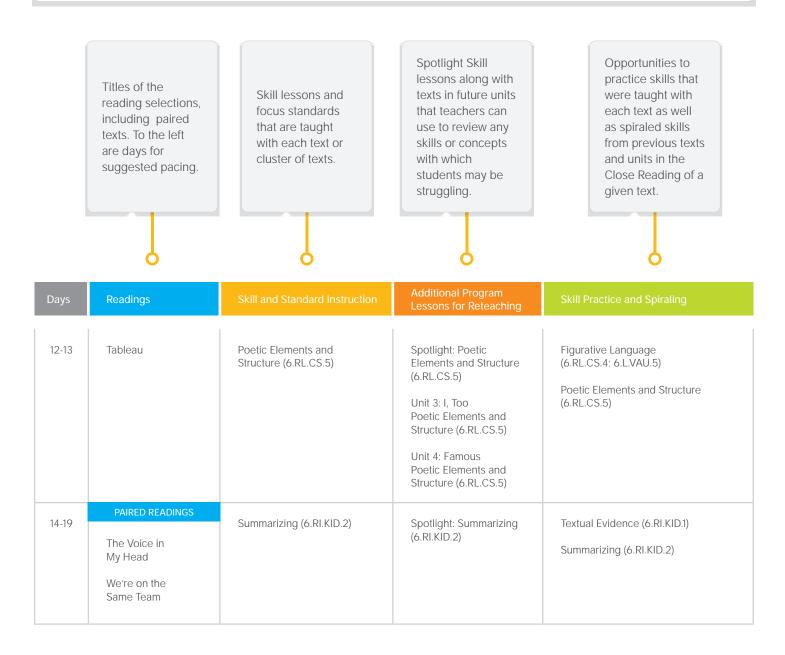# GRADE 8

This grade level Curriculum Map outlines the scope and sequence of texts and skills that are taught in each unit. Every unit is built around a theme, essential question, and genre focus. The charts that follow provide suggested pacing, along with guidance on opportunities for practice and reteaching to standards mastery.

Titles of the reading selections, including paired texts. To the left are days for suggested pacing.

Skill lessons and focus standards that are taught with each text or cluster of texts.

Spotlight Skill lessons along with texts in future units that teachers can use to review any skills or concepts with which students may be struggling.

Opportunities to practice skills that were taught with each text as well as spiraled skills from previous texts and units in the Close Reading of a given text.

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
12-13	Tableau	Poetic Elements and Structure (6.RL.CS.5)	Spotlight: Poetic Elements and Structure (6.RL.CS.5) Unit 3: I, Too Poetic Elements and Structure (6.RL.CS.5) Unit 4: Famous Poetic Elements and Structure (6.RL.CS.5)	Figurative Language (6.RL.CS.4; 6.L.VAU.5) Poetic Elements and Structure (6.RL.CS.5)
14-19	**PAIRED READINGS** The Voice in My Head We're on the Same Team	Summarizing (6.RI.KID.2)	Spotlight: Summarizing (6.RI.KID.2)	Textual Evidence (6.RI.KID.1) Summarizing (6.RI.KID.2)

The Curriculum map also includes pacing for and a breakdown of the Extended Writing Project, the long-form writing assignment for each unit. Additional charts provide information on the end-of-unit review and assessment along with resources for supplementary instruction.

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
1-6	The Tell-Tale Heart	Annotation (8.RL.KID.1) Context Clues (8.RL.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.4.a) Reading Comprehension (8.RL.RRTC.10) Text Dependent Responses (8.RL.KID.1) Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4) Collaborative Conversations (8.SL.CC.1.a-d) Short Constructed Responses (8.RL.KID.1; 8.W.PDW.4) Peer Review (8).W.PDW.5	Spotlight Skill: Annotation (8.RL.KID.1)	

Days			

Resource	Description	Recommended Usage
ELL Resources	Inside the House, Drama	"Inside the House" serves as a structural and thematic model for "Monster," and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	The Lucky Coin, Fiction	*"Lucky Coin" serves as a structural and thematic model for "The Monkey's Paw," and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.*
	EOP, Dramatic Scene	In this Extended Oral Project, will write and perform a suspenseful dramatic scene. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.
Novel Study Options	Monster, Fiction	Novel Studies are chosen to connect with each unit's theme and essential question. They may be used alongside or in lieu of Core ELA texts in this unit.
	Ten Days in a Mad-House, Informational	

GRADE 8 UNIT 2

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
1-2	Big Idea: What makes you, you?	Recognizing Genre: Poetry Academic Vocabulary: Adapting Messages		Write: Analyzing Genre
3-4	I'm Nobody! Who are you?	Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)	Spotlight Skill: Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Unit 2 Text: Slam, Dunk, & Hook Skill: Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Unit 2 Text: The Road Not Taken Skill: Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Theme (8.RL.KID.2) Character (8.RL.KID.3) Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)
5-6	Commencement Address to the Sante Fe Indian School	Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3)	Spotlight Skill: Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3) Unit 4 Text: Gaming Communities Skill: Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3) Unit 4 Text: The Gettysburg Address Skill: Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Author's Purpose and Point of View (8.RI.CS.6) Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3)
7-10	PAIRED READINGS Curtain Call So where are you from?	Central or Main Idea (8.RI.KID.2)	Spotlight Skill: Central or Main Idea (8.RI.KID.2) Unit 6 Text: Universal Declaration of Human Rights Skill: Central or Main Idea (8.RI.KID.2)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Central or Main Idea (8.RI.KID.2)
11-13	The Outsiders	Character (8.RL.KID.3) Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1)	Spotlight Skill: Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Spotlight Skill: Character (8.RL.KID.3) Unit 4 Text: /HUG Skill: Character (8.RL.KID.3)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Character (8.RL.KID.3)

14-17	Slam, Dunk, & Hook	Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Allusion (8.RL.IKI.9)	Spotlight Skill: Poetic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Spotlight Skill: Allusion (8.RL.IKI.9) Unit 2	

Assessment Section	Content	Assessed Skills and Standards
Reading NOTE: Selection 4 is optional. It highlights the key skills of the unit and of high-stakes testing and is a valuable asset if time allows.	The Emperor's Procession Genre: Fiction Word Count: 653 Lexile: 1080L	Plot 8.RL.KID.3 Character 8.RL.KID.3 Textual Evidence 8.RL.KID.1 Summarizing 8.RL.KID.2 Theme 8.RL.KID.2 Figures of Speech 8.L.VAU.5
	The Old Man Dreams Genre: Poem Word Count: 246 Lexile: N/A	Figurative Language 8.RL.CS.4, 8.L.VAU.5 Textual Evidence 8.RL.KID.1 Theme 8.RL.KID.2 Poetic Elements and Structure 8.RL.CS.5
	What's in Your DNA? Genre: Non-Fiction Word Count: 1094 Lexile: 1100L	Figures of Speech 8.L.VAU.5 Central or Main Idea 8.RI.KID.2 Textual Evidence 8.RI.KID.1 Arguments and Claims 8.RI.IKI.8
	The Path to Home Genre: Poem Word Count: 275 Lexile: N/A	Figurative Language 8.RL.CS.4 Poetic Elements and Structure 8.RL.CS.5 Theme 8.RL.KID.2
Revising and Editing	Student Passage #1	Active and Passive Voice 8.L.CSE.1.d Verb Moods 8.L.CSE.1.d Consistent Verb Voice and Mood 8.L.CSE.1.d
	Student Passage #2	Thesis 8.W.Pserb Mood 8 0j92er7Ceoice 8.L.CSE.

Resource	Description	Recommended Usage
ELL Resources	The Others, Fiction	"The Others" serves as a structural and thematic model for The Outsiders, and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	Mom's First Day, Fiction	"Mom's First Day" serves as a structural and thematic model for "Abuela Invents the Zero," and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	EOP, Debate	In this Extended Oral Project, students will brainstorm, plan, and participate in a debate about the importance of staying true to yourself. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.
Novel Study Options	The Outsiders, Fiction	Novel Studies are chosen to connect with each unit's theme and essential question. They may be used alongside or in lieu of Core ELA texts in this unit.
	Inside Out and Back Again, Fiction	

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
1-2	Big Idea: Why do we take chances?	Recognizing Genre: Informational Text Academic Vocabulary: Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots I		Write: Analyzing Genre
3-5	The Vanishing Island	Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots (8.L.VAU.4.b, 8.L.VAU.4.d) Media (8.RI.IKI.7)	Spotlight Skill: Media (8.RI.IKI.7) Spotlight Skill: Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots (8.L.VAU.4.b, 8.L.VAU.4.d) Unit 3 Text: A Kenyan Teen's Discovery: Let There Be Lights Skill: Media (8.RI.IKI.7) Unit 6 Text: The War of the Worlds Skill: Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots (8.L.VAU.4.b, 8.L.VAU.4.d)	Text: Affixes and Roots (8.RI.KID.1) Media (8.RI.IKI.7) Greek and Latin Affixes and Roots (8.L.VAU.4.b, 8.L.VAU.4.d)
6-10	PAIRED READINGS	Summarizing (8.RI.KID.2) Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5)	Spotlight Skill: Summarizing (8.RI.KID.2) Spotlight Skill: Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5) Unit 5 Text: Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat Skill: Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5) Unit 5	

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
20-22	The Day I Saved a Life	Context Clues (8.RI.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.4.a) Technical Language (8.RI.CS.4)	Spotlight Skill: Context Clues (8.RI.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.4.a) Spotlight Skill: Technical Language (8.RI.CS.4) Unit 4 Text: Cover Letter to Lucas Arts Skill: Technical Language (8.RI.CS.4)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Context Clues (8.RI.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.4.a) Technical Language (8.RI.CS.4)
23-25	The Call of the Wild	Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4) Media (8.RL.IKI.7)	Spotlight Skill: Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4) Spotlight Skill: Media (8.RL.IKI.7) Unit 4 Text: Across Five Aprils Skill: Media (8.RL.IKI.7) Unit 5 Text: Refugee Skill: Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4) Unit 5 Text: The War of the Worlds Skill: Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Theme (8.RL.KID.2) Language, Style, and Audience (8.RL.CS.4) Media (8.RL.IKI.7)
26-27	Cocoon	Connotation and Denotation (8.RL.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.5)	Spotlight Skill: Connotation and Denotation (8.RL.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.5) Unit 4 Text: Blind Skill: Connotation and Denotation (8.RL.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.5)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Connotation and Denotation (8.RL.CS.4; 8.L.VAU.5)

Resource	Description	Recommended Usage
ELL Resources	The History of the Space Shuttle, Informational	"The History of the Space Shuttle" serves as a structural and thematic model for "Address to the Nation on the Explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger," and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	Narrative of the Life of Ada Lee, an American Farm Girl, Fiction	"Narrative of the Life of Ada Lee, an American Farm Girl" serves as a structural and thematic model for *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, and may be used in place of or as an extension to this text.
	EOP, Informative Presentation	In this Extended Oral Project, students will write and present an informative presentation that gives advice to their peers about trying something new. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.

In the second half of the unit, students continue exploring texts that address the unit's Essential Question. In addition, in the Extended Writing Project, they begin crafting a longer composition to share their own ideas about the Essential Question.

Days	Extended Writing Project and Grammar	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Lessons for Reteaching
16	Argumentative Process: Plan		
17-20	Argumentative Process: Draft	Organizing Argumentative Writing (8.W.TTP.1.a) Thesis Statement (8.W.TTP.1.a) Reasons and Relevant Evidence (8.W.TTP.1.b, 8.W.TTP.1.d)	Spotlight Skill: Thesis Statement (8.W.TTP.1.a) Spotlight Skill: Organizing Literary Analysis Writing (8.W.TTP.1.a) Spotlight Skill: Reasons and Relevant Evidence (8.W.TTP.1.b, 8.W.TTP.1.d)
21-25	Argumentative Process: Revise	Introductions (8.W.TTP.1.a) Transitions (8.W.TTP.1.g) Style (8.W.TTP.1.i) Conclusions (8.W.TTP.1.e)	Spotlight Skill: Introductions (8.W.TTP.1.a) Spotlight Skill: Transitions (8.W.TTP.1.g) Spotlight Skill: Style (8.W.TTP.1.i) Spotlight Skill: Conclusions (8.W.TTP.1.e)
26-28	Argumentative Process: Edit and Publish	Grammar: Parentheses, Brackets, and Ellipses for Omission (8.L.CSE.2) Grammar: Commas for Pause or Separation (8.L.CSE.2) Grammar: Basic Spelling Rules II (8.L.CSE.2)	Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Parentheses, Brackets, and Ellipses for Omission (8.L.CSE.2) Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Commas for Pause or Separation (8.L.CSE.2) Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Basic Spelling Rules II (8.L.CSE.2)

The final two days of the unit are reserved for review and assessment.

Days	Review and Assessment	Skill Practice and Assessment
29	Spotlight Skills Review	Students will have the opportunity to complete one or more Spotlight skill lessons in order to improve understanding and further practice skills from the unit that they found most challenging.
30	End-of-Unit Assessment	For more detail, please see the End-of-Unit Assessment chart below for Grade 8 Unit 4.

GRADE 8 UNIT 5

Days	Readings	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Program Lessons for Reteaching	Skill Practice and Spiraling
1-2	Big Idea: Who are you in a crisis?	Recognizing Genre: Drama Academic Vocabulary: Clarifying Opinions		Write: Analyzing Genre
3-5	Teen Mogul	Plot (8.RL.KID.3) Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)	Spotlight Skill: Plot (8.RL.KID.3) Spotlight Skill: Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Unit 5 Text: The Diary of Anne Frank: A Play Skill: Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Character (8.RL.KID.3) Plot (8.RL.KID.3) Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5)
6-9	PAIRED READINGS Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl The Diary of Anne Frank: A Play	Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Word Meaning (8.L.VAU.4.c)	Spotlight Skill: Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Spotlight Skill: Word Meaning (8.L.VAU.4.c)	Textual Evidence (8.RL.KID.1) Dramatic Elements and Structure (8.RL.CS.5) Word Meaning (8.L.VAU.4.c)
10-11	Parallel Journeys	Informational Text Elements (8.RI.KID.3)	Spotlight Skill: Informational Text Elements (8.RI.KID.3) Unit 5 Text: Long Walk to Freedom Skill: Informational Text Elements (8.RI.KID.3)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Informational Text Elements (8.RI.KID.3) Author's Purpose and Point of View (8.RI.CS.6) Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5)
12-13	Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat	Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5)	Spotlight Skill: Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5) Unit 5 Text: Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech Skill: Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5) Arguments and Claims (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3)
14-15	Farewell to Manzanar	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1)	Spotlight Skill: Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1)	Textual Evidence (8.RI.KID.1) Informational Text Structure (8.RI.CS.5) Reasons and Evidence (8.RI.IKI.8; 8.SL.CC.3)

16-18	Nobel Prize Acceptance			

Assessment results can be viewed by item, standard, and skil to monitor mastery and make decisions for upcoming instruction.

Assessment Section	Content	Assessed Skills and Standards
Reading NOTE: Selection 4 is optional. It highlights the key skills of the unit and of high-stakes testing and is a valuable asset if time allows.	**Halftime Help** Genre: Non-fiction Word Count: 452 Lexile: 1150	Author's Purpose and Text Structure 8.RI.CS.6 Word Meaning 8.L.VAU.4.c Informational Text Structure 8.RI.CS.5 Informational Text Elements 8.RI.KID.3 Reasons and Evidence 8.RI.IKI.8 Textual Evidence 8.RI.KID.1
	Backstage Drama Genre: Drama Word Count: 591 Lexile: N/A	Dramatic Elements and Structure 8.RL.CS.5 Word Meaning 8.L.VAU.4.c, 8.RL.KID.3 Plot 8.RL.KID.3
	Tricky Kitty Genre: Drama Word Count: 621 Lexile: N/A	Dramatic Elements and Structure 8.RL.CS.5 Word Meaning 8.L.VAU.4.c Plot 8.RL.KID.3 Language, Style, and Audience 8.RL.CS.4 Textual Evidence 8.RLKID.1
	Uphill Battle Genre: Drama Word Count: 866 Lexile: N/A	Dramatic Elements and Structure 8.RL.CS.5 Word Meaning 8.L.VAU.4.c Language, Style, and Audience 8.RL.CS.4 Plot 8.RL.KID.3 Point of View 8.RL.CS.6
Revising and Editing	Student Passage #1	Gerund Phrases 8.L.CSE.1.b Participial Phrases 8.L.CSE.1.b
	Student Passage #2	Revising for Clarity 8.W.PDW.5 Audience 8.W.PDW.5
Writing	Prompt: Oral Presentation	Speech 8.W.TTP.1.a, 8.W.TTP.1.b, 8.W.TTP.1.c, 8.W.TTP.1.d, 8.W.TTP.1.e, 8.W.TTP.1.f, 8.W.TTP.1.g, 8.W.TTP.1.h, 8.W.TTP.1.i

The following instructional resources are available in addition to the instruction offered in the Core ELA content for this unit. These resources are designed for flexible implementation alongside or in lieu of content offered in the 30 days of Core ELA unit instruction:

Resource	Description	Recommended Usage
ELL Resources	The Blitz, Informational	"The Blitz" serves as a structural and thematic model for "Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat," and may be used in place of or as an extension to those texts.
	A Letter from Robert, Drama	"A Letter from Robert" serves as a structural and thematic model for *Teen Mogul*, and may be used in place of or as an extension to those texts.
	EOP, Soliloquy	In this Extended Oral Project, students will write and perform a soliloquy about a time when they experienced a crisis. This may be assigned in place of this unit's EWP.
Novel Study Options	Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, Informational	Novel Studies are chosen to connect with each unit's theme and essential question. They may be used alongside or in lieu of Core ELA texts in this unit.
	Refugee, Fiction	

20-22	Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Central or Main Idea (8.RI.KID.2)		

In the second half of the unit, students continue exploring texts that address the unit's Essential Question. In addition, in the Extended Writing Project, they begin crafting a longer composition to share their own ideas about the Essential Question.

Days	Extended Writing Project and Grammar	Skill and Standard Instruction	Additional Lessons for Reteaching
16	Research Writing Process: Plan		
17-20	Research Writing Process: Draft	Planning Research (8.W.RBPK.7) Evaluating Sources (8.W.RBPK.8; 8.SL.CC.2) Research and Notetaking (8.W.RBPK.7)	Spotlight Skill: Planning Research (8.W.RBPK.7) Spotlight Skill: Evaluating Sources (8.W.RBPK.8; 8.SL.CC.2) Spotlight Skill: Research and Notetaking (8.W.RBPK.7)
21-25	Research Writing Process: Revise	Critiquing Research (8.W.RBPK.7) Paraphrasing (8.W.RBPK.8) Sources and Citations (8.W.RBPK.8) Print and Graphic Features (8.W.TTP.2)	Spotlight Skill: Critiquing Research (8.W.RBPK.7) Spotlight Skill: Paraphrasing (8.W.RBPK.8) Spotlight Skill: Sources and Citations (8.W.RBPK.8) Spotlight Skill: Print and Graphic Features (8.W.TTP.2)
26-28	Research Writing Process: Edit and Publish	Grammar: Infinitive Phrases (8.L.CSE.1.b) Grammar: Commonly Misspelled Words (8.L.CSE.2) Grammar: Ellipses for Pause or Separation (8.L.CSE.2) Grammar: Sentence Fragments (8.L.CSE.1.c)	Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Infinitive Phrases (8.L.CSE.1.b) Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Commonly Misspelled Words (8.L.CSE.2) Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Ellipses for Pause or Separation (8.L.CSE.2) Spotlight Skill: Grammar: Sentence Fragments (8.L.CSE.1.c)

The final two days of the unit are reserved for review and assessment.

Days	Review and Assessment	Skill Practice and Assessment
29	Spotlight Skills Review	Students will have the opportunity to complete one or more Spotlight skill lessons in order to improve understanding and further practice skills from the unit that they found most challenging.
30	End-of-Unit Assessment	For more detail, please see the End-of-Unit Assessment chart below for Grade 8 Unit 6.