

Lake Forest English Curriculum Eighth Grade

The 8th grade English curriculum prepares students for the transition to high school. Students will read and analyze fictional and informational texts, as well as discuss the representation of topics by multiple authors. Students will enhance their research, writing, and presentation skills. There are five instructional units that include formative and summative assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards. These units build in intensity, help students become critical thinkers, better writers, and proficient readers.

Telling Stories Fiction Unit

During this unit your child will:

- Learn how to cite several pieces of evidence to support analysis of text. (RL.8.1)
- Understand that textual evidence supports inferences made from fictional text. (RL.8.1&RL.8.2)
- Analyze how theme and central ideas change over the course of a text (RL.8.2).
- Continue to provide objective summaries of texts (RL.8.2).
- Analyze the impact of word choice on text (RL.8.4, L.8.4)
- Analyze how point of view creates various literary effects (RL.8.6).
- Analyze a text and its visual representation (film or live play) (RL.8.7).
- Analyze the representation of an even in fiction and nonfiction (RI.8.9).
- Write and revise various forms of writing, using technology to publish (W.8.4 & 6).

A Matter of Style Research Unit

During this unit your child will:

- Learn how to write a research-based thesis statement (8.W.2)
- Read, summarize, and cite evidence from informational text to support a thesis (RI.8.1, RI.8.2) W.8.2).
- Analyze nonfiction text for discrepancies in the argument (RI.8.9).
- Gather multiple resources on a selected topic and determine the credibility of each source (W.8.8).
- Present gathered information in topic by using correct public speaking skills (SL.8.4).
- Use multimedia during a presentation to strengthen claims or add interest (SL.8.5).

Doing the Right Thing Fiction & Nonfiction Unit

During this unit your child will:

- Continue to cite several pieces of evidence to support analysis of text (RL/RI.8.1).
- Provide objective summaries of both fiction and nonfiction texts (RL.8.2)
- Understand how specific elements, like dialogue, help propel the action in fictional text (RL.8.3).
- Understand the tools used in nonfiction writing and how these tools help connect ideas (RI.8.3).
- Write a speech (informational text) that uses various literary techniques (W.8.2).

Being There Argument Unit

During this unit your child will:

- Continue to cite several pieces of evidence to support analysis of text (RL.8.1).
- Write and support claims with evidence (W.8.1).
- Distinguish among multiple claims (W.8.1).
- Distinguish claims from opposing claims (W.8.1).
- Write concluding statements and paragraphs that follow the organization of the text (W.8.1).
- Analyze information presented in different formats (SL.8.2).
- Describe a speaker's argument and evaluate the accuracy of the argument (SL.8.3).

The Human Spirit Nonfiction Unit

During this unit your child will: (remove narrative???)

- Continue to cite textual evidence that supports analysis of text and inferences drawn from nonfiction text (RI.8.1).
- Determine the central idea and write objective summaries of nonfiction text (RI.8.2).
- Analyze how nonfiction text makes connections and distinction between parts of the text (RI.8.3).
- Use context clues to determine the meanings of unknown words and their impact on text (RI.8.4).
- Identify the author's point of view in nonfiction text (RI.8.6).
- Explain why one medium (i.e. art v. text; film v. text) is better-suited for a particular piece (RI.8.6)
- Write an informational essay and draw evidence from other texts as support (W.8.2 & W.8.8).
- Conduct research and write regularly through the course of the unit (8.W.4 & W.8.7).
- Write short, narrative text (W.8.3).