

Arts and Letters

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)



hlww.k12.mn.us

What is Arts and Letters?

Arts & Letters is a Science of Reading aligned curriculum that helps students become strong readers, writers, and critical thinkers through the use of authentic, grade-appropriate, knowledge-rich texts. Students engage with high-quality literature, nonfiction, fine art, and multimedia while learning about meaningful topics from subjects such as science, history, and the arts. Through reading stories and informational texts, discussing ideas, building vocabulary, and practicing writing, students deepen both their language skills and their understanding of the world around them.

Arts & Letters offers a comprehensive approach that goes beyond identifying a story's main idea to develop students' comprehension, critical thinking, and imagination. It builds essential skills and deepens understanding, enriching students' grasp of literature and analytical thinking. By exploring topics through multiple modalities, students build knowledge and make connections across content. With solid knowledge, they'll be able to more effectively listen, write, and absorb information, deepening learning and ensuring it has relevance for all students.

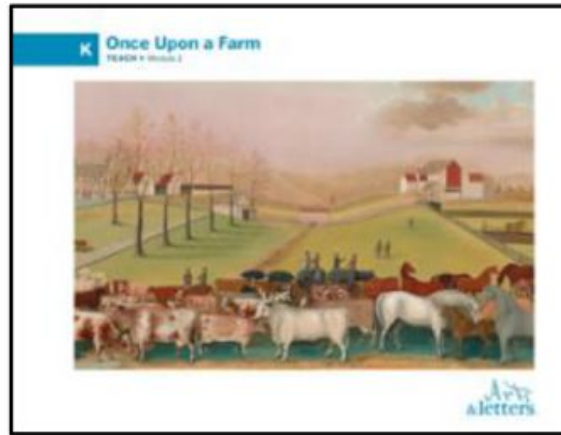


Kindergarten Overview

In kindergarten, captivating texts and art give naturally inquisitive students a chance to explore the wonder of the world around them. The modules take students on a journey in which they use their senses to deepen their knowledge as they experience a farm, explore the history of America, and then study the world beyond.



Module 1:
The Five Senses



Module 2:
Once Upon a Farm



Module 3:
America, Then and Now



Module 4:
The Continents

Writing: Introduction to writing, narrative, informative, and opinion



Arts & Letters Kindergarten Module 1 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</i> , Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> , Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson	12 per class (2:1)
<i>My Five Senses</i> , Aliki	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles—Think of That!</i> , Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon	6 per class (4:1)
<i>"Smelly" Kelly and His Super Senses: How James Kelly's Nose Saved the New York City Subway</i> , Beth Anderson and Jenn Harney	12 per class (2:1)

Kindergarten Module 1: The Five Senses

Arts & Letters Kindergarten Module 2 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Hare and Tortoise</i> , Alison Murray	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood</i> , Tony Hillery and Jessie Hartland	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Hey, Hey, Hay! A Tale of Bales and the Machines That Make Them</i> , Christy Mihaly and Joe Cepeda	6 per class (4:1)
<i>The Little Red Hen</i> , Jerry Pinkney	12 per class (2:1)
<i>No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas</i> , Tonya Bolden and Don Tate	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Red Barn Farm</i> , Sarah Green (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Three Little Pigs</i> , Raina Moore and Thea Kliros	12 per class (2:1)

Kindergarten Module 2: Once Upon a Farm

Arts & Letters Kindergarten Module 3 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Communication Then and Now</i> , Nadia Higgins	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Ice Harvest</i> , Rachel Zindler and Chuck Gonzales (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Lightning Ben</i> , Michelle Palmieri and Laura Barella (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>The Little House</i> , Virginia Lee Burton	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin</i> , Gene Barretta	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Take a Picture of Me, James VanDerZee!</i> , Andrea J. Loney and Keith Mallett	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Transportation Then and Now</i> , Nadia Higgins	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Wood, Wire, Wings: Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane</i> , Kirsten W. Larson and Tracy Subisak	6 per class (4:1)

Kindergarten Module 3: America, Then and Now

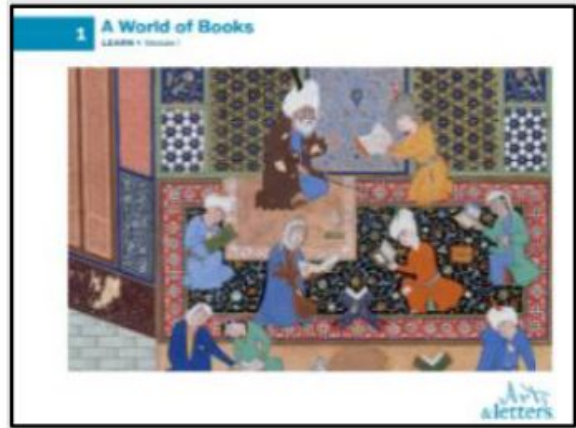
Arts & Letters Kindergarten Module 4 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Beginner's World Atlas</i> , fifth edition National Geographic Kids	1 per class
<i>Continents: What You Need to Know</i> , Jill Sherman	12 per class (2:1)
<i>My First Day</i> , Phùng Nguyễn Quang and Huỳnh Kim Liên	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Sing to the Moon</i> , Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl and Sandra van Doorn	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Titanosaur: Discovering the World's Largest Dinosaur</i> , José Luis Carballido, Diego Pol, and Florencia Gigena	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Winged Wonders: Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery</i> , Meeg Pincus and Yas Imamura	12 per class (2:1)

Kindergarten Module 4: The Continents

1st Grade Overview

Students in grade level 1 develop new understandings of how humans communicate and engage with their environment. Students discover how people around the world access knowledge through books, and they explore how stories help transform communities and strengthen human connections. Students examine the relationship between humans and the natural world, researching animals' unique features and the wind's powerful force.



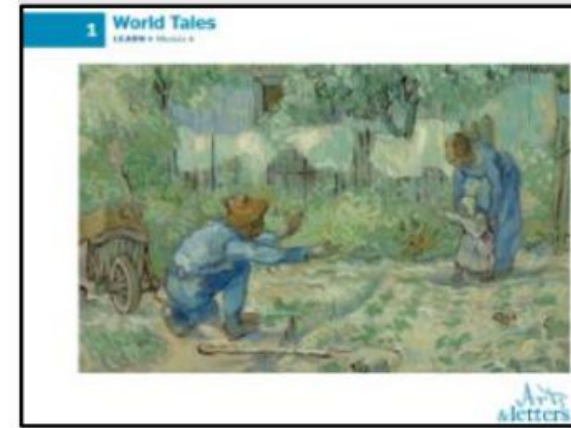
Module 1:
A World of Books



Module 2:
Creature Features



Module 3:
Wind Power



Module 4:
World Tales

Writing: Narrative, informative, and opinion



Arts & Letters Level 1 Module 1 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come</i> , Sue Macy and Stacy Innerst	6 per class (4:1)
<i>That Book Woman</i> , Heather Henson and David Small	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Ready to Fly: How Sylvia Townsend Became the Bookmobile Ballerina</i> , Lea Lyon, A. LaFaye, and Jessica Gibson	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Tomás and the Library Lady</i> , Pat Mora and Raul Colón	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán,"</i> Jo Ellen Bogart and Sydney Smith	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 1 Module 1: A World of Books

Arts & Letters Level 1 Module 2 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner</i> , Janice N. Harrington and Theodore Taylor III	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Dear Treefrog</i> , Joyce Sidman and Diana Sudyka	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Elephant Talk</i> , Catherine Schmidt (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Feathers: Not Just for Flying</i> , Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannen	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Me ... Jane</i> , Patrick McDonnell	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Rabbit or Hare?</i> Mamie Goodson and Rebecca Trahan (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Seven Blind Mice</i> , Ed Young	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Thorny Devil</i> , Marya Myers (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?</i> Steve Jenkins and Robin Page	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 1 Module 2: Creature Features

Arts & Letters Level 1 Module 3 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> , William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer, and Elizabeth Zunon	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Brave Irene</i> , William Steig	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Energy Island: How One Community Harnessed the Wind and Changed Their World</i> , Allan Drummond	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Feel the Wind</i> , Arthur Dorros	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Gilberto and the Wind</i> , Marie Hall Ets	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Kite Messengers</i> , Jennifer Marin and Christopher Cyr (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Wild Is the Wind</i> , Grahame Baker-Smith	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 1 Module 3: Wind Power

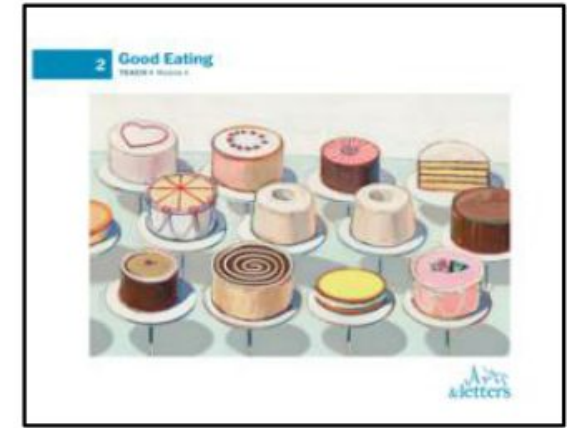
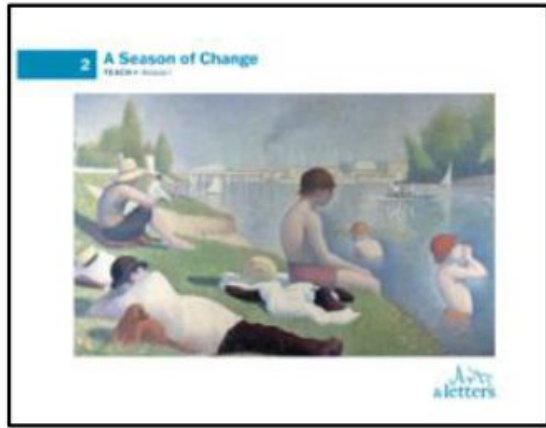
Arts & Letters Level 1 Module 4 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Beginner's World Atlas</i> , National Geographic Kids	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper</i> , Charles Perrault and Marcia Brown	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Girl and the Wolf</i> , Katherena Vermette and Julie Flett	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Lizard and the Sun/La Lagartija y el Sol</i> , Alma Flor Ada and Felipe Dávalos	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China</i> , Ed Young	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 1 Module 4: World Tales

2nd Grade Overview

Armed with foundational reading and writing skills, students in grade level 2 are ready for complex work and critical thinking. Students explore broader concepts of change and community through their study of their physical selves, the natural world, and the human experience. In grade 2, students study the cycle of the seasons and the cycles of human appetite and digestion. They investigate American history and humans' impact on each other, society, and the environment.



Module 1:
A Season of Change

Module 2:
The American West

Module 3:
Civil Rights Advocates

Module 4:
Good Eating

Writing: Narrative, informative, informative writing (research), and opinion



Arts & Letters Level 2 Module 1 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Little Yellow Leaf</i> , Carin Berger	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Poetree</i> , Shauna LaVoy Reynolds and Shahrzad Maydani	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art</i> , Thomas Locker	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder</i> , Mark Cassino, Jon Nelson, and Nora Aoyagi	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Why Do Leaves Change Color?</i> , Betsy Maestro and Loretta Krupinski	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 2 Module 1: A Season of Change

Arts & Letters Level 2 Module 2 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Buffalo Are Back</i> , Jean Craighead George and Wendell Minor	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story</i> , S. D. Nelson	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Lakota and the Buffalo</i> , Marya Myers and Madelyn Goodnight (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Powwow Day</i> , Traci Sorell and Madelyn Goodnight	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Where the Buffalo Roam: Bison in America</i> , Kate Waters	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 2 Module 2: The American West

Arts & Letters Level 2 Module 3 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Free to Move</i> , Sumin Lee and John Joven (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins</i> , Carole Boston Weatherford and Jerome Lagarrigue	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Gordon Parks: Taking Pictures, Making Art</i> , Michelle Palmieri (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>I Have a Dream</i> , Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Kadir Nelson	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Martin Luther King Jr. and the March on Washington</i> , Frances E. Ruffin and Stephen Marchesi	24 per class (1:1)
<i>My Freedom Story</i> , Sheyann Webb-Christburg and Keith Henry Brown (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)
<i>Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story</i> , Ruby Bridges	24 per class (1:1)
<i>We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights</i> , Maryann Cocca-Leffler and Janine Leffler	12 per class (2:1)
<i>We Will Ride</i> , Lior Klirs and Lesley Vamos (<i>Geodes</i>)	6 per class (4:1)

Grade 2 Module 3: Civil Rights Advocates

Arts & Letters Level 2 Module 4 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Bone Button Borscht</i> , Aubrey Davis and Dušan Petričić	24 per class (1:1)
<i>A Different Pond</i> , Bao Phi and Thi Bui	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Digestive System</i> , Christine Taylor-Butler	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Freedom Soup</i> , Tami Charles and Jacqueline Alcántara	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition</i> , Lizzy Rockwell	24 per class (1:1)
<i>Stone Soup</i> , Marcia Brown	12 per class (2:1)

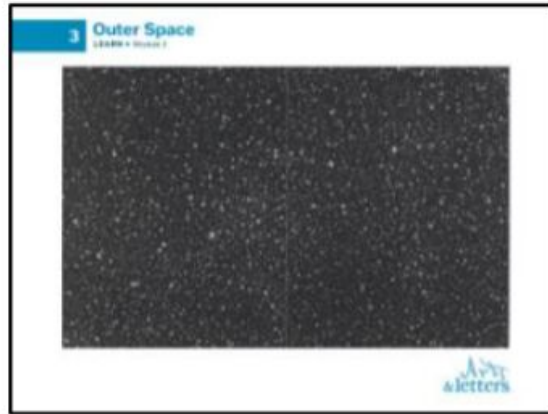
Grade 2 Module 4: Good Eating

3rd Grade Overview

Students in grade 3 discover that humans' curiosity and desire for adventure have pushed exploration, innovation, and creativity throughout history. Students journey into the vastness of the sea and to the frontiers of unfamiliar lands and forms of creativity as they learn about pioneering scientists, explorers, adventurers, and artists. Together, these modules expand students' knowledge and ignite possibilities for their own studies, adventures, and creative endeavors.



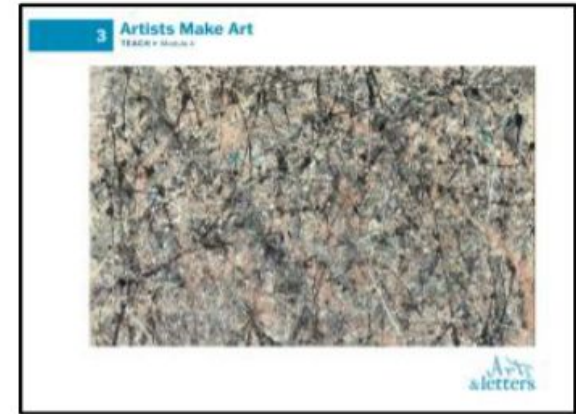
Module 1:
The Sea



Module 2:
Outer Space



Module 3:
A New Home



Module 4:
Artists Make Art

Writing: Informative, opinion, narrative, informative (research)



Arts & Letters Level 3 Module 1 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Amos and Boris</i> , William Steig	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau</i> , Dan Yaccarino	24 per class (1:1)
<i>Giant Squid: Searching for a Sea Monster</i> , Mary M. Cerullo and Clyde F. E. Roper	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Shark Attack</i> , Cathy East Dubowski	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor</i> , Robert Burleigh and Raúl Colón	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 3 Module 1: The Sea

Arts & Letters Level 3 Module 2 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race</i> , Margot Lee Shetterly, Winifred Conkling, and Laura Freeman	24 per class (1:1)
<i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i> , Brian Floca	12 per class (2:1)
<i>One Giant Leap: A Historical Account of the First Moon Landing</i> , Robert Burleigh and Mike Wimmer	24 per class (1:1)
<i>The Star People: A Lakota Story</i> , S. D. Nelson	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician, Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei</i> , Peter Sis	12 per class (2:1)

Grade 3 Module 2: Outer Space

Arts & Letters Level 3 Module 3 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Blessing Cup</i> , Patricia Polacco	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Islandborn</i> , Junot Díaz and Leo Espinosa	24 per class (1:1)
<i>The Keeping Quilt</i> , Patricia Polacco	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Watercress</i> , Andrea Wang and Jason Chin	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 3 Module 3: A New Home

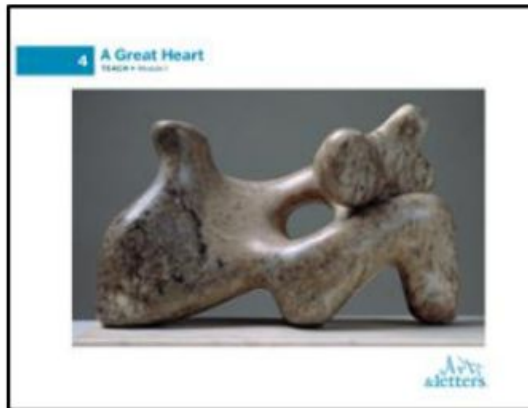
Arts & Letters Level 3 Module 4 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Action Jackson</i> , Jan Greenberg, Sandra Jordan, and Robert Andrew Parker	24 per class (1:1)
<i>Alvin Ailey</i> , Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa</i> , Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney	12 per class (2:1)
<i>Emma's Rug</i> , Allen Say	12 per class (2:1)
<i>A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams</i> , Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet	1 per class
<i>When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of a Century</i> , Pam Muñoz Ryan and Brian Selznick	12 per class (2:1)

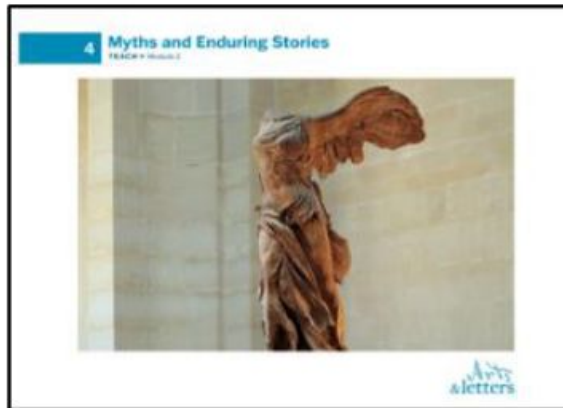
Grade 3 Module 4: Artists Make Art

4th Grade Overview

Students in grade 4 have built a strong foundation of knowledge and skills and are ready to explore complex concepts. In these four modules, students explore the concepts of great heartedness, mythmaking, freedom, and perseverance. Engaging questions and grade-level texts prompt students to think deeply as they explore ideas essential to our humanity.



Module 1:
A Great Heart



Module 2:
Myths and Enduring Stories



Module 3:
The American Revolution



Module 4:
Let's Play Ball

Writing: Informative, narrative, opinion, and narrative, informative, or opinion writing (research)



Arts & Letters Level 4 Module 1 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Circulatory Story</i> , Mary K. Corcoran and Jef Czekaj	24 per class (1:1)
<i>Love That Dog</i> , Sharon Creech	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 4 Module 1: A Great Heart

Arts & Letters Level 4 Module 2 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words and Wisdom from Greek and Roman Mythology</i> , Lise Lunge-Larsen and Gareth Hinds	12 per class (2:1)
<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i> , Brian Selznick	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 4 Module 2: Myths and Enduring Stories

Arts & Letters Level 4 Module 3 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak</i> , Kay Winters and Larry Day	24 per class (1:1)
<i>The Scarlet Stockings Spy</i> , Trinka Hakes Noble and Robert Papp	12 per class (2:1)
<i>A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent</i> , Anne Rockwell and Floyd Cooper	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 4 Module 3: The American Revolution

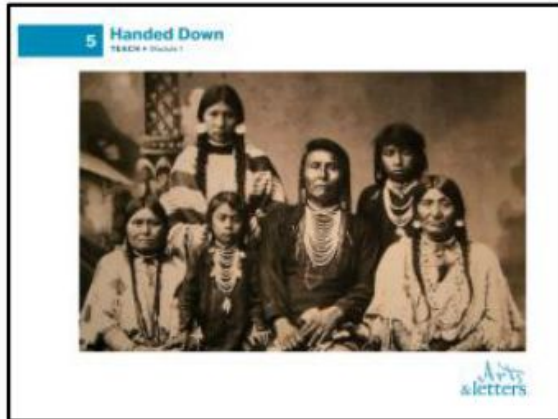
Arts & Letters Level 4 Module 4 Texts

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson</i> , Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson	12 per class (2:1)
<i>We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball</i> , Kadir Nelson	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 4 Module 4: Let's Play Ball

5th Grade Overview

Level 5 students consider important questions about culture, hardship, survival, and artistic expression. They confront the physical and emotional effects of adversity while exploring the opportunities such challenges present for growth. Students leave the year with a deeper understanding of the ways humans seek not only to survive but also to create culture, art, and joy.



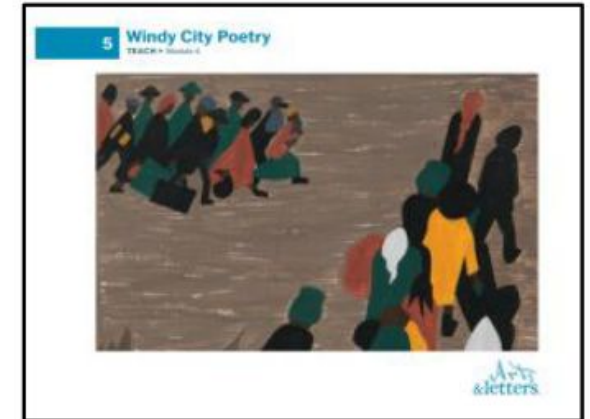
Module 1:
Handed Down



Module 2:
Extreme Settings



Module 3:
Wordplay



Module 4:
Windy City Poetry

Writing: Informative, opinion, narrative, and narrative, informative, or opinion writing (research)



Arts & Letters Level 5 Module 1 Text

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>The Birchbark House</i> , Louise Erdrich	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 5 Module 1: Handed Down

Arts & Letters Level 5 Module 2 Text

Text	Quantity (Ratio)
<i>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</i> , Christina Soontornvat	24 per class (1:1)

Grade 5 Module 2: Extreme Settings

Arts & Letters Level 5 Module 3 Text

Text

Quantity (Ratio)

The Phantom Tollbooth, Norton Juster and Jules Feiffer

24 per class (1:1)

Grade 5 Module 3: Wordplay

Arts & Letters Level 5 Module 4 Text

Text

Quantity (Ratio)

Finding Langston, Lesa Cline-Ransome

24 per class (1:1)

Grade 5 Module 4: Windy City Poetry

Why We Choose Arts and Letters:

Student Engagement:

- Turn and talks, reading, writing, examining art related to content and discussing
- Students use physical books and annotate in their workbook
- Content is naturally engaging for younger students with lesson length

Critical Thinking:

- Curriculum causes students to think critically about the content and real world
- Teachers reported a positive improvement in the way students critically think

Writing:

- Writing improvement noted by teachers who use it
- Builds student rigor

Lesson Structure:

- Launch, learn, land
- Book end lessons (beginning and end) allow teachers to relate content to student interest



What is the CKLA curriculum?

Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) for secondary middle school education (grades 6–8) is a **comprehensive curriculum** designed to **strengthen students' literacy skills through structured reading, writing, discussion, and analysis**. The program uses **complex literary and informational texts to help students develop critical thinking skills** while **building background knowledge in areas such as history, culture, and human experiences**. Through close reading and guided discussion, **students learn to analyze themes, evaluate perspectives, and support their ideas using clear textual evidence**.

For teachers, CKLA provides a consistent instructional framework that **supports the development of key middle school literacy skills**. Lessons include **vocabulary development, opportunities for collaborative discussion, and structured writing tasks such as argumentative, informative, and narrative writing**. The curriculum **aligns with state academic standards and helps prepare students for the increased academic expectations of high school** by strengthening their reading comprehension, analytical thinking, and communication skills.



6th Grade Overview

Core Units



6A: Dahl & Narrative

28 Lessons



6B: Mysteries & Investigations

32 Lessons



6C: The Chocolate Collection

25 Lessons



6D: The Greeks

25 Lessons



6E: Summer of the Mariposas

27 Lessons



6F: The Titanic Collection

25 Lessons

This curriculum engages students in a **variety of literary and informational texts** designed to **build strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills**. Throughout the year, students analyze narrative techniques and storytelling through works such as those by Roald Dahl and mystery narratives that **emphasize inference, evidence, and plot development**. Students also **explore novels that focus on themes like friendship, identity, and personal decision-making**, helping them understand character development and how choices influence outcomes.

Writing: Narratives, Storytelling, Poetry,



6th Grade Overview

Skill Modules

Amplify's core lessons provide the instruction, practice, and support students need to master grade-level skills. Skill modules are an additional instructional resource to support targeted instruction of particular skills and concepts. They can be used to introduce, review, or provide additional support for students.

Vocabulary Modules provide instruction in skills key to developing vocabulary and building word knowledge. Each Vocabulary Module is aligned to and integrated into a core instructional unit within each grade of Amplify ELA, and is supported by a Work That Word strategy worksheet included in each unit. Refer to the Vocabulary section of the Unit Overview for information about this unit alignment.

- Context Clues, Dictionary Skills (6A)
- Connotations and Denotations (6B)
- Greek and Latin Roots (6C)
- Synonyms and Antonyms (6D)
- Figurative Language (6E)
- Prefixes and Suffixes (6F)

Text Analysis Modules provide instruction in skills key to analyzing the structure and content of complex literary and informational texts. Each module includes definitions, examples, and routines that can be applied during close reading activities in lessons. The Teacher Tips at the end of each module provide additional suggestions for practicing these skills in core instructional units.

- Author's Perspective
- Central Idea
- Genre
- Literary Elements
- Logical Reasoning
- Narrative Point of View
- Rhetorical Appeals
- Structure
- Theme
- Understanding Rhetoric



7th Grade Overview



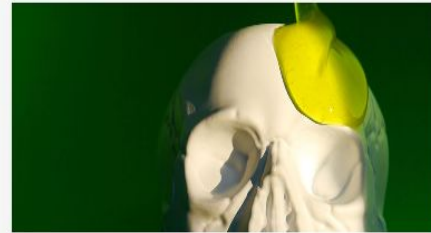
7A: Red Scarf Girl & Narrative

31 Lessons



7B: Character & Conflict

29 Lessons



7C: Brain Science

25 Lessons



7D: Poetry & Poe

29 Lessons



7E: The Frida & Diego Collection

25 Lessons



7F: The Gold Rush Collection

25 Lessons

This curriculum engages students in a wide **range of literary and informational texts** that strengthen reading, writing, and analytical thinking skills. Students begin the year **exploring narrative writing and historical context** while also examining how authors develop characters and conflicts within stories.

Additional units introduce nonfiction topics such as brain science, **helping students build knowledge while practicing close reading and analysis** of informational texts.

Writing: Narratives, Informational Texts, Character Development, Nonfiction Texts, Close Reading Analysis



7th Grade Overview

Skill Modules

Amplify's core lessons provide the instruction, practice, and support students need to master grade-level skills. Skill modules are an additional instructional resource to support targeted instruction of particular skills and concepts. They can be used to introduce, review, or provide additional support for students.

Vocabulary Modules provide instruction in skills key to developing vocabulary and building word knowledge. Each Vocabulary Module is aligned to and integrated into a core instructional unit within each grade of Amplify ELA, and is supported by a Work That Word strategy worksheet included in each unit. Refer to the Vocabulary section of the Unit Overview for information about this unit alignment.

- Context Clues, Dictionary Skills (7A)
- Connotations and Denotations (7B)
- Greek and Latin Roots (7C)
- Synonyms and Antonyms (7D)
- Figurative Language (7E)
- Prefixes and Suffixes (7F)

Text Analysis Modules provide instruction in skills key to analyzing the structure and content of complex literary and informational texts. Each module includes definitions, examples, and routines that can be applied during close reading activities in lessons. The Teacher Tips at the end of each module provide additional suggestions for practicing these skills in core instructional units.

- Author's Perspective
- Central Idea
- Genre
- Literary Elements
- Logical Reasoning
- Narrative Point of View
- Rhetorical Appeals
- Structure
- Theme
- Understanding Rhetoric



8th Grade Overview



8A: Perspectives & Narrative

27 Lessons



8B: Liberty & Equality

38 Lessons



8C: Science & Science Fiction

29 Lessons



8D: Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*

22 Lessons



8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning

21 Lessons



8F: The Space Race Collection

25 Lessons

This curriculum focuses on analyzing complex ideas, perspectives, and historical events through both literature and informational texts. Students explore themes of perspective, liberty, and equality while studying works such as *Romeo and Juliet*, science-related texts, and historical topics including the Holocaust and the Space Race. Throughout the year, students **strengthen their ability to analyze texts, discuss ideas, and support their thinking with clear textual evidence.**

Writing: Perspective Writing, Informational Texts, Narrative Writing, Character Analysis



8th Grade Overview

Skill Modules

Amplify's core lessons provide the instruction, practice, and support students need to master grade-level skills. Skill modules are an additional instructional resource to support targeted instruction of particular skills and concepts. They can be used to introduce, review, or provide additional support for students.

Vocabulary Modules provide instruction in skills key to developing vocabulary and building word knowledge. Each Vocabulary Module is aligned to and integrated into a core instructional unit within each grade of Amplify ELA, and is supported by a Work That Word strategy worksheet included in each unit. Refer to the Vocabulary section of the Unit Overview for information about this unit alignment.

- Dictionary Skills, Synonyms and Antonyms (8A)
- Context Clues (8B)
- Greek and Latin Roots (8C)
- Figurative Language (8D)
- Connotations and Denotations (8E)
- Prefixes and Suffixes (8F)

Text Analysis Modules provide instruction in skills key to analyzing the structure and content of complex literary and informational texts. Each module includes definitions, examples, and routines that can be applied during close reading activities in lessons. The Teacher Tips at the end of each module provide additional suggestions for practicing these skills in core instructional units.

- Author's Perspective
- Central Idea
- Genre
- Literary Elements
- Logical Reasoning
- Narrative Point of View
- Rhetorical Appeals
- Structure
- Theme
- Understanding Rhetoric



Why We Choose CKLA:

- **Strong alignment with state standards:** CKLA aligns with Minnesota ELA standards and provides a clear progression of reading, writing, speaking, and analytical skills across grades 6–8.
- **Knowledge-rich curriculum:** Units integrate literature with history, science, and culture, helping students build background knowledge that improves reading comprehension and critical thinking.
- **Emphasis on evidence-based reading and writing:** Students regularly practice analyzing texts, participating in discussions, and supporting claims with textual evidence—skills essential for high school and beyond.
- **Structured support for teachers:** CKLA provides organized lessons, vocabulary instruction, and built-in assessments, helping teachers deliver consistent, high-quality instruction.
- **Engaging and diverse texts:** The curriculum includes novels, poetry, historical documents, and informational texts that expose students to a wide range of perspectives and topics.

