

**Connecticut State Department of Education**

Language Arts Curriculum Standards

Middle School Grades 6-8

**Essential Questions**

***Reading and Responding***

How do we understand what we read?

***Exploring and Responding to Literature***

How does literature enrich our lives?

***Communicating with Others***

How do we write, speak and present effectively?

***Applying English Language Conventions***

How do we use the English language appropriately to speak and write?

***Reading and Responding - Students read, comprehend and respond in individual, literal, critical and evaluative ways to literary, informational and persuasive texts in both print and multimedia formats.***

**Students use appropriate strategies before, during and after reading in order to construct meaning.**

Students will activate prior knowledge, establish purposes for reading and adjust the purposes while reading.

Students will monitor comprehension and apply appropriate strategies when understanding breaks down.

Students will select and organize relevant information from text to summarize.

Students will identify, use and explain text structures.

Students will identify, use and analyze text structures.

Students will draw conclusions and use evidence to substantiate them by using texts heard, read and viewed.

Students will make and justify inferences from explicit and/or implicit information.

**Students interpret, analyze and evaluate text in order to extend understanding and appreciation.**

Students will generate and respond to questions.

Students will interpret information that is implied in a text.

Students will distinguish between fact and opinion.

Students will make and support judgments about texts.

Students will discuss and respond to texts by making text-to-self, text-to-text and text-to-world connections.

Students will identify and discuss the underlying theme or main idea in texts.

Students will choose a variety of genres to read for personal enjoyment.

**Students select and apply strategies to facilitate word recognition and develop vocabulary in order to comprehend text.**

Students will use phonetic, structural, syntactical and contextual clues to read and understand words.

Students will analyze the meaning of words and phrases in context.

Students will develop vocabulary through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students will use content vocabulary appropriately and accurately (math, music, science, social studies, etc.).

**Students communicate with others to create interpretations of written, oral and visual texts.**

Students will respond to the ideas of others and recognize the validity of differing views.

Students will persuade listeners about judgments and opinions of works read written and viewed.

***Exploring and Responding to Literature - Students read and respond to classical and contemporary texts from many cultures and literary periods.***

**Students recognize how literary devices and conventions engage the reader.**

Students will discuss the impact of literary conventions on meaning. 6

Students will explain how and why literary conventions and techniques contribute to their understanding of and experience with the text. 7, 8

Students will identify and analyze the differences between the structures of fiction and nonfiction.

Students will discuss what makes a text engaging and appealing to a reader.

Students will identify literary techniques that an author uses that contribute to the meaning and appeal of texts. 6

Students will identify and analyze literary techniques that an author uses that contribute to the meaning and appeal of texts. 7, 8

**Students explore multiple responses to literature.**

Students will develop and defend multiple responses to literature using individual connections and relevant text references.

Students will develop a critical stance and cite evidence to support the stance.

**Students recognize and appreciate that contemporary and classical literature has shaped human thought.**

Students will discuss and analyze how characters deal with the diversity of human experience and conflict. 6 & 7

Students will discuss, analyze and evaluate how characters deal with the diversity of human experience and conflict. 8

Students will compare and contrast ideas, themes and/or issues across classical and contemporary texts. 6

Students will compare/contrast and evaluate ideas, themes and/or issues across classical and contemporary texts. 7, 8

Students will compare, respond to and interpret texts that represent many multicultural experiences.

**Students recognize that readers and authors are influenced by individual, social, cultural and historical contexts.**

Students will analyze an author's values, ethics and beliefs included in many texts. 6

Students will evaluate an author's values, ethics and beliefs included in many texts. 7, 8

Students will discuss how the experiences of an author influence the text.

Students will discuss how the experiences of a reader influence the interpretation of a text.

Students will analyze themes and connections that cross cultures. 6

Students will analyze and evaluate themes and connections that cross cultures. 7, 8

Students will interpret, analyze and evaluate the influence of culture, history and ethnicity on themes and issues in literature.

Students will analyze how authors, illustrators and film makers express political and social issues. 6

Students will evaluate how authors, illustrators and film makers express political and social issues. 7

Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the choices that authors, illustrators and film makers make to express political and social issues. 8

***Communicating with Others - Students produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.***

**Students use descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic modes.**

Students will use oral language with clarity, voice and fluency to communicate a message.

Students will listen to or read a variety of genres to use as models for writing in different modes.

Students will use the appropriate features of persuasive, narrative, expository or poetic writing.

Students will write to delight in the imagination.

**Students prepare, publish and/or present work appropriate to audience, purpose and task.**

Students will determine purpose, point of view and audience, and choose an appropriate written, oral or visual format.

Students will choose from a range of strategies to generate and develop ideas for a variety of writing, speaking and visual activities. 6

Students will apply the most effective processes to create and present a written, oral or visual piece. 7, 8

Students will revise texts for organization, elaboration, fluency and clarity.

Students will research information from multiple sources for a specific purpose.

Students will evaluate the validity and authenticity of sources of information. 6

Students will evaluate the validity and authenticity of primary and secondary sources of information. 7, 8

Students will publish and/or present final products in a myriad of ways, including the use of the arts and technology.

***Applying English Language Conventions - Students apply the conventions of Standard English in oral and written communication.***

**Students use knowledge of their language and culture to improve competency in English.**

Students will read, listen to and tell stories from a variety of cultures, and identify the similarities and differences in the way language is used.

Students will recognize and understand variations between language patterns.

**Students speak and write using standard language structures and diction appropriate to audience and task.**

Students will use sentence patterns typical of spoken and written language to produce text.

Students will evaluate the impact of language as related to audience and purpose.

**Students use Standard English for composing and revising written text.**

Students will recognize the difference between Standard and nonstandard English and use language appropriately.

Students will demonstrate proficient use of proper mechanics, usage and spelling skills.

Students will use resources for proofreading and editing.