

8th Grade GT ELA Course Syllabus

Course Description/Goals:

8th Grade GT ELA is designed to meet the needs of advanced students, focusing on integrative reading, writing, speaking, and listening that will allow in-depth study of the total communication process. Students will gain a deep understanding of interpretive reading skills for stimulating thinking and developing ideas for writing multi-level, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and information compositions. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are taught through application and research skills are strengthened through varied activities. The middle school GT ELA classes are humanities-based; students study the ELA standards through a variety of literature, art, music, and history under an overarching big idea. Students explore the content using depth & complexity to make connections to their lives and the world they live in. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by Advanced Placement, Dual Credit and OnRamps courses in high school through sustained habits necessary for success in these advanced courses.

Course TEKS/Objectives:

The 8th Grade ELA TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through seven integrated strands. These strands include: developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. The strands focus on proficiency in oral expression and comprehension, authentic reading, and reflective writing. The strands are recursive, integrated, and progressive with students continuing to develop knowledge and skills with increased complexity in order to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

<https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/sboe-rules-tac/sboe-tac-currently-in-effect/ch110b.pdf>

Course Outline:

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Interacting with texts through annotation.- Responding to texts in the form of informational essays- Analyzing and interacting with a whole class novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fiction book clubs- Responding to literary texts- Analyzing & composing poetic and dramatic texts- Student choice book clubs

- Analyzing and interacting with argumentative texts
- Writing argumentative essays
- Nonfiction book clubs

- Formal inquiry and source analysis
- Developing and executing a research plan & giving formal presentations