Course Overview

Middle School | 8th Grade | ELA - *Last Updated on August 19, 2025*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

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- Foster a love for literacy across diverse backgrounds and abilities, ensuring equitable access to rich learning experiences equipping learners with the skills, mindset, and passion to engage actively as informed readers, writers, and communicators throughout their lives.
- Cultivate communicators and critical thinkers, empowering them to inquire, analyze, and create meaningfully from a variety of texts and perspectives, preparing them for the responsibilities of active participation as a citizen in our democracy as well as in an evolving global society.
- Engender collaborative and creative environments where learners innovate, elevate diverse voices and modalities to express themselves effectively and imaginatively.
- Promote a culturally responsive English Language Arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect.

Course Description

The **8th Grade HMH Into Literature** program is a comprehensive, standards-aligned English Language Arts curriculum designed to prepare students for the demands of high school literacy. It combines classic and contemporary texts to foster reading comprehension, critical thinking, and effective communication skills. The curriculum is organized into six thematic units, each with 10–13 lessons following a consistent structure: pre-reading preparation, active reading with “Notice and Note” signpost strategies, comprehension checks, and opportunities for written and oral analysis. This predictable format helps students build confidence as they progress through increasingly complex texts, while pacing guides ensure teachers can meet key standards over a 180-day school year.

A hallmark of the program is its emphasis on differentiation and engagement. Teacher’s Editions provide detailed scaffolds, background information, and flexible grouping strategies such as Think-Pair-Share, Jigsaw, and Pinwheel Discussions to support diverse learners. Students are exposed to a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and paired texts that encourage cross-textual analysis. Digital tools and features, such as Text X-Ray, interactive activities, and research tips, help make content accessible to struggling readers and English language learners while challenging advanced students with higher-order

thinking tasks. In addition, embedded formative and summative assessments—including comprehension checks, end-of-unit tasks, and data-driven progress monitoring—allow teachers to adjust instruction based on student performance.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 8 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.2.8.A CC.1.2.8.B CC.1.2.8.C CC.1.2.8.D CC.1.2.8.E CC.1.2.8.F CC.1.2.8.G
CC.1.2.8.H CC.1.2.8.I CC.1.2.8.J CC.1.2.8.K CC.1.2.8.L CC.1.3.8.A CC.1.3.8.B
CC.1.3.8.C CC.1.3.8.D CC.1.3.8.E CC.1.3.8.F CC.1.3.8.G CC.1.3.8.H CC.1.4.8.A
CC.1.4.8.B CC.1.4.8.C CC.1.4.8.D CC.1.4.8.E CC.1.4.8.F CC.1.4.8.G CC.1.4.8.H
CC.1.4.8.I CC.1.4.8.J CC.1.4.8.K CC.1.4.8.L CC.1.4.8.M CC.1.4.8.N CC.1.4.8.O
CC.1.4.8.P CC.1.4.8.Q CC.1.4.8.R CC.1.4.8.S CC.1.4.8.T CC.1.4.8.U CC.1.4.8.V
CC.1.4.8.W CC.1.4.8.X CC.1.5.8.A CC.1.5.8.B CC.1.5.8.C CC.1.5.8.D CC.1.5.8.E
CC.1.5.8.F CC.1.5.8.G

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will learn to read critically, cite and analyze textual evidence, construct well-supported written arguments, and present ideas clearly through both speaking and writing. The program incorporates a balance of whole-class, small-group, and independent activities, using strategies such as Think-Pair-Share, Jigsaw, and collaborative discussions to deepen understanding. Writing instruction is integrated throughout, with opportunities for narrative, argumentative, and explanatory composition, as well as research-based projects. Digital tools and scaffolds, include interactive activities, provide support for all learners, from struggling readers to advanced students.

Specific objectives for this course are aligned with the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts and the Eligible Content State Standards for English Language Arts.

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ASSESSMENT TYPES

Student progress will be evaluated through a combination of formative and summative assessments, including comprehension checks, analytical essays, presentations, end-of-unit tasks, and year-long benchmarks. Real-time feedback tools and progress monitoring will help guide instructional adjustments. By the end of the year, students will demonstrate mastery of grade-level standards in reading, writing, and communication, preparing them for the academic challenges of high school English courses.

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Core/Choice Novel notes
- Curriculum-based measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Goal setting
- Collaborative earning through Socratic Seminar
- Formative opportunities to drive instruction
- Think-pair-share
- Reciprocal teaching
- Read Alouds and student independent choice novels
- Student choice and voice in demonstrating knowledge

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
• HMH textbook • Anchor Charts • Notice and Note handbook • Long Reads found in HMH • Peer Coach videos • Alternate lessons • Level Up Tutorials • Level Up Practice • Interactive HMH lessons • Multilingual summary • Textbook • Flexible long and short read options suggested in the program. • Writable • Digital HMH resources included with the program • Skills coach • Flexible Skills Options: Alternate skills • Scaffolding options provided for English learners • Stream to Start videos • Social and Emotional Learning to go along with reading • Assessment Practice • Reader's Choice Options • Selection Tests • End of Unit Assessments	• Long Reads and Short Reads found in the HMH Into Literature program. • Suggested novels in the program.	• Writable • Read Aloud Audio • Text Sketch • Summary with Targeted Passages • Peer Coach videos • Anchor charts • Interactive Vocabulary lesson • Interactive Grammar lesson • Stream to Start videos