



## English Language Arts Middle School Curriculum

Based on Indiana Department of Education Academic Standards

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### Week 1



#### Reading Comprehension

- Nonfiction

- In any given text, a student will be encouraged to:
  - Find and analyze textual evidence to support an analysis of what the text explicitly says along with drawing inferences from the text
  - Summarize the events of a text in addition to how the central idea/theme of a text is conveyed through particular details
  - Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text
  - Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas
  - Determine the author's perspective and/or purpose in a text, and explain how it is conveyed in the text
  - Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that the author supports with reasons and evidence from claims that are not supported

### Week 2



#### Vocabulary

- Context Clues

- Use context to infer, determine, or clarify the meaning of words and phrases
- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category) to better understand each of the words
- Distinguish among the connotations of words with similar denotations
- Prefixes and Suffixes: Familiarize oneself with common Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word

- Consult reference material (print and digital) to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, part of speech, or origin
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a nonfiction text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings

### Week 3



#### Writing

- Argument/Claim Writing
  - Introduce a claim, using strategies such as textual analysis, comparison/contrast and cause/effect
  - Use an organizational structure/outline to group related ideas that support the argument
  - Determine a thesis, or sentence at the end of the introductory paragraph that presents and summarizes the claim
  - Support a claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
  - Establish and maintain a consistent style and tone appropriate to purpose and audience.
  - Use appropriate transitions that enhance the progression of the text and clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
  - Provide a concluding paragraph and strong final statement that follows the argument presented
- Informative Writing
  - Gather research and information on a topic, organize ideas and concepts
  - Introduce the topic using strategies such as definition and classification
  - Determine a thesis, or sentence at the end of the introductory paragraph that presents and summarizes the claim
  - Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from various sources and texts
  - Include formatting (e.g., *headings*), graphics (e.g., *charts, tables*), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension
  - Provide a concluding paragraph and strong final statement that maintains and summarizes the information presented
- Narrative Writing

- Engage and orient the reader by developing an exposition (e.g., *describe the setting, establish the situation, and introduce the narrator and/or characters*)
- Organize an event sequence (e.g., *conflict, climax, resolution*) that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one-time frame or setting to another
- Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events
- Provide an ending that follows from the narrated experiences or events

#### Week 4



##### Grammar

- Pronouns
  - Subject pronouns
  - Object pronouns
  - Reflexive Pronouns
  - Pronoun-antecedent agreement and recognizing/correcting vague pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives and Adverbs

#### Week 5



##### Grammar (Continued)

- Phrases and Clauses
- Sentence Usage
  - Simple
  - Compound
  - Complex
  - Compound-Complex
  - Recognizing sentence fragments and run-ons
- Punctuation
  - Comma Usage

## Week 6



### Literary Devices

- Allusion
- Diction
- Foreshadowing
- Imagery
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Symbolism
- Personification
- Hyperbole

## Week 7



### Narrative Techniques

- First/Third Person Narration
- Satire
- Irony
- Setting
- Plot
- Dialogue
- Description
- Pacing

## Week 8



### Research and Media Literacy

- Build Knowledge and Determine Credibility
  - Critically analyze information found in electronic, print, and mass media used to inform, persuade, entertain, and transmit culture.
  - Formulate a research question
  - Assess the credibility of each source
  - Avoid plagiarism and provide basic bibliographic information for sources
  - Present information, choosing from a variety of formats
  - Identify the author and target audience of a particular media message



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