

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

SPARK English Language Arts
Grade 8



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Unit 1: Citing Textual Evidence for Strong Support (RL.8.1)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Citing Textual Evidence for Strong Support (RL.8.1)*	3. Post-Test: Citing Textual Evidence for Strong Support (RL.8.1)
2. Using Evidence in the Text (RL.8.1)	4. Using Evidence and Inference to Analyze (RL.8.1)*

Unit 2: Finding the Theme of a Story (RL.8.2)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Finding the Theme of a Story (RL.8.2)*	3. Post-Test: Finding the Theme of a Story (RL.8.2)
2. Determining Theme through Interpretation (RL.8.2)	4. Summarizing Objectively (RL.8.2)*

Unit 3: Analyzing the Interaction of Story or Drama Elements (RL.8.3)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Analyzing the Interaction of Story or Drama Elements (RL.8.3)*	3. Post-Test: Analyzing the Interaction of Story or Drama Elements (RL.8.3)
2. Breaking Down a Plot into Events for Analysis (RL.8.3)	4. Understanding How Events Affect Characters (RL.8.3)*

Unit 4: Determining the Meaning of Words and Phrases (RI.8.4)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Determining the Meaning of Words and Phrases (RI.8.4)*	3. Post-Test: Determining the Meaning of Words and Phrases (RI.8.4)
2. Distinguishing Literal and Nonliteral Meaning (RI.8.4)	4. Analyzing How Word Choice Affects Meaning and Tone (RI.8.4)*

Unit 5: Comparing and Contrasting Structure (RL.8.5)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Comparing and Contrasting Structure (RL.8.5)*	3. Post-Test: Comparing and Contrasting Structure (RL.8.5)
2. Identifying Basic Units of Structure (RL.8.5)	4. Evaluating How Structural Parts Shape Theme, Setting, and Plot (RL.8.5)*

Unit 6: Analyzing the Effects of Points of View (RL.8.6)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Analyzing the Effects of Points of View (RL.8.6)*	3. Post-Test: Analyzing the Effects of Points of View (RL.8.6)
2. Considering the Interaction of Points of View (RL.8.6)	4. Identifying the Points of View of Various Speakers or Narrators (RL.8.6)*

Unit 7: Analyzing Faithfulness to the Text (RL.8.7)	
Assignments	
1. Pre-Test: Analyzing Faithfulness to the Text (RL.8.7)*	3. Post-Test: Analyzing Faithfulness to the Text (RL.8.7)
2. Comparing and Contrasting Different Presentations of a Drama (RL.8.7)	4. Examining the Impact of an Actor or Director (RL.8.7)*

Unit 8: Analyzing How A Modern Work Draws On the Past (RL.8.9)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Analyzing How a Modern Work Draws on the Past (RL.8.9)* | 3. Post-Test: Analyzing How a Modern Work Draws on the Past (RL.8.9) |
| 2. Recognizing How Main Issues and Characters are Modernized (RL.8.9) | 4. Comparing and Contrasting the Old and the New (RL.8.9)* |

Unit 9: Making the Central Idea Clear (RI.8.1)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Making the Central Idea Clear (RI.8.1)* | 3. Post-Test: Making the Central Idea Clear (RI.8.1) |
| 2. Finding Textual Evidence that Supports the Main Idea (RI.8.1) | 4. Citing Strong Textual Evidence to Make Inferences (RI.8.1)* |

Unit 10: Finding the Central Idea of the Text (RI.8.2)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Finding the Central Idea of the Text (RI.8.2)* | 3. Post-Test: Finding the Central Idea of the Text (RI.8.2) |
| 2. Recognizing How Specific Developments Support the Central Idea (RI.8.2) | 4. Providing an Objective Summary (RI.8.2)* |

Unit 11: Analyzing How a Text Makes Connections and Distinctions (RI.8.3)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Analyzing How a Text Makes Connections and Distinctions (RI.8.3)* | 3. Post-Test: Analyzing How a Text Makes Connections and Distinctions (RI.8.3) |
| 2. Connecting Individuals, Ideas, or Events (RI.8.3) | 4. Distinguishing between Individuals, Ideas, or Events (RI.8.3)* |

Unit 12: Determining the Meaning of Phrases and Words (RI.8.4)**Assignments**

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|---|---|
| 1. Pre-Test: Determining the Meaning of Phrases and Words (RI.8.4)* | 3. Post-Test: Determining the Meaning of Phrases and Words (RI.8.4) |
| 2. Using Context Clues to Determine Meaning (RI.8.4) | 4. Interpreting Figurative, Connotative, and Technical Language (RI.8.4)* |

Unit 13: Analyzing the Text Structure (RI.8.5)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Analyzing Text Structure (RI.8.5)* | 4. Analyzing the Role of Particular Sentences in Developing and Refining a Key Concept (RI.8.5)* |
| 2. Analyzing a Paragraph in Detail (RI.8.5) | |
| 3. Post-Test: Analyzing Text Structure (RI.8.5) | |

Unit 14: Discovering Point Of View or Purpose (RI.8.6)**Assignments**

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|---|---|
| 1. Pre-Test: Discovering Point of View or Purpose (RI.8.6)* | 3. Post-Test: Discovering Point of View or Purpose (RI.8.6) |
| 2. Pinpointing the Author's Purpose or Viewpoint (RI.8.6) | 4. Analyzing Response to Conflicting Evidence or Viewpoints (RI.8.6)* |

Unit 15: Evaluating the Use of Different Media (RI.8.7)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Evaluating the Use of Different Media (RI.8.7)* | 3. Post-Test: Evaluating the Use of Different Media (RI.8.7) |
| 2. Considering the Advantages of Various Media (RI.8.7) | 4. Considering the Disadvantages of Various Media (RI.8.7)* |

Unit 16: Delineating and Evaluating Textual Arguments and Claims (RI.8.8)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Delineating and Evaluating Textual Arguments and Claims (RI.8.8)* | 3. Post-Test: Delineating and Evaluating Textual Arguments and Claims (RI.8.8) |
| 2. Assessing Reasoning and Evidence (RI.8.8) | 4. Recognizing Irrelevant Evidence (RI.8.8)* |

Unit 17: Considering Conflicting Information (RI.8.9)**Assignments**

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| 1. Pre-Test: Considering Conflicting Information (RI.8.9)* | 3. Post-Test: Considering Conflicting Information (RI.8.9) |
| 2. Analyzing Two or More Texts with Conflicting Information (RI.8.9) | 4. Identifying Where Texts Disagree on Matters of Fact or Interpretation (RI.8.9)* |

(*) Indicates alternative assignment