



GRADE

7

**D91 Pathway to the
Common Core Standards
English Language Arts**

In grade seven, students will continue to develop the ability to cite relevant evidence when interpreting or analyzing a text or supporting their points in speaking and writing. Your child will also build academic vocabulary as he or she reads more complex texts, including stories, plays, historical novels, poems, and informational books and articles.

Activities in these areas will include:

- Analyzing how the form or structure of a play or poem contributes to its meaning
- Analyzing how particular elements of a story or play interact (like how the setting shapes the characters or plot)
- Determining how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text
- Conducting short research projects, drawing on several sources and identifying related questions for further research and investigation
- Engaging in a range of classroom discussions on topics and texts, expressing ideas clearly and building on the ideas of others
- Identifying a speaker's argument and specific claims and evaluating the reasoning and evidence behind these claims
- Using clues such as word roots or add-ons to a word (such as the prefix *hyper-*, which means 'excessive' in the words *hyperactive* and *hypersensitive*) to determine the meaning of a word
- Interpreting figures of speech or references to literature or mythology in a text
- Writing for a range of purposes and audiences

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you.

Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child's work meeting grade-level expectations?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

In grade seven, students will read a wide range of literature, including stories, plays, and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Grade Six Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details. Students also provide a summary of the text without personal opinions or judgments. • Students explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. 	Grade Seven Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Students also provide an objective summary of the text. • Students analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text. 	Grade Eight Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot. Students also provide an objective summary of the text. • Students analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.
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READING FOR INFORMATION

Grade Six Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cite evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. • Students integrate information presented in different media or formats (such as visually, or through numbers) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue. 	Grade Seven Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cite several pieces of evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. • Students compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (such as how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words). 	Grade Eight Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cite evidence from the text that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. • Students evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (such as print or digital text, video, or multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
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Writing tasks in grade seven may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Six Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students introduce a topic and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented. • Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect. • Students use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary. 	Grade Seven Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented. • Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect. • Students use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform or explain the topic. 	Grade Eight Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow, and develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented. • Students organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories. • Students use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
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Helping your child on the path to success...

1. Create a literacy rich home by modeling reading and critical thinking.
2. Have your child journal about his/her day in order to practice proper writing skills including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, complete subjects/ predicates, etc. Have your child read at least one entry a week to you of their choice.
3. Choose a novel that you and your child are interested in. Read the novel and then discuss certain aspects of the book together such as, actions that the main character(s) participate in, decisions that the characters make, emotions, events, etc.
4. Check out the teacher's webpage each week to see what is happening in the classroom and link to activities and resources.
5. Encourage your child to question facts that he/she learns by having them look up information that he/she has questions about. For example, have your child "Google" information that he/she would like to know about, find directions to a new place that the family is traveling to, or look up words that are unknown in conversation or in print. Have your child become familiar with the many resources that available today!
6. Read a book and see the movie. Help your child make comparisons through discussion where he/she can defend opinions and pick out details.
7. Read your child's writing samples, including final drafts and provide feedback.
8. Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
9. Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
10. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading.

