

# SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE LITERACY

*By the end of Eighth Grade a student will be able to*

## **WORD STUDY/ VOCABULARY**

- Determine new words using prefixes, suffixes, root words, syllabication and context
- Broaden vocabulary by using the above components as well as through synonyms, antonyms, idioms, similes, analogies, metaphors, and teacher instruction of academic vocabulary

## **FLUENCY**

- Read 150 words per minute (7th grade) or 155 words per minute (8th grade) with fluency, accuracy, expression and comprehension

## **COMPREHENSION**

- Monitor own reading to ensure understanding by asking questions, rereading parts, reading ahead, using context, identifying what is difficult, seeking additional information and clarifying terminology
- Understand a broad range of reading materials including literature and informational texts as well as the different elements of and techniques used in each by
  - Making logical predictions before, during and after reading
  - Verifying predictions with text information
  - Developing metacognitive (thinking about your own thinking) skills
  - Connect important ideas in the text to previous knowledge/experiences and previously read text
  - Develop questions to deeper thinking before, during and after reading
  - Visualize to create mental images
  - Infer meanings not stated
  - Determine importance of information to develop critical literacy
  - Synthesize information to extend new thinking

## **COMPREHENSION OF INFORMATIONAL TEXTS (BIOGRAPHIES, ESSAYS, JOURNALS, DIARIES, SUBJECT TEXTBOOKS and OTHER NONFICTION BOOKS)**

- Use prereading strategies such as skimming for bold print, organization of text, key words and graphics
- Distinguish between significant and minor details
- Identify description, comparison, cause/effect or sequence
- Interpret information from maps, tables, visual aids and charts
- Identify main ideas and supporting opinions
- Draw conclusions about whether portions are fact or opinion
- Extend ideas presented in the text

## **COMPREHENSION OF FICTION**

- Identify literary elements and techniques used in various genres (such as fables, biography, and historical fiction) and then tell how they affect the story as well as how the story might be different if the author changed the literary elements or techniques
- Compare themes, topics, story structure and elements of more than one selection
- Ask open-ended questions
- Interpret alliteration, personification, metaphor and simile
- Identify the author's main point
- Make inferences while reading in order to
- Summarize ideas in text, identify character traits and motivation, determine information about the setting and events, and compare the text to self, another text, or the world
- Use graphic organizers to summarize, make comparisons and present information in charts, maps and graphs

## **WRITING**

- Use prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas, including: webbing, brainstorming, outlining, listing, note taking, and graphic organizers
- Explain thinking in writing extended responses to text that:
- Identifies important information found explicitly and implicitly in the text
- Uses this information to interpret the text and/or make connections to other situations

- or contexts through analysis, evaluation, or comparison/contrast
- Know the purpose of *narrative*, *expository*, and *persuasive* pieces and be able to:
    - Establish and support a central idea with a topic sentence at or near the beginning of the paragraph
    - Include supporting paragraphs with simple facts, details, and explanations or examples
    - Use words that describe and explain
    - Create interesting sentences, both simple and compound
    - Are interesting, compelling and intelligible to the reader
    - Present ideas in sequence
    - Provide transitions to link paragraphs
    - Use at least three details to support the main point (persuasive piece)
    - Conclude with a paragraph that summarizes the points (expository and persuasive pieces)
  - Revise for effective style and clarity of meaning
    - Ideas
    - Organization
    - Voice
    - Sentence fluency (including variety of use a writing style that includes: structure)
    - Word choices (rich and clarifying language)
  - Edit for effective writing mechanics/conventions
    - Capitalization
    - Punctuation including use of commas
    - Spelling including correct spelling of previously taught words
    - Grammar and usage
    - Paragraphing
  - Grammar including:
    - Correct subject/verb agreement
    - Correct capitalization and appropriate punctuation
    - Use of regular verbs, irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions