

EIGHTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Comprehension – The student will identify and apply strategies and skills to comprehend text.

- a. Skim text for an overall impression. Scan text for specific information
- b. Identify and apply comprehension a strategy through the critical thinking of summarizing, interpreting, evaluating, critiquing, and analyzing what is read.
- c. Make, confirm, and revise predictions as needed when reading.
- d. Recognize words that signal transitions to determine sequence (e.g. first of all, furthermore, finally).
- e. Determine the purpose for reading a specific text (e.g. for entertainment, to gain information, to inform).
- f. Adjust reading rate and determine appropriate strategies to match the purpose, difficulty, and characteristics of the text.

Literary Response and Analysis – The student will demonstrate familiarity with a variety of literature.

- a. Use setting, plot, characterization, and style to determine a text's genre (e.g., science fiction, folktale).
- b. Interpret meaning from the author's use of figurative language and other literary devices within the text (e.g. metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, symbolism, dialect, and idiom).
- c. Identify literary techniques used in literature (e.g. irony, understatement, exaggeration, foreshadowing, etc.).
- d. Determine types of conflict in a short story (e.g. man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature, man vs. self).
- e. Identify elements of plot in a short story (e.g. exposition, setting, complications, suspense, climax, and resolution).
- f. Compare and contrast archetypal characters in literary text (e.g. heroes/heroines, villains).
- g. Analyze the relationship between the information in text and historical and/or current events (e.g. period, ideas, and customs).
- h. Compare and contrast the use of the poetic elements of word choice, dialogue, rhyme, rhythm, and voice.

Vocabulary – The student will demonstrate knowledge of words and word meanings.

- a. Determine the meaning of words from their use in context.
- b. Analyze idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes to infer the literal and figurative meanings of phrases.
- c. Recognize the origins and meanings of foreign words frequently used in English and use these words accurately in speaking and writing.
- d. Determine the meaning of unknown words and vary word choice by using a glossary, dictionary, and thesaurus.

Listening – The student will listen and respond to oral communication.

- a. Use appropriate listening skills in various settings. Show respect for others.
- b. Ask questions to seek elaboration and clarification of the speaker's ideas and opinions and to comprehend and recall information.
- c. Determine the purpose(s) for listening (e.g. gain information, solve problems, enjoyment).

- d. Recognize and understand barriers to effective listening (e.g. distractions, biases, conflicting demands).
- e. Evaluate the speaker's message in terms of content, credibility, and delivery.

Speaking – The student will communicate effectively.

- a. Organize information to achieve particular purposes by matching the message, vocabulary, voice modulation, expression, and tone to the audience and purpose.
- b. Prepare a speech outline based upon a chosen pattern of organization, which generally includes an introduction; transitions, previews, and summaries; a logically developed body; and an effective conclusion.
- c. Use appropriate delivery (e.g. volume, rate, enunciation, pacing, and movement).
- d. Use appropriate grammar, word choice, enunciation, and pace during formal presentations.
- e. Use expressive language (e.g. action verbs, sensory details, colorful modifiers, active voice) to enliven oral presentations.
- f. Use appropriate nonverbal skills when speaking (e.g. eye contact, postures, and gestures).
- g. Speak responsibly to present accurate, truthful, and ethical messages.
- h. Use audience feedback to modify the organizational plan and/or to clarify meaning.