

Literacy and Comprehension: An Introduction

The Role of Vocabulary

Students will analyze why word choice is important.

Students will determine how words set/change the tone of a piece through connotations.

Students will identify new vocabulary and apply strategies for comprehension.

Word Analysis

Students will distinguish between literal and figurative language and determine meaning.

Students will identify the parts of speech.

Students will use context to determine the relevant meaning of a word or the intended meaning of a word with multiple meanings (e.g., hatch, arm, boot).

Word Structure

Students will analyze common Greek and Latin roots and use them to understand unfamiliar words.

Students will list common prefixes and suffixes (a-, pre-, re-, con- & verb endings, -ly, -tion, -ious).

Students will use knowledge of root words and affixes to determine the meaning of unknown words.

Language: Grammar

Students will be able to identify and describe key elements of grammar.

Students will distinguish written language with proper grammar from conversational/colloquial language and understand the importance of standard grammar.

Language: Sentence Structure

Students will identify how complex sentences can increase interest in their writing.

Students will value different ways of presenting sentences (simple, complex, clauses, prepositional phrases).

Fluency: Accuracy

Students will identify why it is important to read words correctly (meaning) and establish guidelines to help do so.

The Environment: Extreme Weather

The Strategy Focus: Visualizing

Apply visualizing strategies to different types of text.

Create your own visuals.

Define the strategies used in visualizing.

Identify the strategy of visualizing.

Math - Extreme Temperatures: Some Like it HOT!

Fluency: Read with a friend and evaluate each other's fluency.

Math Comprehension: Apply order of operations; solve an expression.

Reading Comprehension: Use pictures and text to visualize and understand what the text may not tell you.

Vocabulary: Understand technical vocabulary in context.



Science - Earth Science: Is There A Storm Brewing? Just Ask the Sky

Fluency: Read quotes as if you were having a true conversation.

Reading Comprehension: Visualize a setting using key descriptive words.

Science Comprehension: Understand some causes and effects of weather phenomena.

Vocabulary: Understand vocabulary words using context.

Social Studies - World History: In Fire and Ash: Pompeii Lost

Fluency: Read as if you were there.

Reading Comprehension: Visualize a sequence of events to increase understanding.

Social Studies Comprehension: Use and understand maps.

Vocabulary: Understand Greek and Latin roots.

Elective - Health: Global Warming and Superbugs

Fluency: Focus on reading phrases, not individual words.

Health Comprehension: Evaluate potential health risks by assessing and evaluating data (anecdote vs. experiment).

Reading Comprehension: Visualize to prepare for reading, and to draw conclusions when finished.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand homophones.

Literary Text: Short Story - "The Dog of Pompeii" by Louis Untermeyer

Fluency: Create and maintain unique voices for different characters.

Use descriptive language to visualize a scene.

Visualize to draw conclusions about mood and tone.

Vocabulary: Understand terms associated with a specific time and place.

Functional Text: How-To Article - Tornado in a Bottle

Create a visual aid to teach someone about tornados.

Fluency: Use emphasis to communicate the key information in each step.

Visualize steps in a procedure.

Vocabulary: Understand vocabulary words in context.

Visual Text: Online Illustrated Educational Storybook

Fluency: Practice reading and rereading as if you were presenting to an audience of children.

Use visual aids alone to retell the text.

Use visual aids to improve comprehension.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand specific descriptive language.

The Animals: Amazing Heroes

The Strategy Focus: Text Structure - One Foot, Two Foot, Barbed Foot, Goo Foot: Structure Matters

Analyze different text formats and purposes.

Identify the strategy of text structure.

Recognize different types of text structure.

Use previewing to identify text structure.



Science - Underwater Wonders

Fluency: Identify changes in tone and establish appropriate expression when reading.

Reading Comprehension: Identify and use clues and signal words to determine text structure.

Science Comprehension: Examine and analyze survival adaptations in marine life.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand vocabulary words in context.

Social Studies - Fearless in Fur, Fins, and Feathers: Animals in the Armed Forces

Fluency: Practice reading with a serious tone.

Reading Comprehension: Identify problem/solution format in text, identify specific problems and solutions.

Social Studies Comprehension: Examine a timeline of military events, examine problem solving in war.

Vocabulary Comprehension: Apply a variety of strategies to understand vocabulary words in context, including context clues and analysis of roots and affixes.

Elective - Health: Above and Beyond - Animal Rescues

Fluency: Identify changes in tone, reflect changes in your expression (both serious and poignant).

Reading Comprehension: Recognize and distinguish between cause-effect and chronological structures.

Vocabulary: Recognize and analyze compound words and words with roots and affixes.

Literary Text: Autobiographical Essay Excerpt

Fluency: Practice reading to convey emotion and drama.

Literary Skill: Identify how the form of sentences and text contribute to mood.

Reading Skill: Identify text structure and use structure to summarize.

Vocabulary: Recognize and understand technical vocab in context.

The Arts: World Artists Discovered

The Strategy Focus: Questioning

Apply questioning strategies to different types of text.

Define the strategies used in questioning.

Identify the different types of questions.

Identify the strategy of questioning.

Math - Approaching Art from a Different Angle: Geometry and Islamic Art

Fluency: Practice challenging words in advance to read fluently and accurately.

Math Comprehension: Understand geometric shapes, tessellations, and symmetry in Islamic art.

Reading Comprehension: 5W's + H Questioning.

Vocabulary: Recognize and understand specialized vocabulary.

Science - Human Biology: Synesthesia - It's a Colorful World!

Fluency: Substitute transitions for visual elements in text.

Reading Comprehension: Student will set goals for the reading (what s/he wants to learn, formulate questions based on title or graphics, new words s/he will learn).

Science Comprehension: Understand the five senses and corresponding regions of the brain.

Vocabulary: Understand Greek and Latin roots.



Social Studies - History in Living Color

Fluency: Pause after rhetorical or open-ended questions.

Reading Comprehension: Form "between the lines" questions to make inferences about the artist, motivations, and significance.

Social Studies Comprehension: Understand historical and political value of art.

Vocabulary: Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Elective - Philosophy: Art and the Envelope

Fluency: Identify the tone and read with appropriate expression.

Philosophy Comprehension: Examine whether art is a subjective judgment or an objective reality.

Reading Comprehension: Form "beyond the text" questions to apply text content to other knowledge and experiences.

Vocabulary: Use Greek and Latin roots to connect to and understand vocabulary.

Technology: The World of Gaming

The Strategy Focus: Previewing - Check It Out

Apply previewing strategies to different types of text.

Define the strategies used in previewing.

Identify the different types of text.

Identify the strategy of Previewing.

Math - At the Cutting Edge of Cool

Fluency: Communicate the main idea of a paragraph through vocal emphasis.

Math Comprehension: Explore Math careers and math applications.

Reading Comprehension: Preview a text and make predictions.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand word roots from Greek and Latin.

Science - The Nobel Prize in Gaming?

Fluency: Read in-text questions and answers with proper inflection.

Reading Comprehension: Use scanning and skimming techniques to preview a non-fiction text.

Science Comprehension: Understand how normal and abnormal proteins function in the body.

Vocabulary: Determine the intended meaning of a word with multiple meanings by using context clues.

Social Studies - Console Controversy: Games Based on Current Events Stir Debate

Fluency: Student will use punctuation to guide phrasing and pauses.

Reading Comprehension: Add details to predictions.

Social Studies Comprehension: Examine current events from several perspectives.

Vocabulary: Use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Elective - Physical Education: The Revolution Is Here and Wii Have Some Serious Moves

Fluency: Use commas to guide phrasing and pauses when reading aloud.

Physical Education Comprehension: Using federal guidelines for physical activity, evaluate own activity level.

Reading Comprehension: Combine prior knowledge with textual clues to make predictions.

Vocabulary: Distinguish between and understand compound words and words with affixes.



The Medical Field: Mystery Illnesses Through the Ages

The Strategy Focus: Summarizing

Apply summarizing strategies to different types of text.

Define the strategies used in summarizing.

Identify the strategy of Summarizing.

Math - Reading Visual Representations: 1918 - On the Trail of Influenza

Fluency: Determine the appropriate tone for a piece and practice reading with that tone.

Math Comprehension: Interpret a variety of charts and graphs.

Reading Comprehension: Identify key concepts by focusing on introduction, topic sentences, and conclusion.

Vocabulary: Interpret context clues and identify in-text definitions to understand unfamiliar words.

Science - The Mystery and Madness of "Mad Cow"

Fluency: Practice challenging words ahead of time by chunking them.

Reading Comprehension: Use lists of cause-effect relationships and make generalizations to summarize text.

Science Comprehension: Identify components of the central nervous system.

Vocabulary: Students use in-text definitions and paraphrasing to identify and understand key vocabulary.

Social Studies - The Black Death: The Disease that Won't Die

Fluency: Accurately read abbreviations in text.

Reading Comprehension: Use timelines and flow charts to shape a summary of main ideas and supporting details.

Social Studies Comprehension: Understand how massive disease outbreaks can impact a society, its organization/government, and potentially its culture.

Vocabulary: Use resources such as a dictionary or thesaurus to learn new vocabulary.

Elective - Health and Environmental Science: MCS - The New Canary?

Environmental Science Comprehension: Understand the potential negative effects of environmental toxins and contaminants on humans.

Fluency: Determine the appropriate tone and practice reading with that tone.

Reading Comprehension: Use textual features (title, subheadings, and captions) to review a text, id important details, and create a summary.

Vocabulary: Students will identify and interpret affixes and base words (including Greek or Latin) in vocabulary.

Visual Text Skill: Analyzing a Poster

Fluency: Use layout and other visual cues to determine phrasing and emphasis.

Reading Comprehension: Take notes on primary features and objectives; generalize the message of the larger campaign.

Visual Text Comprehension: Analyze how graphics are used to underscore the message for different audiences.

Vocabulary: Use pictures and context to determine the meaning of vocabulary.

The Stories We Spin: Ancient and Modern Myths Uncovered

Theme: Ancient and Modern Myths

Introduce the theme of ancient and modern myths for the unit.

The Strategy Focus: Inferencing

Define the strategies used in Inferencing.

Identify the strategy of Inferencing.



Math - In Sunlight and Shadow: Mythology and Knowledge of the Ancient Maya

Fluency: Students will identify words not from English and develop a strategy to read them fluently.

Math Comprehension: Perform basic calculations using different counting systems such as Roman and Mayan numerals.

Reading Comprehension: Students will make inferences about causes and their effects.

Vocabulary: Students will recognize and understand vocabulary using base words and affixes.

Science - Water, Water Everywhere

Fluency: Students will remember to pause more briefly with punctuation than they do at section breaks (paragraph, new subheading).

Reading Comprehension: Students will go beyond the text to make universal and cultural inferences.

Science Comprehension: Students will understand the water cycle.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand the specific purposes of common transitions.

Social Studies - Rediscovering Lost Atlantis

Fluency: Practice pacing and volume for clarity.

Reading Comprehension: Use inferences to make predictions.

Social Studies Comprehension: Use and interpret maps; understand map features.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand words with multiple meanings.

Elective - Paper Dolls: One-Dimensional Goddesses

Fluency: Focus on reading phrases, not individual words.

Reading Comprehension: Students will go beyond the text to make culture-specific inferences using details in myths.

Vocabulary: Analyze compound words and words with roots and affixes.

Women's Studies: Analyze archetypes to understand values encouraged in women in different cultures.

Literary Text: King Long Shanks

Fluency: Practice reading as if you were telling a bedtime story to a small child.

Literary Comprehension: Analyze tone.

Reading Comprehension: Go beyond the text to make inferences on why modern authors rewrite myths and fairy tales.

Vocabulary: Use context to understand unfamiliar words; find synonyms when possible.

Persuasive Text: Editorial

Fluency: Read as if you were on stage - focus on volume and expression.

Persuasive Skill: Demonstrate how the author uses appeal to emotions to make his point.

Reading Skill: Infer the author's motivation for writing this piece.

Vocabulary: Make connections between less familiar and more familiar words from the text or your prior knowledge.

Functional Text: Recipe

Fluency: Identify changes in tone and reflect them while reading.

Functional Text Comprehension: Correctly follow a set of instructions.

Reading Comprehension: Use prior knowledge to make inferences about a non-fiction text.

Vocabulary: Identify and understand sensory language; understand technical language in recipes.



Engineering Today: The Challenge - Transportation

The Strategy Focus: Metacognition

Examine strategies of metacognition.

Understand metacognition in relation to comprehension.

Math - Interpreting Statistics: Fastest Mass Transit

Fluency: Focus on punctuation and intended meaning to guide phrasing in long sentences.

Math Comprehension: Students will apply d = r * t formula and a graphic organizer to solve a word problem.

Reading Comprehension: Students will choose previewing strategies; evaluate previewing strategies while reading (check predictions, verify text structure, etc.).

Vocabulary: Recognize and understand vocabulary words in context.

Science - Bikes as Serious Business

Fluency: Use textual clues to identify tone; reflect tone in expression.

Reading Comprehension: Students will monitor understanding while reading (asking questions to relate pictures to text, summarizing while reading).

Science Comprehension: Use diagrams to understand the structure and application of simple machines.

Vocabulary: Understand applied technical vocabulary; recognize and understand vocab words in context.

Social Studies - Transportation Legislation

Fluency: Students will divide unfamiliar words into syllables to determine accurate pronunciation.

Reading Comprehension: Students will monitor understanding by revising predictions while reading and summarizing after reading.

Social Studies Comprehension: Students will understand how a bill becomes law.

Vocabulary: Students will understand non-literal language (figurative language and idioms) in context.

Elective - Shrinks Help Alternative Transportation Expand

Fluency: Students will practice presenting a visual aid naturally instead of reading it verbatim.

Psychology Objective: Students understand the factors influencing transportation choices.

Reading Comprehension: Evaluate strategy and graphic organizers to summarize text (cause/effect, chronological, etc.).

Vocabulary: Students will identify the appropriate strategy to determine the meaning of a word (resource, context, internet, etc.).

Literary Text: Poetry

Fluency: Use expression to create two different voices in a poem.

Literary Comprehension: Metaphor: Analyze figurative language.

Reading Comprehension: Choose an appropriate strategy to understand and analyze a poem.

Vocabulary: Synonyms: Understand how poets choose specific synonyms to add to the feel of a poem.

Persuasive Text: Our Future in Space

Fluency: Break challenging words down by roots and affixes to pronounce them correctly.

Persuasive Skill: Identify the author's bias in a seemingly factual text by using textual clues.

Reading Comprehension: Identify text structure to take notes in a graphic organizer.

Vocabulary Skill: Understand multiple meaning words in context; use a dictionary and context clues.



Functional Text: How to Ollie

Fluency: Emphasize words that describe the order to create a picture in the listener's mind.

Functional Text: Evaluate the importance of visuals in functional texts by comparing three different texts on the same topic.

Reading Comprehension: Follow a set of directions in order to complete a task.

Vocabulary: Understand jargon, including multiple meaning words in context.