

## Grade 8 Language Arts Standards and Benchmarks

### **Standard 1: Use the general skills and strategies of the writing process**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 1.1 Use prewriting strategies to plan written work
- 1.2 Use strategies to draft and revise written work
- 1.3 Use strategies to edit and publish written work
- 1.4 Write in a variety of forms or genres for different purposes
- 1.5 Use strategies to write for a variety of audiences (e.g., self, peers, teachers, adults)
- 1.6 Use strategies to write informational text
- 1.7 Use strategies to write fictional and autobiographical narratives
- 1.8 Write in response to literature

### **Standard 2: Use the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 2.1 Use level-appropriate vocabulary in writing
- 2.2 Use a variety of sentence structures and types

### **Standard 3: Use grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 3.1 Use level-appropriate conventions of grammar and usage in written work
- 3.2 Use level-appropriate conventions of spelling in written work
- 3.3 Use level-appropriate conventions of punctuation in written work
- 3.4 Use level-appropriate conventions of capitalization in written work

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### **Standard 4: Gather and use information for research purposes**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 4.1 Use a variety of print and non-print sources to gather information
- 4.2 Use methods to organize and synthesize research information
- 4.3 Use strategies to write or present research reports
- 4.4 Use appropriate methods and format to cite reference sources

### **Standard 5: Use the general skills and strategies of the reading process**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 5.1 Use word origins and derivations to understand word meaning
- 5.2 Understand level-appropriate vocabulary and language structures
- 5.3 Use a variety of reading strategies to clarify understanding of text, including self-monitoring
- 5.4 Understand author's purpose and devices that help to achieve that purpose [ESL: 6.6.1, 6.6.2]

### **Standard 6: Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 6.1 Read a variety of level-appropriate fiction and nonfiction texts
- 6.2 Know the defining characteristics of a variety of literary genres
- 6.3 Understand elements of character development in literary works
- 6.4 Understand story elements (e.g., plot, central idea, setting)
- 6.5 Understand the different ways in which language and stylistic devices are used and their effects on a reader
- 6.6 Understand the main ideas and aspects of theme in a text
- 6.7 Understand the historical, social, and cultural influences on literary works

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### **Standard 7: Use reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 7.1 Use reading strategies to understand a variety of informational texts
- 7.2 Understand aspects of author's viewpoint in an informational text
- 7.3 Use various text structures and organizers to locate and understand information
- 7.4 Summarize and paraphrase information found in texts
- 7.5 Evaluate information in expository texts
- 7.6 Use structural patterns or organization to understand informational texts

### **Standard 8: Use listening and speaking strategies for different purposes**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 8.1 Listen to understand content, style, and purpose in spoken text
- 8.2 Use a variety of strategies to make oral presentations
- 8.3 Use a variety of verbal and nonverbal communication skills and strategies
- 8.4 Contribute to class and group discussions
- 8.5 Use level-appropriate vocabulary and conventions of oral language

### **Standard 9: Use viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media**

#### **Benchmarks:**

- 9.1 Understand techniques used in visual media and their impact on viewers
- 9.2 Create level-appropriate media works