarize: include plot and theme V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.3 Write an argument (opinion essay) C.3.1 Review past perfect tense C.3.1 Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense C.3.1 Use conjunctions to join words and phrases	Unit 2: Developing Characters' Relationships <i>Why do we value certain qualities in people?</i>
Quarter 2: October 15 - December 19, 2025	
Unit 3 R.2.1 Explain how text structure and/or features contribute to overall meaning R.2.4 Track the development of an argument, identifying claims, evidence and reasoning R.3.3 Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources related to the same topic R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support the central ideas R.3.2 Summarize: include central idea and relevant details V.1.3 Use context clue to determine meaning C.1.4 Write expository essays C.3.1 Use prepositions and prepositional phrases C.3.1 Use conjunctions correctly to join words and phrases C.3.1 Use appositives, main clauses and subordinate clauses	Unit 3: The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now <i>Why do laws continue to evolve?</i>
Unit 4 R.1.1 Analyze how setting, events, conflict and characterization contribute to plot R.1.3 Describe how an author develops a character's perspective R.3.2 Summarize: include plot and theme R.1.2 Explain the development of themes R.3.1 Analyze how figurative language contributes to meaning V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.2 Write narratives C.3.1 Use principal modals C.3.1 Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in tense and number C.3.1 Use commas to indicate address	Unit 4: Recognizing Author's Point of View <i>How can other perspectives help us evaluate the world?</i>
Quarter 3: January 5 - March 13, 2026	
Unit 5 R.1.4 Explain how figurative language and other poetic elements work together R.2.1 Explain how text structure contributes to overall meaning	Unit 5: Technology's Impact of Society <i>What value does technology</i>

R.1.2 Explain the development of themes R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support the central idea R.3.1 Analyze how figurative language contributes to meaning V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.3 Write an argument essay C.3.1 Use comparative and superlative forms of adjectives C.3.1 Use pronouns correctly, correcting for vague pronoun use	<i>bring to people's lives?</i>
Unit 6 R.1.3 Describe how an author develops characters' perspectives R.1.1 Analyze how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to plot R.1.2 Explain the development of themes V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.4 Writing to a text-based prompt: expository response C.3.1 Recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and run-ons C.3.1 Form and use past perfect verb tenses C.3.1 Use prepositions and prepositional phrases	Unit 6: Up Against the Wild <i>What compels us to survive?</i>
Unit 8 R.1.1 Analyze how setting, events, conflict, and characterization contribute to plot R.2.4 Track the development of an argument, identifying claims, evidence, and reasoning R.2.1 Explain how relevant details support the central ideas R.3.2 Summarize: include plot and theme R.1.2 Explain the development of theme R.3.1 Analyze how figurative language contributes to meaning V.1.3 Use context clue to determine meaning C.4.1 Write a research report C.3.1 Vary sentence structure C.3.1 Use verbals including gerunds, infinitives, and participial phrases C.3.1 Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense C.3.1 Form and use past perfect verb tenses V.1.2 WS: Latin roots V.1.2 WS: Adjectives suffixes	Unit 8: Water: Fact and Fiction <i>What does water mean to people and the societies they live in?</i>
Quarter 4: March 23 - May 29, 2026	
Unit 10 R.2.1 Explain how text features contribute to overall meaning R.2.4 Track the development of an argument, identifying claims, evidence, and reasoning R.3.2 Summarize: include central idea and relevant details R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support the central idea V.1.3 Using context clues to determine meaning C.3.1 Review past perfect verb tenses R.3.1 Use subordinate clauses F.1.3 WS: Prefixes that describe where	Unit 10: Transforming Matter <i>Why do we measure and describe the word?</i>
Unit 9 R.3.2 Summarize an informational text: include central ideas and relevant details R.2.1 Explain how text structures contribute to meaning R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support the central idea V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning C.1.2 Write poetry V.1.2 WS: Science roots, prefixes	Unit 9: The Economic Development of Cities <i>How do economic changes impact society?</i>

Unit 7

R.3.3 Compare and contrast primary and secondary sources related to the same topic

R.2.1 Explain how text structures or features contribute to overall meaning

R.2.2 Explain how relevant details support central ideas

R.2.4 Track the development of an argument, identifying claims, evidence, and reasoning

V.1.3 Use context clues to determine meaning

C.1.2 Write a fictional narrative

C.1.2 Vary sentence structure

C.1.2 Use quotation marks with dialogue and direct quotations

C.1.2 Use conjunctions correctly to join words and phrases

V.1.2 WS: prefixes

**Unit 7: Conflicts that Shaped
a Nation**

*How does conflict shape a
society?*