

Reading English Language Arts: Grade 8 Reading Curriculum
Course Anthology: Savvas Grade 8 *myPerspectives*

Grade 8 Unit 1: Rites of Passage		
Essential Question: <i>What are some milestones on the path to growing up?</i>		
Maryland College and Career Ready Frameworks, Grades 6-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Literature Framework • Reading Informational Texts Framework • Writing Framework • Speaking and Listening Framework • Language Framework 		Savvas myPerspectives Family Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savvas Parent Guide (English) • Savvas Parent Guide (Spanish) • Savvas Parent Guide (Arabic)
Unit 1 Selection Titles		Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Grades 6-8
Unit 1 Introduction		
• Friends Forever?, Teen Angst; Is It Normal? (media)		RI.8.2
Whole-Class Learning		
• The Medicine Bag by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve		RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4
• The Banana Tree by James Berry		RL.8.3, RL.8.4
• L'Amour, Maybe Not by Shruti Ganguly		RL.8.3, RL.8.4
Full-Process Writing		
• Personal Narrative		W.8.3, W.8.6
Peer-Group Learning		
• <i>from</i> La Princesa Mileidy Dominguez by Ruben Degollado		RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.6
• Embarrassed? Blame Your Brain by Jennifer Connor-Smith		RL.8.3, RL.8.4
• First-Day Fly by Jason Reynolds		RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4
• Poetry Collection: Bird by Liz Berry, Ode to Teachers by Pat Mora		RL.8.2, RL.8.4, RL.8.5
Independent Learning (Student Choice)		
• Border Folks by David Bowles		RL.8.3, RL.8.4
• The Winter Hibiscus by Minfong Ho		RI.8.2, RI.8.4
• The Agony of Acne by Oscar Rickett		RL./RI.8.10
• The Bat Mitzvah Turns 100 by Deena Prichep		

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Reflect and Respond	W.8.4, W.8.9
Unit 1 Assessment	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.6 RI.8.3, RI.8.4
Whole-Class Novel or Book Clubs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novels for consideration are listed below. Teachers may select a novel for whole-class study or create book clubs of selected texts. 	RL./RI.8.2 - RL./RI.8.9
Grade 8 Unit 2: Resilience	
Essential Question: <i>What do stories of resilience teach us about the human spirit?</i>	
Unit 2 Selection Titles	<u>Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Grades 6-8</u>
Unit 2 Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Grand Mosque of Paris, What Does Resilience Mean? (media) 	RI.8.2
Whole-Class Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical Perspective: The Holocaust 	RI.8.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diary of Anne Frank, Acts 1 and 2 	RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.6, RL.8.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>from</i> Acceptance Speech for the Nobel Peace Prize 	RI.8.4, RI.8.8
Full-Process Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informational Essay 	W.8.2, W.8.6
Peer-Group Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to a Young Refugee 	RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.6, RI.8.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee 	RI.8.7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Movement's Soul 	RI.8.2, RI.8.4
Timed Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare-Contrast Essay 	RI.8.7, W.8.10
Performance-Based Assessment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking and Listening: Present an Oral Report 	W.8.5, SL.8.1, SL.8.4
Independent Learning (Student Choice)	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>from</i> Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank • Poetry Collection: “Hope” is the thing with feathers / things we carry on the sea • Surviving by Marie Lu • After Fleeing Genocide by Sarah Davis 	RL.8.2, RL.8.4 RI.8.4, RI.8.6 RL./RI.8.10
Reflect and Respond	W.8.4, W.8.9
Unit 2 Assessment	RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.6 RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.6, RI.8.7
Whole-Class Novel or Book Clubs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The length of the Whole-Class Learning selection, <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>, will replace the novel or book club study for this unit. 	RL./RI.8.2 - RL./RI.8.9
Grade 8 Unit 3: Taking a Stand	
Essential Question: <i>How do we decide what matters to us?</i>	
Unit 3 Selection Titles	<u>Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Grades 6-8</u>
Unit 3 Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junk-Food Tax: A Well Intentioned but Bad Idea, Turning Basketball Courts Into Works of Art (media) 	RI.8.2
Whole-Class Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Setting Sun and the Rolling World by Charles Munhgoshi 	RL.8.4, RL.8.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain and Body Benefits: The Case for Playing Video Games by Libby A. Rosenberg 	RI.8.4, RI.8.6, RI.8.8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Make Video Games. I Won’t Let My Daughters Play Them by William Su 	RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.8
Full-Process Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argumentative Essay 	W.8.1
Peer-Group Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briar Rose by The Brothers Grimm 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awake by Tanith Lee 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RI.8.5, RI.8.6, RL.8.9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words Do Not Pay by Chief Joseph 	RI.8.4, RI.8.5, RI.8.8
Timed Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argumentative Essay 	W.8.1, W.8.6

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare-Contrast Essay 	W.8.9
Independent Learning (Student Choice)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translating Grandfather's House by E.J. Vega The Scholarship Jacket by Marta Salinas In Her Own Words: Truth at All Costs by Marie Calvin <i>from</i> Rolling Warrior by Judith Heumann with Kristen Joiner 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4 RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.6 RL./RI.8.10
Reflect and Respond	W.8.9
Unit 3 Assessment	RL.8.3, RL.8.5, RL.8.6, RL.8.9 RI.8.4, RI.8.5, RI.8.6, RI.8.8
Whole-Class Novel or Book Clubs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novels for consideration are listed below. Teachers may select a novel for whole-class study or create book clubs of selected texts. 	RL./RI.8.2 - RL./RI.8.9
Grade 8 Unit 4: Human Intelligence	
Essential Question: <i>In what different ways can people be intelligent?</i>	
Unit 4 Selection Titles	<u>Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Grades 6-8</u>
Unit 4 Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Human Brain, Creative Thinking: How to Increase the Dots to Connect (media) 	RI.8.2
Whole-Class Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>from</i> Flowers for Algernon by David Rogers 	RL.8.2, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.9
Full-Process Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Project-Based Learning Unit: <i>Sources of Strength</i> 	RI.8.3, W.8.3, SL.8.1
Peer-Group Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>from</i> Blue Nines and Red Words by Daniel Tammet 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RI.8.5, RI.8.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gut Math (Science Feature) 	RI.8.3, RI.8.4, RI.8.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Theory of Multiple Intelligences by Howard Gardner 	RI.8.2, L.8.6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is Bilingualism a Superpower? (PBS) 	RI.8.2, L.8.6
Timed Writing	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare-Contrast Essay 	W.8.9
Independent Learning (Student Choice)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inside the Reading Mind by Carrie M. Cannella Why is Emotional Intelligence Important for Teens? by Divya Parekh The More You Know the Smarter You Are? by Jim Vega <i>from</i> The Future of the Mind by Michio Kaku 	RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.6 RL./RI.8.10
Reflect and Respond & Unit 4 Assessment	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.5, RL.8.6 RI.8.2, RI.8.3, RI.8.4, RI.8.5, RI.8.6, RI.8.7 W.8.4, W.8.9
Whole-Class Novel or Book Clubs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> extended excerpt and the Project-Based Learning Unit: <i>Sources of Strength</i> will replace the novel study instruction for Unit 4. 	RL./RI.8.2 - RL./RI.8.9
Grade 8 Unit 5: Pushing Boundaries	
Essential Question: <i>What inspires people to invent?</i>	
Unit 5 Selection Titles	<u>Maryland College and Career Ready Standards for English Grades 6-8</u>
Unit 4 Introduction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Real Inventor, Kids Fixing the World (media) 	RL.8.2
Whole-Class Learning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nikola Tesla: The Greatest Inventor of All? by Vicky Baez 	RI.8.3, RI.8.4, RL.8.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>from</i> The Invention of Everything Else by Samantha Hunt 	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>from</i> Eureka! Poems About Inventors by Joyce Sidman 	RL.8.4
Full-Process Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short Story (optional) 	W.8.3, W.8.6
Peer-Group Learning	
<i>(Teacher/Student Choice)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fun They Had by Isaac Asimov Welcome to Origami City by Nick D’Alto Icarus and Daedalus, retold by Josephine Preston Peabody 	Fun They Had: RL.8.2, RL.8.4 Origami City: RI.8.3, RI.8.4, RI.8.6 Icarus & Daedalus: RL.8.2, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.9

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Timed Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare-and-Contrast Essay 	W.8.2
Independent Learning (Student Choice)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fermented Cow Dung Air Freshener by Kimberley Mack This High Schooler Invented a Low Cost, Mind Controlled Prosthetic Arm by Margaret Osborne To Fly from Space Chronicles by Neil deGrasse Tyson The Time Machine by H.G. Wells Striking Buildings by Zaha Hadid 	RI.8.2, RI.8.4, RI.8.10
Reflect and Respond & Unit 5 Assessment	RL.8.2, RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.9 RI.8.3, RI.8.4, RI.8.5 W.8.3
Whole-Class Novel or Book Clubs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novels for consideration are listed below. Teachers may select a novel for whole-class study or create book clubs of selected texts if time allows for this unit. 	RL./RI.8.2 - RL./RI.8.9

Novels for consideration: *Anne Frank* (drama), *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, *The Giver*, *Harriet Tubman*, *The Night Gardener*, *The Outsiders*, *Red, White, and Whole*, *Refugee*, *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*, *What You Hide*, *White Bird*, *The Fire, the Water*, and *Maudie McGinn*, *Maze Runner*

For more information regarding the Grade 8 English Language Arts course content, curriculum, and pacing, please contact Kristine Scarry, Supervisor of Reading, English, Language Arts (Kristine.scarry@hcps.org) or Annmarie Steltzer, Assistant Supervisor of Reading, English, Language Arts (Annmarie.steltzer@hcps.org).