

8th Grade Reading Language Arts (RLA) Syllabus 2026-2027

Course Description

8th Grade RLA encourages students to think critically, read closely, and write purposefully across a variety of genres. Through text study, discussion, and composition, students will explore fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry, as well as conduct research. The curriculum is designed to build academic literacy, strengthen comprehension, and prepare students for the STAAR assessment and high school success.

Curriculum Overview

The following table outlines the instructional units, themes, and assessment schedule for the 2026-2027 school year based on the updated Year-at-a-Glance (YAG).

Unit	Unit Name & Theme	Date Range	District Assessments
1	The Human Journey: Choices, Identity, and Rites of Passage: <i>How do our choices, heritage, and the challenges we face shape who we become?</i>	Aug. 13 – Oct. 9	Learning Check 1 (Sept. 29–30)
2	The Power of Voices: Standing Up in History and Society: <i>When should an individual speak out or take a stand against injustice?</i>	Oct. 19 – Dec. 17	Benchmark (Dec. 8)
3	Pushing the Limits: Intelligence, Innovation, and Boundaries: <i>What happens when science and human curiosity push past traditional boundaries?</i>	Jan. 5 – March 4	Learning Check 2 (Feb. 24–25)
4	Novel Study: <i>Focus on synthesis and application of 8th grade RLA skills.</i>	March 15 – May 20	Benchmark?

Note: Specific Readiness and Supporting TEKS for each unit are defined in the district's "**8th TEKS Guide**". While individual TEKS numbers are not listed in the summary YAG table, all instruction is explicitly aligned with the 8th Grade RLA Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills to ensure STAAR readiness.

Skills & Standards

Throughout the year, students will develop mastery in the following areas:

- **Analyze elements of literary genres** and evaluate the author's purpose and craft.
- **Make complex inferences** and support ideas with specific text evidence.
- **Evaluate language choices and structure** in argumentative and poetic texts.
- **Synthesize information** across multiple texts and genres.
- **Respond analytically and reflectively** to texts in structured written forms.
- **Conduct research**, evaluate sources for credibility and bias, and present findings.
- **Engage in inquiry-based learning** to solve problems and present synthesized findings.
- **Develop and revise compositions** that are organized, purposeful, and audience-aware.
- **Apply advanced grammar, sentence structure, and mechanics** in all writing.
- **Build academic vocabulary** and critical thinking through rigorous text-based discussions.

Grading

Please refer to the **Forney ISD Grading Guidelines** for detailed information regarding grading practices, late work policies, reassessment opportunities, and academic expectations