

# Oakwood City School District

## Grade Nine English Language Arts

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#### Grade Nine Course Description

The Language Arts program defines what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. The standards correspond to the College and Career Readiness anchor standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. Together with the grade specific standards, this curriculum defines the skills and understandings that all students must demonstrate. Students will gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. In writing, students will demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary to and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources.

#### Inquiry and Application Standards

In response to higher standards and real-world demands, there exists a growing need across content areas and grade levels for students to become resourceful, effective investigators and problem-solvers. Inquiry-based teaching is a powerful vehicle through which such goals for learning are possible (Barron et al., 1998; Edelson, Gordin, & Pea, 1999; Lappan, 2000; Owens, Hester, & Teale, 2002; Perez, 2000).

Inquiry-based projects can build learning communities that foster communication skills, interpretive abilities and an understanding of issues from a variety of perspectives (Bruce, 2002; Owens, Hester, & Teale, 2002).

**Inquiry-based teaching** is an instructional approach in which students' own interests and curiosities drive the learning process and products. Students select topics to research; formulate questions; collect, cull and synthesize information; and, finally, create and present a product that has real-world application (such as models, interviews, experiments) from what they learned. Teachers serve as facilitators and resources (Owens et al., 2002)

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### Content Standards

#### I. Reading Strand: Reading for Literature

##### A. Key Ideas and Details

1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges & is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
3. Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

##### B. Craft and Structure

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning & tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).
2. Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.
3. Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

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### C. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

1. Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts” & Breughel’s Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).
2. (Not applicable to literature)
3. Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).

### D. Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

1. By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 9–10 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

## II. Reading for Information

### A. Key Ideas and Details

1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
3. Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced & developed, & the connections that are drawn between them.

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### B. Craft and Structure

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).
2. Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
3. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text & analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

### C. Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

1. Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
2. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
3. Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt's Four Freedoms speech, King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"), including how they address related themes and concepts.

### D. Range of Reading and Text Complexity

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1. By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 9–10 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

### III. Writing

#### A. Text Types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning & relevant and sufficient evidence.
  - a) Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
  - b) Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
  - c) Use words, phrases, & clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, & clarify the relationships between claim(s) & reasons, between reasons & evidence, & between claim(s) & counterclaims.
  - d) Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
  - e) Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

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2. Write informative & explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

a) Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

b) Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, & sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information & examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

c) Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

d) Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.

e) Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

f) Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

a) Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of

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view, and introducing a narrator and &or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.

b) Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and &or characters.

c) Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.

d) Use precise words & phrases, telling details, & sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and &or characters.

e) Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

### B. Production and Distribution of Writing

1. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

2. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

3. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, & update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information & to display information flexibly & dynamically.

### C. Research to Build and Present Knowledge

1. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on

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the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

2. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism & following a standard format for citation.

3. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

a) Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]”).

b) Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid & the evidence is relevant & sufficient; identify false statements & fallacious reasoning”).

4. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### IV. Speaking and Listening

#### A. Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Initiate & participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, & teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, & issues, building on others’ ideas & expressing their own clearly & persuasively.

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a) Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

b) Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views), clear goals & deadlines, & individual roles as needed.

c) Propel conversations by posing & responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into discussion; & clarify, verify, or challenge ideas & conclusions.

d) Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

2. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility & accuracy of each source.

3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.

### B. Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

1. Present information, findings, & supporting evidence clearly, concisely, & logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, the organization, development, substance, style are appropriate to purpose, audience, & task.

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2. Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.
3. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

### V. Language

#### A. Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
  - a) Use parallel structure.
  - b) Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
  - a) Use a semicolon (and perhaps a conjunctive adverb) to link two or more closely related independent clauses..
  - b) Use a colon to introduce a list or quotation.
  - c) Spell correctly.

#### B. Knowledge of Language

1. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
  - a) Write and edit work so that it conforms to the guidelines in a style manual (e.g., MLA Handbook, Turabian's Manual for Writers) appropriate for the discipline and writing type.

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### C. Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading & content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

a) Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).

b) Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print & digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.

c) Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

2. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

a) Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.

b) Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

D. Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, & listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.