

# Avon School

## English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) Curriculum

### Eighth Grade

#### Curriculum Overview

*The following standards offer a focus for grade-level instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the duration of the school year. Students are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.*

*Reference: New Jersey Department of Education. New Jersey Student Learning Standards, 2023.*

*Reference: New Jersey Department of Education Division of Teaching and Learning. NJ Student Learning Standards 2023*

Unit Title	Timeframe	<a href="#">New Jersey Student Learning Standards</a>
<b>Unit 1: Launching the Reading and Writing ELA Block</b>	<b>September</b>	<p><b>Reading</b>  <b>RL.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RI.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RL.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a theme of a literary text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RI.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a central idea of an informational text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.</p> <p><b>Writing</b>  <b>W.IW.8.2.</b> Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.  <b>W.NW.8.3.</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.  <b>W.WP.8.4.</b> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out assistance, models, sources or feedback to improve understanding or refine final products; focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.  <b>W.RW.8.7.</b> Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self- correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>  <b>SL.PE.8.1.</b> Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.  <b>SL.II.8.2.</b> Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.  <b>SL.UM.8.5.</b> Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.  <b>SL.AS.8.6.</b> Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.</p> <p><b>Language</b>  <b>L.SS.8.1.</b> Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.  <b>L.KL.8.2.</b> Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  <b>L.VL.8.3.</b> Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.  <b>L.VI.8.4.</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p>

<p><b>Unit 2:</b>  <b>Reading: Fiction and NonFiction Texts</b>  <b>and</b>  <b>Writing: Expository Essays</b></p>	<p><b>October, November, and December</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b>  <b>RL.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RI.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RL.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a theme of a literary text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RI.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a central idea of an informational text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RL.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot, how ideas influence individuals or events, or how characters influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RI.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how contexts influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.</p> <p><b>Writing</b>  <b>W.IW.8.2.</b> Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.  <b>W.NW.8.3.</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.  <b>W.WP.8.4.</b> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out assistance, models, sources or feedback to improve understanding or refine final products; focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.  <b>W.WR.8.5.</b> Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.  <b>W.SE.8.6.</b> Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.  <b>W.RW.8.7.</b> Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self-correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>  <b>SL.PE.8.1.</b> Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.  <b>SL.II.8.2.</b> Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.  <b>SL.PI.8.4.</b> Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.  <b>SL.AS.8.6.</b> Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.</p> <p><b>Language</b>  <b>L.SS.8.1.</b> Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.  <b>L.KL.8.2.</b> Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  <b>L.VL.8.3.</b> Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.  <b>L.VI.8.4.</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p>
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<p><b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Reading: Fiction and NonFiction Texts</b> <b>and</b> <b>Writing: Research Simulation Task</b></p>	<p><b>January-February-March</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b>  <b>RL.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RI.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RL.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a theme of a literary text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RI.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a central idea of an informational text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RL.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot, how ideas influence individuals or events, or how characters influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RI.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how contexts influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RL.TS.8.4.</b> Compare and contrast the structure of texts, analyzing how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning, tone and style.  <b>RI.TS.8.4.</b> Analyze and explain how an author organizes, develops and presents ideas, establishes a point of view or builds supporting arguments through text structure.  <b>RL.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text through the use of different perspectives of the characters and that of the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony).  <b>RI.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text and by acknowledging and responding to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.  <b>RL.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums, including the representation/s or various perspectives of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), as well as what is emphasized or absent in each work.  <b>RI.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors, or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums and the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) to address a question or solve a problem.  <b>RI.AA.8.7.</b> Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.  <b>RL.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on how the author's idea in fiction and literary nonfiction texts (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) is shaped by the author's emphasis on different evidence, advancing different interpretations of facts, or fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period.  <b>RI.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) two or more informational texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</p> <p><b>Writing</b>  <b>W.AW.8.1.</b> Write arguments on discipline-specific content (e.g., social studies, science, technical subjects, English/Language Arts) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.  <b>W.IW.8.2.</b> Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.  <b>W.NW.8.3.</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.  <b>W.WP.8.4.</b> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out assistance, models, sources or feedback to improve understanding or refine final products; focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.  <b>W.WR.8.5.</b> Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.  <b>W.SE.8.6.</b> Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.  <b>W.RW.8.7.</b> Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self-correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>  <b>SL.PE.8.1.</b> Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.  <b>SL.II.8.2.</b> Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.  <b>SL.ES.8.3.</b> Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning.  <b>SL.PI.8.4.</b> Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.  <b>SL.UM.8.5.</b> Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.  <b>SL.AS.8.6.</b> Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.</p> <p><b>Language</b>  <b>L.SS.8.1.</b> Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.  <b>L.KL.8.2.</b> Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  <b>L.VL.8.3.</b> Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.  <b>L.VI.8.4.</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p>
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<p><b>Unit 4: Preparing for State Assessments and Writing Literary Analysis Essays</b></p>	<p><b>March-April</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b>  <b>RL.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RI.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RL.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a theme of a literary text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RI.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a central idea of an informational text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RL.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot, how ideas influence individuals or events, or how characters influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RI.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how contexts influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RL.TS.8.4.</b> Compare and contrast the structure of texts, analyzing how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning, tone and style.  <b>RI.TS.8.4.</b> Analyze and explain how an author organizes, develops and presents ideas, establishes a point of view or builds supporting arguments through text structure.  <b>RL.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text through the use of different perspectives of the characters and that of the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony).  <b>RI.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text and by acknowledging and responding to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.  <b>RL.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums, including the representation/s or various perspectives of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), as well as what is emphasized or absent in each work.  <b>RI.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors, or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums and the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) to address a question or solve a problem.  <b>RI.AA.8.7.</b> Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.  <b>RL.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on how the author's idea in fiction and literary nonfiction texts (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) is shaped by the author's emphasis on different evidence, advancing different interpretations of facts, or fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period.  <b>RI.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) two or more informational texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</p> <p><b>Writing</b>  <b>W.AW.8.1.</b> Write arguments on discipline-specific content (e.g., social studies, science, technical subjects, English/Language Arts) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.  <b>W.IW.8.2.</b> Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.  <b>W.NW.8.3.</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.  <b>W.WP.8.4.</b> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; seeking out assistance, models, sources or feedback to improve understanding or refine final products; focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.  <b>W.WR.8.5.</b> Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.  <b>W.SE.8.6.</b> Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.  <b>W.RW.8.7.</b> Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, metacognition/self-correction, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>  <b>SL.PE.8.1.</b> Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.  <b>SL.II.8.2.</b> Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.  <b>SL.ES.8.3.</b> Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning.  <b>SL.PI.8.4.</b> Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.  <b>SL.UM.8.5.</b> Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.  <b>SL.AS.8.6.</b> Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.</p> <p><b>Language</b>  <b>L.SS.8.1.</b> Demonstrate command of the system and structure of the English language when writing or speaking.  <b>L.KL.8.2.</b> Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.  <b>L.VL.8.3.</b> Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content, including technical meanings, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.  <b>L.VI.8.4.</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p>
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<p><b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Reading: Analyzing Literature and Writing: Writing Essays and Narratives</b></p>	<p><b>May-June</b></p>	<p><b>Reading</b>  <b>RL.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections to strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RI.CR.8.1.</b> Cite a range of textual evidence and make clear and relevant connections (including informational text features such as charts, graphs, and diagrams) that strongly support an analysis of multiple aspects of what an informational text says explicitly, as well as inferences drawn from the text.  <b>RL.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a theme of a literary text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RI.CI.8.2.</b> Determine a central idea of an informational text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.  <b>RL.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot, how ideas influence individuals or events, or how characters influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RI.IT.8.3.</b> Analyze how particular elements of a text interact (e.g., how contexts influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events) across multiple text types, including across literary and informational texts.  <b>RL.TS.8.4.</b> Compare and contrast the structure of texts, analyzing how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning, tone and style.  <b>RI.TS.8.4.</b> Analyze and explain how an author organizes, develops and presents ideas, establishes a point of view or builds supporting arguments through text structure.  <b>RL.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text through the use of different perspectives of the characters and that of the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony).  <b>RI.PP.8.5.</b> Analyze how an author conveys or develops their perspective or purpose in a text and by acknowledging and responding to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.  <b>RL.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums, including the representation/s or various perspectives of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), as well as what is emphasized or absent in each work.  <b>RI.MF.8.6.</b> Evaluate the choices made (by the authors, directors, or actors) when presenting an idea in different mediums and the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) to address a question or solve a problem.  <b>RI.AA.8.7.</b> Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.  <b>RL.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on how the author's idea in fiction and literary nonfiction texts (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) is shaped by the author's emphasis on different evidence, advancing different interpretations of facts, or fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period.  <b>RI.CT.8.8.</b> Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) two or more informational texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</p> <p><b>Writing</b>  <b>W.AW.8.1.</b> Write arguments on discipline-specific content (e.g., social studies, science, technical subjects, English/Language Arts) to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.  <b>W.IW.8.2.</b> Write informative/explanatory texts (including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes) to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.  <b>W.NW.8.3.</b> Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.  <b>W.WP.8.4.</b> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, sustaining effort to complete complex writing tasks; 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