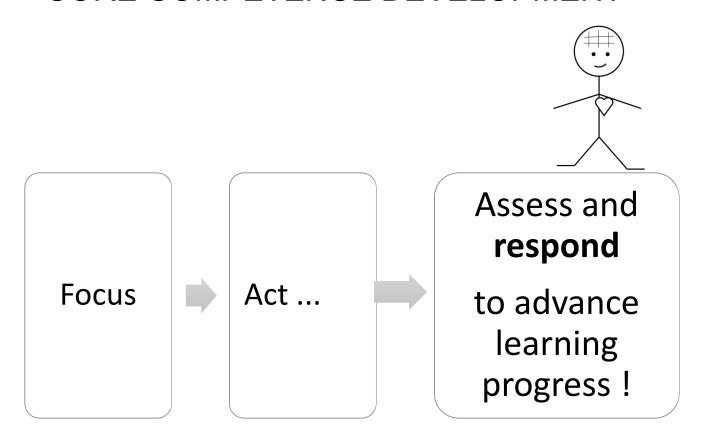
6th - 8th Grade

FIRST QUARTER CORE COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT



GRADES 6-8 CONNECT

This guide includes grades 6-8 because the strategies, skills, and processes at the middle grades are parallel; it is the complexity of the text and response that vary. Since most upper grade classes are departmentalized, having a common focus for processes each week will enable teachers to vary to specific content but maintain a focus on the transferrable outcomes—increased competence to analyze and interpret texts, write to communicate with evidence, and solve problems strategically.

For resources to support first quarter progress, go to http://teacher.depaul.edu.

Polk Bros. Foundation Center for Urban Education at DePaul University

MATH MIX: New and Continuing PRIORITIES

Research confirms that if the math curriculum includes "frequent cumulative review" that enables students to retain greater math competence. Among sources supporting this "mix" is the report "Assisting Students Struggling with Mathematics" of the What Works Clearinghouse, IES Practice Guide, US Department of Education. This chart is designed to organize planning for new math content and inclusion of math learned earlier in the school year in activities such as: learning centers; "bell ringers"; homework, art, science, social science--Integrating math into science and social science makes math more meaningful.

Week of	New Math	Math "Mix"—Content to Revisit		
problems-	—that <i>they prepare</i> so they can pra , turn math flashcards into "fast ma	e home an example of how to solve ctice correctly. Encourage math games—th" activities in which students quickly tell		
•	Daily kinds of assessment:glossaryjournalmy own examplesolve a problem, explain it			
Weekly kinds of assessment:solve problem, explain patterns and strategieswrite math bookletmake my own "anchor chart"make "math path"—steps to solution				

SEL Connects: literature, history, science, math—learning—life—SEL is everywhere!

Example--You can set up a display—students choose, then illustrate traits.

What character traits are most important to our classroom community? Here are three. Add yours!

careful	helpful	cooperative
		-

Personalize learning from the beginning: Make a Literacy Survey to Learn What Your Students Like.

You can complete this survey in a few different ways. Students can write their answers and then cut out the rectangles and make a bar graph. Students can interview each other. Students can fill in the boxes and give you the page to keep now and then take the same survey in a few months to see how their ideas change. PreK-1st grade students can give their responses orally or draw pictures.

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1.	What is your favorite kind of book to read?	2.	What is your favorite story?
3.	What is your favorite TV show?	4.	What do you like about that TV show?
5.	What do you like to write?	6.	What do you want to learn more about? animals, countries, famous people, music, sports, or another topic?

Communication Competencies

Activities during the quarter should include the development of communication competencies that cross the literacy standards:

- Discussion with focusing question and relevant responses
- Listening with focus
- Collaboration to develop response to issue or question
- Presentation based on research and analysis
- Debate based on logical analysis of issue
- Dramatization of literature and history
- Expressive reading of poetry and speeches
- Visual representation of learning

INTEGRATED STANDARDS 1 AND 10: Standard 1-- Cite textual **evidence** that **most strongly supports analysis** of what the text says explicitly as well as **inferences** drawn from the text—is developed in conjunction with responding to questions and tasks based on the other reading standards. Competence in all reading standards supports standard 10—"By the end of the year, reading and comprehend literature and nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

The following charts include standards emphasized—and demonstrate how the complexity of the process increases grade to grade but the core process is the same.

SOURCE of Common Core Standards cited in this guide: http://www.corestandards.org
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Writing Based on Reading strengthens reading and improves writing!

The weekly priorities emphasize writing about texts, synthesizing ideas and information from different texts; supporting a claim with evidence from a text or analyzing the strength of support for a claim in a text (CCSSR8); or interpreting literature.

READING COMPETENCIES

Reading Anchor Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
7	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.	Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
8	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.	Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

Reading Anchor Standard 3: Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.	Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
7	Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).	Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).
8	Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

Reading Anchor Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
7	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
8	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

Reading Anchor Standard 5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger parts of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.	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.
7	Analyze how a drama's or poem's form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
8	Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.	Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

Reading Anchor Standard 6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Explain how an author develops the	Determine an author's point of view or
	point of view of the narrator or speaker	purpose in a text and explain how it is
	in a text.	conveyed in the text.
7	Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
8	Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Reading Anchor Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION
6	Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.	Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
7	Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).	Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
8	Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.	Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea .

Start a Glossary of Literature Interpretation Vocabulary

CCSSR4—expand academic vocabulary.

The following words were identified in NWEA requirements. The week-to-week plans include literacy terms that should be applied by students as they analyze texts during the two-weeks for which they are listed. Many will be repeated during subsequent quarters since they are transferrable across texts.

- √ To develop full comprehension of these terms, students can locate or make up examples that show their meaning.
- ✓ Add more academic terms to help your students read thoughtfully.

Although NWEA has identified some of these terms at lower "RIT" bands, once learned, they need to stay in use to continue to be applied in students' analysis of literature.

analogy antithesis assonance	anecdote aphorism
assonance	author's purpose
ala ava at a vi— at i a v	author's purpose cliché
characterization	
	conclusion
	consonance
	dialogue
	emotion
	event
00	example
, ,	fable
	feeling
	figurative language
	flashback
ŭ	genre
	hyperbole
idiom	illustration
imagery	irony
literary device	literary element
main character	metaphor
minor detail	mood
myth	narrate
narrator	novel
onomatopoeia	order of events
parable	paradox
parallelism	passage
phrase	play
poem	poet
point of view	predict
pun	qualities
resolution	resolve
rhythm	riddle
satire	scansion
second person	selection
	setting
simile	sonnet
	summarize
	suspense
• •	symbolize
·	tall tale
	third person objective
	title page
	viewpoint
	world literature
	literary device main character minor detail myth narrator onomatopoeia parable parallelism phrase poem point of view pun resolution rhythm satire second person sequence

Analyze Craft and Structure

CCSSR5 (writer's choices) and CCSSR6 (purpose)

Students should be able to interpret the writer's use of these techniques to communicate the theme of a story or central idea of nonfiction.

Story Writers	Poets	Nonfiction Writers	Biographers
action colloquialism descriptive details dialogue figurative language flashback foreshadowing hyperbole idiom imagery irony metaphor mood narrator • first person • second person • third person • omniscient onomatopoeia plot twist point of view repetition satire sensory detail simile story within a story suspense symbolism narration tone visual detail voice	alliteration figurative language hyperbole imagery irony metaphor meter mood narrator onomatopoeia paradox personification point of view repetition rhyme rhythm satire sensory detail simile symbolism tone visual detail voice	allusion analogy anecdote argument boldface captions compare contrast data debate description details dialogue examples figurative language graph headings humor illustrations imagery narrative point of view quotations sarcasm satire sequence text structure: • cause-effect • compare/contrast • description • problem-solution • sequence table timeline titles and subtitles tone transition voice	A biographer may use many of the nonfiction writer's techniques as well as techniques of the story writer. Usually, these techniques are part of a biography. • challenges • commentary • conflict • conflict resolution • context details • dialogue • mood • quotations • perspectives • tone

6th-8th Grades First Quarter, Weeks 1-2 Learning Priorities

	Week of September 3	Week of September 10
Literature Genre	fable _ fantasy _poemsatire _drama _novel _short story _mystery _science fiction _historical fiction _myth	fable _ fantasy _poemsatire _drama _novel _short story _mystery _science fiction _historical fiction _myth
Reading Literature CCSSR2—analyze the development of a theme RL3—development of characters RL5—writer's choices (craft and structure) LITERACY TERMS: INFER; TRAIT; MOTIVE; AUTHOR; COMMUNICATE; RESOLUTION; PLOT; SETTING; SUMMARIZE; NARRATOR	□ Take reading interest survey. Pre-assess—you can use this graphic organizer to assess students' current competence to interpret an unfamiliar story □ Analyze and infer character traits and motives and analyze how the author communicates them. INTEGRATE WRITING: □ Profile yourself—what are your positive traits? □ Write to support your choice of your most positive trait with an example.	 □ Describe and analyze character, setting, plot, motive and draw conclusions about motives and reasons for actions and the resolution of a problem. □ Summarize the story. Analyze how the author communicates the characters through dialogue and actions and the narrator. □ Identify the message—and how the writer's choices of characters and actions and the narrator's voice help to communicate it. INTEGRATE WRITING □ Write about a brief narrative about a positive decision you made when facing a challenge. Explain how it represents "grit" or determination. Include dialogue.
Nonfiction Sources	_ book _biography _ historyarticle atlas _videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia	_ book _biography _ historyarticleatlas _ videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia
Science CCSSRI2—explain ideas	PREASSESSMENT How does a scientist work? What science career would you like to have in the future? What is a science topic you learned that you like? How did you learn it?	 ☐ How do you take notes when you observe that help you learn? ☐ What strategies so scientists use? ☐ What strategies does a science reader use? ☐ Pre-assess nonfiction reading strategies. (teacher.depaul.edu)
Social Science CCSSRI2: Analyze a text to clarify ideas	PREASSESSMENT How do you read a history? Why is history important? What do you think the most important event is in history—and why? INTEGRATE WRITING Give students a text to read and respond to—let them choose a text they're interested in. Ask them to write a summary of one idea.	GIVE STUDENTS A TEXT TO ANALYZE AND RESPOND TO as an activity or pre-assessment. How do you organize information to make ideas clear when you read history? What strategies, text features structures, and techniques does a nonfiction writer use to help readers learn? How do you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words when you read?
Word Patterns and Grammar	Parts of speechreview/assess: ask students to write about a character or person or place using the parts of speech.	Pre-assess or develop word knowledge: ☐ Give examples of: compound words; root words and affixes.

6th-8th Grades First Quarter, Weeks 3-4 Learning Priorities

	Week of September 17 Week of September 24			
Literature Genre	fable _ fantasypoemsatire _dramanovelshort story mysteryscience fictionhistorical fictionmyth	fable _ fantasypoemsatire _dramanovel _short story _mystery _science fiction _historical fiction _myth		
Reading Literature CCSSRL5: analyze author's choices— structure of the story, representation of the theme— Continues analysis of development of theme (CCSSRL52) LITERATURE TERMS: main characters; traits; problem and solution; causes and effects; dialogue; mood; tone; narrator	ANALYZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THEME □ Summarize a story, including main characters and their traits and actions, problem and solution, causes of effects. □ Infer the theme. Analyze how the author develops it (unfolds it) with sections of story (plot) □ Analyze how author's choices — dialogue, narrator, plot, have effects—on mood, tone. INTEGRATE WRITING Write a note to the author. Tell how the techniques helped you interpret the text.	ANALYZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A THEME ☐ Analyze how an author develops a theme through the plot and other story elements ☐ Infer reasons for the author's techniques including dialogue idioms, colloquialisms, figurative language—how do those help the reader interpret the story's plot, characters, and theme? (Students should continue to complete the literature glossary). INTEGRATE WRITING Constructed response—dramatize a scene from the story. Include dialogue that is consistent with the characters—and kinds of techniques the writer uses.		
Nonfiction Sources	book _biography _ history articleatlas _videotextbook website _ encyclopedia	_ book _biography _ historyarticle atlas _videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia		
Science CCSSRI2 Collect information to support an idea LITERACY TERMS: Reading rate; complexity of text; specific evidence; summarize	How do you know what is important to include in notes? Adjust reading rate to complexity of text. Locate information using text features Cite specific evidence from text to respond to questions Summarize what you learn. Start Latin and Greek Root Word	How do you review notes to understand more? Adjust reading rate to complexity of text. Locate information using text features Cite specific evidence from text to respond to questions Summarize what you learn. Then identify the most important idea you learned. Continue Latin and Greek Root Word		
Social Science CCSSRI2 Collect information to support an idea CCSSRI5— Analyze the writer's techniques LITERACY TERMS: Central idea; text structure; supporting ideas; text features; analyze	Analyze how a nonfiction writer develops a central idea. ☐ Identify the structure of the text. ☐ Identify text features the writer uses. ☐ Outline or use a graphic organizer to show the central idea and supporting ideas. INTEGRATE WRITING Write a note to the author. Explain how you were able to learn the central idea from the writer's choices.	Glossaries (ongoing) Analyze how a nonfiction writer develops a central idea. Identify the structure of the text. Identify text features the writer uses. Outline or use a graphic organizer to show the central idea and supporting ideas. INTEGRATE WRITING Write a note to another student about the text. Explain the ideas you learned and how a writer uses techniques to teach someone who is reading nonfiction.		
Word Patterns and Grammar	Analyze word structures. Root word, prefix, suffix	☐ Make root-word "trees" to clarify roots, prefixes, suffixes		

6th-8th Grades First Quarter, Weeks 5-6 Learning Priorities

	Week of October 1	Week of October 8
Literature Genre	fable _ fantasy _poemsatire _drama _novel _short story _mystery _science fiction _historical fiction _myth	fable _ fantasypoemsatire dramanovelshort storymystery science fictionhistorical fictionmyth
Reading Literature CCSSRL2 Analyze story development of theme (applies standard 5—author's choices) LITERATURE TERMS: THEME, NARRATOR; RELATIONSHIPS;	Mid-Quarter Assessment ANALYZE STORY ELEMENTS ☐ Classify parts of a story—characters, setting, actions. Infer the theme and identify supporting examples. ☐ Analyze relationships among the characters, including how the narrator feels about events—and characters. ☐ Analyze how the writer conveys these through details and techniques (continuing the glossary of literary techniques). INTEGRATE WRITING: Make a story map and concise summary of how the writer communicates the	Based on week 5 assessment, either advance to more complex text or revisit these essentials. ☐ Classify parts of a story—characters, setting, actions. Infer the theme and identify supporting examples. ☐ Analyze relationships among the characters, including how the narrator feels about events—and characters. ☐ Analyze how the writer conveys these through details and techniques. INTEGRATE WRITING: ☐ Write a synopsis of what might happen next that maintains the theme.
Nonfiction Sources	theme. book _biography _ historyarticleatlas _videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia	book _biography _ historyarticle atlas _videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia
Science CCSSRI2—support an idea with examples. CCSSRI7—integrate information from different sources—may include videos.	ASK a BIG FOCUS QUESTION: Students Take notes from a video or experiment and then Locate information using text features Cite specific evidence from text to respond to questions, including graphics. INTEGRATE WRITING	ASK a BIG FOCUS QUESTION: Students Take notes from a video or experiment and then ✓ Locate information using text features ✓ Cite specific evidence from text to respond to questions, including graphics.
	 □ Combine information from different sources to respond to BIG question. ✓ Recommended: Students evaluate and improve each other's responses—improving the evidence they provide. 	INTEGRATE WRITING ✓ Combine information from different sources to respond to BIG question. ✓ Recommended: Students evaluate and improve each other's responses—improving the evidence they provide.
Social Science CCSSRI2 Collect information to support an idea CCSSRI7—integrate information from different sources—may include videos.	ASK a BIG FOCUS QUESTION: Locate information using text features Take notes from a video or image. Cite specific evidence from text and video to respond to questions INTEGRATE WRITING Compare and contrast learning from a video and learning from a text.	ASK a BIG FOCUS QUESTION: Locate information using text features Take notes from a video or image. Cite specific evidence from text and video to respond to questions INTEGRATE WRITING Compare and contrast learning from a video and learning from a text.
Word Patterns and Grammar	Use dictionary and analysis of context (ongoing) to check the meaning of Multi-meaning words	☐ Make guide to inferring meaning of word from context—including examples of multi-meaning words

6th-8th Grades First Quarter, Weeks 7-8 Learning Priorities

Week of October 15 Week of October 22				
Literature Genre	fable _ fantasypoemsatire dramanovelshort storymystery science fictionhistorical fictionmyth	fable _ fantasypoemsatire dramanovelshort storymystery science fictionhistorical fictionmyth		
Reading Literature CCSSRL9—compare and contrast two texts on the same theme (theme continues emphasis on standard 2; also involves standard 5—writer's choices) LITERATURE TERMS: COMPARE; ANALYZE; TECHNIQUES; LITERATURE; CONTEXT	 □ Compare how two writers communicate the same theme in different literature. You may choose to analyze one writer this week and then compare next week. □ Analyze the choices each writer makes to communicate the theme. INTEGRATE WRITING: Constructed Response: What choices does the writer make to help the reader interpret the theme? 	□ Compare how two writers communicate the same theme in different literature. □ Analyze the choices each writer makes to communicate the theme INTEGRATE WRITING: Compare and contrast how two writers communicate the same theme in different contexts.		
Nonfiction Sources	_ book _biography _ history articleatlas _videotextbook website _ encyclopedia	_ book _biography _ historyarticle atlas _videotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia		
Science CCSSRI7 AND W7 — integrate information from different sources—may include videos. LITERACY TERMS: INTEGRATE; SYNTHESIZE EVALUATE; EVIDENCE; STRENGTH; RELEVANCE	INTEGRATE WRITING ☐ Combine information from different kinds of sources to respond to BIG question. ☐ Decide what your "Big" idea is. ☐ Evaluate the relevance and strength of your evidence to support the response. ✓ Recommended: pair and compare, then "repair" to strengthen the statements with stronger evidence.	INTEGRATE WRITING ☐ Combine information from different kinds of sources to respond to BIG question. ☐ Decide what your "Big" idea is. ☐ Evaluate the relevance and strength of your evidence to support the response. ✓ Recommended: pair and compare, then "repair" to strengthen the statements with stronger evidence.		
Social Science CCSSRI7 AND W7— integrate information from different sources—may include videos. LITERACY TERMS: INTEGRATE; SYNTHESIZE EVALUATE; EVIDENCE; STRENGTH; RELEVANCE	INTEGRATE WRITING ☐ Combine information from different kinds of sources to respond to BIG question. ☐ Decide what your "Big" idea is. ☐ Evaluate the relevance and strength of your evidence to support the response. ✓ Recommended: pair and compare, then "repair" to strengthen the statements with stronger evidence.	INTEGRATE WRITING ☐ Combine information from different kinds of sources to respond to BIG question. ☐ Decide what your "Big" idea is. ☐ Evaluate the relevance and strength of your evidence to support the response. ✓ Recommended: pair and compare, then "repair" to strengthen the statements with stronger evidence. ✓		
Word Patterns and Grammar	Expand sentences with adjectives.	Use thesaurus to find more descriptive terms to expand sentences.		

6th-8th Grades First Quarter, Week 9 Learning Priorities

	Week of October 29 Comprehensive Assessment
Literature Genre	fable _ fantasypoemsatiredramanovelshort storymysteryscience fictionhistorical fictionmyth
Reading Literature CCSSRL 9— compare/contrast two readings on same topic/theme.	Comprehensive Assessment Make reader's guide—how do you interpret literature? Include examples of literary techniques based on your glossary.
LITERATURE TERMS: Author's purpose; historical fiction, realistic fiction; history.	■ Make a writer's guide—turn your reader's guide into a list of recommendations to a fiction writer.
Nonfiction Sources	_ book _biography _ historyarticleatlasvideotextbookwebsite _ encyclopedia
Science CCSSR6—analyze how the writer's purpose affects content of a text.	Comprehensive Assessment Write science learner's guide—how do you integrate ideas and information from different sources to synthesize science information to support a central idea?
Social Science CCSSR6—analyze how the writer's purpose affects content of a text.	Comprehensive Assessment Read an unfamiliar history and identify: Writer's position—how do you infer that? How well the writer supports it—evaluate strength of evidence.
Word Patterns and Grammar	Comprehensive Assessment: ☐ Identify words used in a passage including: ✓ Figurative or symbolic words ✓ Prefixes and suffixes ✓ Root words