

Common Core Reading Standards for Grades 6-12

Grade to Grade Progression

The following pages list grade-by-grade standards for each of the standards. They all align with the core priorities for reading. **Key terms** have been boldfaced to facilitate planning.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

1. **Read closely** to **determine** what the text says **explicitly** and to **make logical inferences** from it; **cite specific textual evidence** when writing or speaking to **support conclusions drawn from the text**.
2. **Determine central ideas or themes** of a text and **analyze** their **development**; **summarize the key supporting details and ideas**.
3. **Analyze** how and why **individuals, events, and ideas develop** and **interact** over the course of a text.

CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

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

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

7. **Integrate** and **evaluate content** presented in **diverse media and formats**, including **visually** and **quantitatively**, as well as in words.
8. **Delineate and evaluate** the **argument** and **specific claims** in a text, including the **validity of the reasoning** as well as the **relevance** and **sufficiency** of the **evidence**.
9. **Analyze** how two or more **texts address similar themes or topics** in order to **build knowledge** or to **compare the approaches** the authors take.

RANGE AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY

10. Read and **comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently**.

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Reading Anchor Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says **explicitly and to make **logical inferences** from it; **cite specific textual evidence** when writing or speaking to **support conclusions drawn from the text**.**

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
6	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
7	Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
8	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from text.	Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
9-10	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
11-12	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

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

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
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.
9-10	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; 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 how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
11-12	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.	Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis ; provide an objective summary of the text.

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

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
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).
9-10	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters , and advance the plot or develop the theme .	Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events , including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed , and the connections that are drawn between them.
11-12	Analyze the impact of the author’s choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).	Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas , or events interact and develop over the course of the text.

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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**.

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
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 .
9-10	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
11-12	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone , including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines <i>faction</i> in <i>Federalist</i> No. 10).

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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**.

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
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 .
9-10	Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.	Analyze in detail how an author’s ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
11-12	Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.	Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument , including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.

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

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
6	Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.	Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is 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.
9-10	Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.	Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose .
11-12	Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).	Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness, or beauty of the text.

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

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
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 .
9-10	Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums , including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts” and Breughel’s Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).	Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person’s life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
11-12	Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (Include at least one play by Shakespeare and one play by an American dramatist.)	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

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Reading Anchor Standard 8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Not applicable to literature.

Grade	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
6	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
7	Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims .
8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
9-10	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
11-12	Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., <i>The Federalist</i> , presidential addresses).

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Reading Anchor Standard 9: Analyze how two or more **texts** address similar **themes** or **topics** in order to **build knowledge** or to **compare** the **approaches** the authors take.

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
6	Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics .	Compare and contrast one author’s presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).
7	Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.	Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.
8	Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.	Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation .
9-10	Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).	Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington’s Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms speech, King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”), including how they address related themes and concepts .
11-12	Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works of American literature , including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics .	Analyze seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (including The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address) for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.

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Reading Anchor Standard 10: Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Grade	READING LITERATURE	READING NONFICTION/INFORMATIONAL TEXT
6	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
7	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
8	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently .	By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently .
9-10	By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , in the grades 9–10 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , at the high end of the grades 9–10 text complexity band independently and proficiently .	By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 9–10 text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 9–10 text complexity band independently and proficiently .
11-12	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , in the grades 11–CCR text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems , at the high end of the grades 11–CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently .	By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 11–CCR text complexity band proficiently , with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range. By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 11–CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently .