

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT GOALS – 2021-2022

## Reading (Fiction and Non-Fiction)

1. When answering questions, I give textual evidence by both paraphrasing (putting it into my own words) and using quotation marks.  
For example- The author says, “I was upset at the sight of the donkeys”, which shows she was sad.
2. I can understand inferences- which means I can understand what’s happening in the text through the subtle clues and details given, rather than what is explicitly said.
3. I know what a theme is and can read through a text (fiction and non-fiction) and write about the theme that is talked about in the text.
4. I can read a fiction or non-fictional text and write a summary about it without using “I”. This is objective writing, and I am practicing it in my writing.
5. I can read a story or an article and then compare it with another story or article that’s related. For example, I can read a book, then watch the movie, and compare the similarities and differences between them. I can read a historical article and then watch a movie about that historical event and tell you the similarities and differences between them.
6. When I read a word I don’t know, I can figure out or guess the meaning of the word by looking at the words around it. If I still don’t know it, I can look it up in the dictionary. I can figure out if the word is positive, negative, or neutral.
7. I can tell if the point of view of a story is first person, second person, or third person. I can tell if the author is being persuasive, informative, or entertaining.
8. When reading an argument, I can tell if an argument is good or not by the evidence the author provides. I can tell if the author is being fair and acknowledging all sides of an argument/idea, or if he/she is being biased.
9. When researching, I can tell what is a good/reliable source and what may be an outdated or biased source. I can use the CARDI B method to gather information for my research/writing projects.

## Writing (Essays and Creative)

1. I can write argumentative essays with clear claims and relevant evidence. My argumentative essays include counterclaims.
2. I can write informative essays that examine a topic with accurate information. I can organize my information clearly with correct headings and graphics (such as charts, tables, pictures).
3. My essays have a clear introduction and conclusion.

4. My essays have developed body paragraphs. This means I used different transitions, I have a topic sentence, I included correct facts/details/examples and I made sure it has a concluding sentence.
5. I can use quotes when citing sources for my essays. I cite these quotes correctly.
6. I can write in formal style (no slang, no contractions and no "I"). My writing has a lot of detail with minimal spelling/grammar errors.
7. I can write creatively by writing in my character's point of view and describing a series of events that is logical and natural. I can even write dialogue for my character(s).
8. I do not plagiarize information I find in books or on the internet. Instead, I put it into my own words and use citations when needed.
9. I can edit and revise my own work when needed. I take advice that's given to me by my peers or my teacher and use their suggestions to improve my writing.
10. I can work on a piece of writing over a long period of time (a lesson, a couple of days, or even a week).

## **Language**

1. I know what a phrase or clause is and can identify one in a sentence.
2. I know the four different types of sentences (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex).
3. I understand modifiers, and I can tell when they are misplaced or dangling.
4. I know what words to capitalize in a sentence or title.
5. I can use correct punctuation (like commas).
6. I can spell most words correctly.
7. I understand positive and negative connotations in words, and how when you use the correct connotation, you can set a particular mood in a sentence.
8. I understand puns and how they can be used to create humor.
9. I can explain verbs and identify a shift in verb voice and mood (IXL GG Lessons)

## **Speaking/Listening**

1. I contribute to discussions in class in a polite, considerate way. That means I let others finish what they are saying before I offer my ideas/opinions.

2. I am prepared for discussions. That means I've read/researched the topic beforehand and can refer to it while discussing the topic in class.
3. I ask on-topic questions while discussing things in class that helps others around me learn. When discussions go off topic, I get us back on topic.
4. I think about the purpose of information that is presented to me - written, oral and visual- and evaluate the motive behind this information (social, commercial, political).
5. When someone makes a new point, I reflect on my ideas/opinions and I may change my mind about them.
6. When giving presentations, I analyze the main ideas and supporting details in a variety of ways (in pictures and in my speech). I use multimedia components (videos/pictures/sounds) in my presentations to emphasize the main points.
7. When giving presentations, I present my claims clearly and explain how certain ideas link to the topic/text we are studying.
8. When someone is giving a presentation, I can determine what their argument is and evaluate the effectiveness of the reasons and evidence given. I can even tell when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
9. I can adapt a speech to an essay, and an essay to a speech.