



Language Arts 8

Semester A Summary:

In this course, the student studies and analyzes explanatory, informational, and argumentative texts. Throughout the course curiosity and critical thinking are encouraged as the student practices reading comprehension through analogy and allusion. The student will learn to make connections between reading and the world around them as they read interesting texts. Their academic vocabulary will be expanded as they explore word choice and meaning to refine communication skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course presents strategies to strengthen writing skills through grammar, punctuation, and sentence and paragraph structure. The student will refine, reinforce and apply these skills through their own explanatory and persuasive compositions.

Semester A Outline

1. Course Overview

1. Language Arts 8 A Course Overview

2. Speaking and Listening

1. Discussion Evidence

- In this section, you will learn to use technology, including the internet, to interact and collaborate effectively with others.
- In this section, you will use technology, including the internet, to collaborate with others.
- In this section, you will prepare for a discussion by referring to evidence from required reading or outside research.
- In this section, you will refer to text evidence to deeply discuss a topic or idea.

2. Discussion Protocols

- In this section, you will follow rules for collegial discussions, including setting goals, deadlines.
- In this section, you will ask questions that prompt elaboration about a topic under discussion.
- In this section, you will respond to questions and comments with observations and ideas that are relevant to the topic under discussion.
- In this section, you will acknowledge new information expressed by others and determine how new information expressed by others affects one's own views modifying one's own views when appropriate.

3. Speaking and Listening Apply

4. Speaking and Listening Discussion

3. Reading Informational Text

1. Reading Informational Text Introduction
2. Genres

- In this section, you will identify elements of genre and determine the patterns of various genres of nonfiction texts.
3. Central Ideas
 - In this section, you will determine the main idea of an informational text. You will also analyze details that support the main idea.
 4. Summarizing
 - In this section, you will identify the most effective summary from a selection of choices.
 - In this section, you will summarize the important points in an informational text.
 - In this section, you will summarize important points in an informational text using a graphic organizer.
 5. Analyzing Connections
 - In this section, you will analyze cause-and-effect connections between events and ideas in an informational text.
 6. Determining Word Meaning
 - In this section, you will identify the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases using context clues.
 7. Analogies
 - In this section, you will identify the meaning of analogies in an informational text.
 8. Allusions
 - In this section, you will identify the meaning of an allusion in an informational text.
 9. Word Choice
 - In this section, you will analyze how word choice affects meaning in an informational text.
 10. Providing Evidence
 - In this section, you will infer using explicit information in an informational text.
 11. Comparing Authors
 - In this section you will compare how authors use different methods to achieve different or similar purposes.
 12. Reading Informational Text Apply
 13. Reading Informational Text Review
 14. Reading Informational Text Unit Test

4. Grammar

1. Grammar Introduction
2. Subject-Verb Agreement
 - In this section, you will identify the correct form of a verb in subject-verb agreement.
 - In this section, you will compose sentences with correct subject-verb agreement.
 - In this section, you will identify errors in subject-verb agreement in sentences with prepositions and prepositional phrases.
 - In this section, you will identify the correct form of the verb in subject-verb agreement with collective nouns.
3. Gerunds
 - In this section, you will find gerunds and explain how they are used in a sentence.

4. Participles
 - In this section, you will find participles and explain how they are used in a sentence.

5. Phrases and Clauses

- In this section, you will identify different types of clauses and phrases.
- In this section, you will correct misplaced and dangling modifiers.
- In this section, you will write simple and compound sentences with phrases, using proper pronoun-antecedent agreement.
- In this section, you will write complex and compound-complex sentences with phrases, using proper pronoun-antecedent agreement.

6. Identifying Passive and Active Voice

- In this section, you will identify passive and active voice.

7. Using Passive and Active Voice

- In this section, you will write verbs in the active voice or passive voice.
- In this section, you will write a paragraph in the active voice.

8. Grammar Apply

9. Grammar Review

10. Grammar Unit Test

5. **Writing Explanatory Text**

1. Writing Explanatory Text Introduction

2. Introducing a Topic

- In this section, you will write a statement or paragraph that clearly introduces the topic of your informative or explanatory writing. The introduction will give your readers an idea about the main points you will address in your writing.

3. Organizing Ideas

- In this section, you will identify organization techniques used in informative or explanatory writing.
- In this section, you will organize information under headings in informative or explanatory writing.
- In this section, you will select an organizational structure for informative or explanatory writing.

4. Providing Graphics

- In this section, you will select graphics and media to enhance writing.
- In this section, you will explain the relevance of a Venn diagram in your informative or explanatory writing.
- In this section, you will select graphics to enhance writing.

5. Using Relevant Details

- In this section, you will defend a central idea with relevant details and quotations.

6. Using Transitions

- In this section, you will select appropriate transitions to connect cause and effect, sequence, and contrast relationships in an informative or explanatory text.

7. Using Precise Language

- In this section, you will select precise vocabulary in your informative or explanatory writing.
- In this section, you will select precise vocabulary in your informative or explanatory writing.

8. Conclusions

- In this section, you will write a final statement or section that sums up and supports the information in your informative or explanatory text.
9. Writing Explanatory Text Portfolio 1
 - In this section, you will organize your ideas before writing.
 - In this section, you will revise a paragraph for active voice.
 10. Writing Explanatory Text Portfolio 2
 - In this section, you will write an informative essay with appropriate mood.
 - In this section, you will revise an informative essay.
 - In this section, you will check that your spelling is correct.
 11. Writing Explanatory Text Portfolio 3
 - In this section, you will create a works cited list of online sources.
 - In this section, you will evaluate how well you addressed your purpose and audience throughout your writing. You will also request and respond to feedback from your Learning Coach.
 12. Writing Explanatory Text Review
 13. Writing Explanatory Text Unit Test
- 6. Building Vocabulary**
1. Building Vocabulary Introduction
 2. Using Context Clues
 - In this section, you will identify the meaning of a word or phrase using context clues.
 3. Roots and Affixes
 - In this section, you will identify the meaning of a word using Greek or Latin roots and affixes.
 4. Using Reference Materials
 - In this section, you will locate a word's definition in a dictionary.
 5. Verifying Word Meanings
 - In this section, you will infer the meaning of a word from context clues.
 6. Word Meaning
 - In this section, you will define words using roots, affixes, and base words.
 - In this section, you will define words using roots.
 - In this section, you will explain how technical terms affect the tone of a paragraph.
 7. Building Vocabulary Apply
 8. Building Vocabulary Review
 9. Building Vocabulary Unit Test
- 7. Analyze Informational Text**
1. Analyze Informational Text Introduction
 2. Paragraph Structure
 - In this section, you will analyze a paragraph's structure, including the role of particular sentences in adding to and clarifying a key concept.
 3. Author's Purpose
 - In this section, you will identify the author's purpose with evidence.
 4. Delineating an Argument
 - In this section, you will analyze the author's argument, including opposing claims, in an informational text.
 5. Evaluating Reasoning
 - In this section, you will evaluate whether an argument's reasoning provides relevant facts and evidence to support the author's claim in an informational text.

6. Evaluating Evidence
 - In this section, you will evaluate whether enough relevant evidence is provided to support the claims in an informational text. You will also identify when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
7. Analyzing Texts Portfolio 1
 - In this section you will analyze two informational texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic.
8. Analyzing Texts Portfolio 2
 - In this section, you will identify points of disagreement between two informational texts.
9. Analyzing Texts Portfolio 3
 - In this lesson, you will focus on how authors use information to persuade their readers.
10. Using Different Mediums
 - In this section, you will select appropriate media to accompany text.
 - In this section, you will learn how the media can influence our beliefs, behaviors, and interpretations of events.
11. Analyze Informational Text Apply
12. Analyze Informational Text Review
13. Analyze Informational Text Unit Test

8. Writing an Argument

1. Writing an Argument Introduction
2. Develop Claims
 - In this section, you will write an introduction of an argument including claims.
 - In this section, you will identify ways to support your claims in an argument.
3. Opposing Claims
 - In this section, you will identify different claims and counterclaims when writing an argument.
 - In this section, you will write a counterargument.
4. Organize Arguments
 - In this section, you will organize reasons and evidence in a way that makes sense when writing an argument.
5. Using Credible Sources
 - In this section, you will select evidence from credible sources when writing an argument.
6. Claims and Evidence
 - In this section, you will determine the relationships among claims, reasons, and evidence when writing an argument.
 - In this section, you will distinguish between facts and opinions to support a position when writing an argument.
7. Cohesion
 - In this section, you will define cohesion. You will then use words, phrases, and clauses to make your ideas stick together when writing an argument.
8. Writing a Conclusion
 - In this section, you will write a conclusion that sums up and supports your argument and keeps your audience in mind.
 - In this section, you will identify what information is required for a conclusion of an argument.
9. Writing An Argument Portfolio 1

- In this section, you will organize, plan and write an argumentative essay
10. Writing An Argument Portfolio 2
 - In this section, you will revise your argument for verb mood.
 11. Writing An Argument Portfolio 3
 - In this section, you will use technology, including the internet, to produce writing and to link to and cite sources.
 12. Writing an Argument Review
 13. Writing an Argument Unit Test

9. Punctuation

1. Punctuation Introduction
2. Indicating a Pause
 - In this section, you will use punctuation— including commas, ellipses, dashes— to show a pause or break.
3. Ellipses
 - In this section, you will identify where ellipses are used to show that something has been left out.
4. Punctuation Marks
 - In this section, you will correct sentences for punctuation.
5. Colons and Semi-Colons
 - In this section, you will correct colons and semicolons in sentences.
 - In this section, you will revise sentences for punctuation.
6. Punctuation Apply
7. Punctuation Review
8. Punctuation Unit Test

Semester B Summary:

In this course, the student is exposed to a wide variety of writing styles that create a sense of curiosity and excitement. Throughout the course the student will explore and analyze several literary genres including narrative, poetry, suspense, and humor. The student will also explore character development and dramatic irony as they participate in fictional novel study. Then, they will sharpen their writing skills as they create their own narrative story. Additionally, this course provides the opportunity for the student to exercise curiosity and inquiry skills through short and long-term research as they conduct and present observations and conclusions from their own research project.

Semester B Outline

1. **Course Overview**
 1. Language Arts 8 B Course Overview
2. **Speaking and Listening**
 1. Discussion Evidence
 - In this section, you will learn to use technology, including the internet, to interact and collaborate effectively with others.
 - In this section, you will use technology, including the internet, to collaborate with others.
 - In this section, you will prepare for a discussion by referring to evidence from required reading or outside research.

- In this section, you will refer to text evidence to deeply discuss a topic or idea.
2. Discussion Protocols
 - In this section, you will follow rules for collegial discussions, including setting goals, deadlines.
 - In this section, you will ask questions that prompt elaboration about a topic under discussion.
 - In this section, you will respond to questions and comments with observations and ideas that are relevant to the topic under discussion.
 - In this section, you will acknowledge new information expressed by others and determine how new information expressed by others affects one's own views modifying ones own views when appropriate.
 3. Speaking and Listening Apply
 - In this section, you will predict a different outcome of a historic event based on a reading.
 4. Speaking and Listening Apply Discussion
3. **Novel Study Introduction**
 1. Elements of Fiction
 - In this section, you will explain how a writer uses details to develop a character in a novel.
 - In this section, you will describe the elements of plot in a story.
 - In this section, you will describe where and when a story takes place.
 2. Choosing a Novel
 - In this section, you will explain your novel choice.
 - In this section, you will record information learned about a novel by using the front matter of the book.
 - In this section, you will predict the author's purpose and central idea based on skimming the text and reviewing front matter.
4. **Reading Literary Text**
 1. Reading Literary Text Introduction
 - In this lesson you will determine a central idea and a theme of a literary text.
 2. Textual Evidence
 - In this section, you will analyze what the text says directly and your inferences using evidence from a literary text.
 3. Central Idea and Theme
 - In this section, you will determine the main idea and message of a literary text.
 4. Development of Theme
 - In this section, you will analyze how character, setting, and plot help to develop a theme or central idea in a literary text.
 5. Summarizing Literature
 - In this section, you will summarize the important characters and events in the story.
 6. Plot Development
 - In this section, you will analyze how a character's words or specific events in a story move the plot forward and give more information about a character.
 7. Figurative and Connotative Meaning
 - In this section, you will determine the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in a literary text.
 8. Analyzing Word Choice

- In this section, you will analyze the effect that an author's choice of words has on the meaning and attitude of an informational text.

9. Reading Literary Text Apply
10. Reading Literary Text Review
11. Reading Literary Text Unit Test

5. **Novel Study**

1. Theme and Summary
 - In this section, you will identify the main idea of a story.
 - In this section, you will analyze details as you read that develop the main idea.
 - In this section, you will summarize important characters and events in the novel.

6. **Language and Style**

1. Language and Style Introduction
2. Irony
 - In this section, you will define verbal irony and find examples in writing.
3. Puns
 - In this section, you will define puns and find examples in writing.
4. Figures of Speech
 - In this section, you will find the meanings of figures of speech in context.
5. Comparative Word Meaning
 - In this section, you will look at the relationship between words to help you understand each word.
6. Connotations and Denotations
 - In this section, you will find the differences between the connotations of words whose denotations are alike.
7. Language and Style Apply
8. Language and Style Review
9. Language and Style Unit Test

7. **Novel Study**

1. Characters and Dramatic Irony
 - In this section, you will identify and describe the different ways that the narrator and characters see events in the story unfold.
 - In this section, you will explain what dramatic irony is in a novel.
 - In this section, you will analyze how dramatic irony can create both tension and humor in a novel.

8. **Writing a Narrative**

1. Writing a Narrative Introduction
2. Writing an Introduction
 - In this section, you will write an engaging introduction for a narrative that introduces characters and establishes a context and point of view.
3. Organizing Events
 - In this section, you will organize the events in your narrative in a sequence that unfolds logically.
4. Using Dialogue
 - In this section, you will use dialogue to develop the experiences, events, and characters in your narrative.
5. Developing Narratives
 - In this section, you will use pacing, description, and reflection to develop your narrative.

6. Using Transitions
 - In this section, you will use a variety of transition words and phrases to show sequence of events, to move from one setting to another, or to move from one time frame to another.
7. Precise Language
 - In this section, you will use precise words and phrases, descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and develop your narrative.
8. Figurative Language
 - In this section, you will use alliteration and onomatopoeia to express the voice in your narrative.
 - In this section, you will use figurative language and graphic elements to express the voice in your narrative.
9. Writing a Conclusion
 - In this section, you will write a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the experiences and events in your narrative.
10. Writing a Narrative Portfolio 1
 - In this section, you will organize your narrative using a chart.
 - In this section, you will use planning techniques to develop your ideas for writing.
 - In this section, you will use verbs in active and passive voices for different purposes.
11. Writing a Narrative Portfolio 2
 - In this section, you will use indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive verbs for different purposes.
 - In this section, you will strengthen your narrative by revising and editing.
 - In this section, you will strengthen your narrative by making sure all your spelling is correct.
12. Writing a Narrative Portfolio 3
 - In this section, you will use technology, including the internet, to produce your narrative.
 - In this section, you will decide how well your purpose and audience have been addressed in your narrative.
13. Writing a Narrative Review
14. Writing a Narrative Unit Test

9. **Novel Study**

1. Analyzing Character and Plot
 - In this section, you will analyze how a character's words or specific events in a story can move the action forward.
 - In this section, you will analyze how a character's words or specific events in a story can tell readers more about a character.
 - In this section, you will analyze parts of the plot, including the conflict, rising action, and the turning point of the plot.

10. **Analyzing Literary Text**

1. Analyzing Literary Text Introduction
2. Analyzing Structure
 - In this section, you will show how the different structures of literary texts affect their style and meaning.
3. Dramatic Irony
 - In this section, you will define and locate examples of dramatic irony in a literary text.

4. Suspense and Humor
 - In this section, you will find examples of suspense and humor in a literary text.
5. Character Point of View
 - In this section, you will look at how the different points of view of the characters in a story, along with the point of view of the reader, can create effects like suspense or humor.
6. Director's or Actor's Choices
 - In this section, you will examine the choices made by directors or actors in a play or film production of a story.
7. Analyzing Literary Text Portfolio 1
 - In this section, you will compare and contrast the structure of two or more literary texts.
8. Analyzing Literary Text Portfolio 2
 - In this section, you will analyze how a modern story uses events and character types from older, traditional stories like myths.
9. Analyzing Literary Text Portfolio 3
 - In this section, you will look at how a modern story uses themes from older, traditional stories like myths.
10. Analyzing Literary Text Apply
11. Analyze Literature Review and Reflect
12. Analyzing Literary Text Unit Test

11. Novel Study

1. Allusion and Themes
 - In this section, you will analyze how modern stories use events in myths, traditional stories, and religious texts.
 - In this section, you will identify traditional character archetypes in modern stories.
 - In this section, you will identify traditional themes in modern stories.

12. Verb Mood and Voice

1. Verb Mood and Voice Introduction
2. Identifying Moods
 - In this section, you will define and find examples of verbs in the indicative, imperative, and interrogative mood.
3. Conditional Mood
 - In this section, you will define and find examples of verbs in the conditional mood.
4. Subjunctive Mood
 - In this section, you will define and locate examples of verbs in the subjunctive mood.
5. Various Moods
 - In this section, you will form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive moods.
6. Shifts in Verb Mood and Voice
 - In this section, you will locate and fix incorrect shifts in verb mood and voice.
7. Verb Mood and Voice Apply
 - In this section, you will use a variety of verb moods and two voices to express your attitude about a place of your choosing.
8. Verb Mood and Voice Review
9. Verb Mood and Voice Unit Test

13. Novel Study

1. Thematic Development

- In this section, you will determine the main message or lesson of the novel.
- In this section, you will analyze how plot, setting, and character help to develop the main message or lesson of a novel.
- In this section, you will evaluate the characters, plot, and setting of a novel.

14. Research and Present

1. Research and Present Introduction

2. Conducting Research

- In this section, you will conduct a short research project to answer a question, using several sources.

3. Search Terms

- In this section, you will decide how to create and use effective search terms.

4. Gathering Information

- In this section, you will gather information from at least three sources, determining the credibility and correctly citing each source.

5. Avoiding Plagiarism

- In this section, you will learn how to avoid plagiarism when quoting or paraphrasing the ideas of others.

6. Diverse Media Formats

- In this section, you will explain how the ideas presented in different formats or media can help you understand a topic.
- In this section, you will learn to use multimedia to clarify information and emphasize differing points of view.
- In this section, you will consider internet ethics to evaluate information on the internet and to produce your own media messages.
- In this section, you will analyze and evaluate information you gather from diverse sources.

7. Speaker's Effectiveness

- In this section, you will decide how effectively a speaker uses chronological, cause/effect, problem/solution, and compare/contrast relationships to help the audience understand the message.

8. Soundness of Reasoning

- In this section, you will judge the reasoning a speaker uses to support claims made in an argument.

9. Sufficiency of Evidence

- In this section, you will judge the evidence a speaker presents in order to support claims in an argument.

10. Research and Present Portfolio 1

- In this lesson you will present claims and findings in a focused, coherent manner.
- In this section, you will organize a claim that is logical.
- In this section, you will select important details to support your claim.

11. Research and Present Portfolio 2

- In this section, you will revise the verb mood and voice in your claim.
- In this section, you will select concise language using reference materials.
- In this section, you will select multimedia and/or visual displays to clarify your claim.

12. Research and Present Portfolio 3

- In this section, you will modify your speech for different contexts, tasks, and audiences.
- In this section, you will respond orally with appropriate register, vocabulary, tone, and voice.

13. Research and Present Review

14. Research and Presentation Unit Test