

English Language Arts

The lessons in this curriculum are aligned to the English Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. We offer the following overview for subject-area and interdisciplinary educators who plan to implement these lessons with the goal of Common Core alignment.

ELA Common Core State Standards	<i>Countering Bullying and Harassment Lessons</i>
READING	
<p>The standards establish a “staircase” of increasing complexity in what students must be able to read so that all students are ready for the demands of college- and career-level reading no later than the end of high school. The standards also require the progressive development of reading comprehension so that students advancing through the grades are able to gain more from whatever they read.</p>	<p>The readings in the lessons increase in complexity from grades 6 to 10, and the lessons offer opportunities for discussion and analysis of the texts.</p>
<p>Through reading a diverse array of classic and contemporary literature as well as challenging informational texts in a range of subjects, students are expected to build knowledge, gain insights, explore possibilities, and broaden their perspective.</p>	<p>The readings offered in these lessons provide opportunity for students to engage in analysis of non-fiction texts. For example, see the essays from <i>The Courage to Be Yourself</i> featured in each grade level’s lesson set.</p>
<p>The standards mandate certain critical types of content for all students, including classic myths and stories from around the world, foundational U.S. documents, seminal works of American literature, and the writings of Shakespeare. The standards appropriately defer the many remaining decisions about what and how to teach to states, districts, and schools.</p>	<p>This flexibility creates opportunities for districts and schools in states that have adopted the Common Core to make decisions to include a wide variety of content that includes the type of reading featured in these lessons.</p>
WRITING	
<p>The ability to write logical arguments based on substantive claims, sound reasoning, and relevant evidence is a cornerstone of the writing standards, with opinion writing—a basic form of argument—extending down into the earliest grades.</p>	<p>Students are asked to write throughout this curriculum, with a particular focus on narrative and opinion writing. These lessons provide substantial, engaging, and thought-provoking material for a variety of forms including journal writing, argument construction, narratives, and persuasive writing. When time permits, teachers may wish to extend the writing prompts embedded in these lessons to expand this aspect of Common Core alignment.</p>

<p>ELA Common Core State Standards</p>	<p><i>Countering Bullying and Harassment Lessons</i></p>
<p>SPEAKING AND LISTENING</p>	
<p>The standards require that students gain, evaluate, and present increasingly complex information, ideas, and evidence through listening and speaking as well as through media.</p>	<p>The entire orientation of this curriculum is to foster meaningful conversations in order to answer questions, build understanding, and solve problems. Students are required to hone listening skills and speak about complex, challenging, and relevant content. As with writing, teachers may plan to extend and expand the speaking and listening tasks embedded in these lessons.</p>
<p>An important focus of the speaking and listening standards is academic discussion in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class settings. Formal presentations are one important way such talk occurs, but so is the more informal discussion that takes place as students collaborate to answer questions, build understanding, and solve problems.</p>	<p>This curriculum requires students to work in varied, flexible groupings to discuss and find solutions to problematic scenarios. Mediated but informal conversation is the backbone of this curriculum. We expect that middle and high school teachers will find a high degree of alignment with their states' standards in this area.</p>
<p>LANGUAGE</p>	
<p>The standards expect that students will grow their vocabularies through a mix of conversations, direct instruction, and reading. The standards will help students determine word meanings, appreciate the nuances of words, and steadily expand their repertoire of words and phrases.</p>	<p>These lessons introduce students to new concepts and language through a variety of modes (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). The pace of the lessons ensures that students have ample opportunity to understand and use key words in the area of conflict resolution so that they are integrated into students' understanding and experience.</p>
<p>The standards help prepare students for real life experience at college and in 21st century careers. The standards recognize that students must be able to use formal English in their writing and speaking but that they must also be able to make informed, skillful choices among the many ways to express themselves through language.</p>	<p>This curriculum helps students learn skillful language choices for civil conversation, a critical life skill.</p>
<p>MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY</p>	
<p>Just as media and technology are integrated in school and life in the 21st century, skills related to media use (both critical analysis and production of media) are integrated throughout the standards.</p>	<p>This curriculum asks students to be media savvy, aware of the messages they send and receive that allow them to protect themselves and their communities. The lessons devoted to cyber-bullying offer additional focus on media use.</p>

The Common Core State Standards highlights presented here were adapted from "Key Points in English Language Arts," available online at <http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/key-points-in-english-language-arts>.