



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## GRADE 8

# ELA

## GRADE 8

**By the end of eighth grade, students will have had an opportunity to engage with the core concepts listed below.**

- Analyze how a text's structure, purpose, and point of view affect its content, style, and meaning.
- Write clear claims and support them with strong, trustworthy evidence gathered from reliable sources.
- Include counter-arguments in persuasive and argumentative writing and speaking to show a full understanding of the topic.
- Choose words and details purposefully to create a specific tone or style, and analyze how language affects the audience.
- Use technology effectively to publish writing, present ideas, and communicate with others.
- Participate in class discussions by asking thoughtful questions, responding with original ideas, connecting to others' comments, and justifying their thinking with evidence.
- Apply grammar and punctuation rules correctly when writing and editing.
- Produce multi-paragraph writing across different genres - including narrative, informational, argumentative, and literary or historical analysis - by following a clear process of drafting, revising, and editing.



### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR STUDENT

- "What big idea or theme have you been thinking about in class lately? How has your perspective on it changed as you've learned more, and what new questions do you have about it?"
- "If you could jump into the book you're reading, which character would you want to talk to, and what would you ask them or want to understand better?"
- "Imagine you're the author of the book you're reading—would you keep everything the same, or would you change how a key moment or character played out? What makes you feel that way?"
- "Was there a line or moment in a book that really stayed with you? What did it make you think about or help you realize?"



### WAYS TO CHALLENGE THEIR THINKING

- Start a family reading time where everyone reads together—either the same book or different ones—and share what you're thinking as you read.
- Explore a book series or an author your student enjoys to help build momentum and excitement for their next great read.
- Introduce audiobooks as a way to experience stories through listening, especially if your student prefers audio learning.
- Listen to podcasts together during a commute or quiet time, and ask your student to explain what they learned or found interesting.
- Choose books that offer different perspectives or cultures, and talk about how they compare with your student's own experiences or beliefs.
- Read the book version of a movie before seeing the film together, and discuss what was changed, left out, or portrayed differently and why that might be.

