



Content Area: English Language Arts

Grade Level: 4

Course Name: Grade 4 ELA

Course Description: Students in Grade 4 will engage in a daily structured literacy block that includes explicit reading and writing instruction. The reading units are aligned with the Next Generation ELA standards and each unit includes researched instructional practices for supporting all students in building background knowledge, vocabulary, language structure, verbal reasoning, and literacy knowledge. Writing lessons include teacher guided activities in which students follow the steps of the writing process to compose multiple drafts of informational, narrative, and opinion pieces. Students will also write independently, and in response to reading. Students in some buildings will use the Core Knowledge Language Arts curriculum, rather than the units referenced below.

Units Length of Time	Description
Get Set For Literacy Block 6-8 Weeks	This unit includes shared readings of a number of short texts, representing a wide array of voices, and experiences to introduce students to reading and writing routines and lessons related to the components of a structured literacy block. Learning activities include strategies for explicit Tier 2 vocabulary instruction, for building background knowledge, language structures, verbal reasoning and for building accountable talk skills for engaging in rich conversations with classmates. The Get Set Unit also provides expectations for participating in a respectful and welcoming classroom community, and includes examples of how to introduce daily, year-long literacy routines and activities.
Following Characters Into Meaning 6-8 Weeks	Students will participate in a shared reading of a full-length novel. To build understanding and background knowledge about the characters, setting, and issues presented in the novel, students will read and view a variety of relevant print and digital resources. Learning activities will include explicit vocabulary instruction based on the selected novel and background resources and embedded writing in response to the reading. Students will participate in whole class discussions as well as small group collaborations to build skills in inference and synthesizing characters and events presented.

Units Length of Time	Description
Nonfiction Reading 6-8 Weeks	This unit builds on students' understanding of the definition and features of nonfiction writing. Students will read and write about a variety of nonfiction texts, engaging in activities that develop their understanding of the distinction between factual statements and opinions. Teachers will provide explicit instruction in Tier 3 Academic vocabulary, and students will regularly engage in learning activities for identifying the main idea, and distinguishing the main idea from supporting details. Readers will consider the author's choices as they increase their expertise in interpreting, comparing across texts, synthesizing, researching, and completing nonfiction projects.
Learning from Biography 6-8 Weeks	Students will be exposed to the features of biographical texts and will explore how authors conduct research and incorporate text structures, point of view, and employ writing techniques such as description, dialogue, and flashbacks to develop biographies. To bolster students' background knowledge and vocabulary, as well as student understanding of text features, students will read from a variety of biographies as well as related nonfiction articles and informational resources. Student learning activities will include identifying specific nonfiction features and narrative elements, sequencing events, identifying main and supporting ideas, synthesizing information within and across to form theories, and analyzing the author's craft to determine the impact on meaning.
Test Readiness 6-8 Weeks	This unit provides students with opportunities for activating prior learning and applying reading and writing skills presented throughout the year. Students will review close reading strategies as teachers guide them through a range of shorter passages, and provide practice by using released NYS ELA passages, multiple choice and constructed response questions. Students will review the elements of fiction as well as nonfiction text features.

NYS Standard	Links
Grade 4 Next Generation ELA Standards	New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards