



Content Area: Secondary English

Grade Level: 8

Course Name: English 8

Course Description: English 8 is aligned with the Next Generation English Language Arts standards and instructional learning activities are designed to emphasize skills and strategies in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students apply close reading techniques to analyze both fiction and nonfiction works and are exposed to a wide variety of literary works. The development of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills is stressed within the language arts classroom. Students will be required to read several class taught novels as well as independently chosen titles. Students will be prepared to successfully complete the NYS grade 8 English Language Arts assessment.

Description of Standard	Year-Long Progression of Skills
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine one or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; summarize a text. ● In literary texts, analyze how particular lines of dialogue or events propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision. ● Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings. ● Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, tone, and mood, including words with multiple meanings. ● Trace and evaluate an argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient and recognizing when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. ● Use precise language and content specific vocabulary to argue a claim or a topic. ● Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. ● Provide a concluding statement or section that explains the significance of the claim presented. ● Write analytical/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. ● Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information. ● Develop a topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples; include formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension. ● Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. ● Establish and maintain a style appropriate to the writing task. ● Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details and clear sequencing. ● Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the writing topic. ● Create a poem, story, play, art work, or other response to a text, author, theme or personal experience. ● Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Description of Standard	Year-Long Progression of Skills
Speaking and Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners; express ideas clearly and persuasively, and build on those of others. ● Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. ● Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse formats (e.g., including visual, quantitative, and oral) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation. ● Present claims and findings, emphasizing essential points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear enunciation ● Integrate digital media and/or visual displays in presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add elements of interest to engage the audience.
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. ● Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases. ● Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. ● Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede). ● Interpret figures of speech including irony and puns in context. ● Distinguish among the connotations of words with similar denotations (e.g., bullheaded, willful, firm, persistent, resolute). ● Acquire and accurately use general academic and content-specific words and phrases; apply vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

NYS Standard	Links
Next Generation ELA	New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards