

9th Grade

English Language Arts

Key Instructional Activities

- Making connections about how complex ideas interact and develop within a book, essay, or article
- Assessing the strength of an author's or speaker's points and assumptions based on evidence from the text
- Developing the skill, fluency, and concentration to produce high-quality writing, as well as the capacity to edit and improve their writing over multiple drafts
- Reading and analyzing foundational works of American and world literature and examining how two or more texts from the same time period treat similar themes or topics
- Citing strong evidence from a text to analyze what it says explicitly as well as what it infers, including determining when a text leaves a point unclear or unproven
- Identifying and evaluating the reasoning used in historical documents, including the application of constitutional or legal principals
- Supporting arguments in an analysis of challenging topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence
- Conducting research projects to answer a question or solve a problem
- Participating effectively in group discussions, expressing ideas clearly and building on the ideas of others
- Demonstrating understanding of complex or figurative language, and distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is actually meant
- Understanding the role that figurative language plays in a text
- Presenting information using multiple media formats
- Evaluating arguments and specific claims; assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is sufficient; and as appropriate, detecting inconsistencies and ambiguities
- Analyzing the meaning of foundational U.S. documents (the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights)
- Making an argument that is logical, well-reasoned, and supported by evidence
- Writing a literary analysis that develops a central idea and a coherent focus and is well supported with relevant examples, facts, and details
- Writing narratives that develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences

To become college and career ready, students evaluate intricate arguments and analyze challenges posed by complex texts. Through wide and deep reading, students better understand references and images. They develop the flexibility, concentration, and fluency to produce high-quality, first drafts of writing under tight deadlines. They improve a piece of writing over multiple drafts. They assert and defend claims and show what they know about a subject using appropriate examples and evidence.



HOUSTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

By the end of 9th grade, all students are expected to:

- Closely and critically read complex works of literature and informational texts;
- Interpret what they read and present written and spoken analysis based on appropriate examples and evidence from the text;
- Assess the strength of an author's or speaker's points and assumptions based on evidence from the text;
- Expand their literary and cultural knowledge by reading great classic and contemporary works representative of various time periods, cultures, and worldviews, and
- Develop the skill, fluency, and concentration to produce high-quality writing, as well as the capacity to edit and improve their writing over multiple drafts.

Helping Your Student in 9th Grade English

Learning does not end in the classroom. Students need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to create a quiet place for your student to study, and carve out time every day when your student can concentrate on reading and writing uninterrupted by friends, brothers or sisters, or other distractions. Sit down with your student at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your student is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your student needs help with specific topics. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your student become successful both in and outside the classroom.

- Read, read, read! The amount your student reads independently is directly connected to his or her success in school.
- Listen with your student to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your student to tell you the speaker's main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?
- Visit a library or bookstore together and ask the librarian or bookseller to recommend young adult books. To find popular young adult books for your student to read, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3rjcelh>.
- Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
- Invite your student to participate in an adult gathering, such as a meal with friends, to practice listening skills and making conversation.
- Practice determining meanings of unknown words when you encounter them in written texts, television shows, radio, etc.
- Provide time and space for your student to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television.
- Ask your student what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your student to read.
- It is also helpful when your student sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
- Visit museums, zoos, theaters, historical sites, aquariums, and other educational places to help increase your student's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
- Use technology to help build your student's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.



9th English Literature/Composition Overview



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn in his or her 9th Literature and Composition English course. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn, which will build a strong foundation for success in the other subjects studied throughout high school. This guide is based on the state-adopted Georgia standards. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for success in future courses and after graduation.

Unit 1: Against All Odds Essential Question: What does it take to survive a crisis?	Unit 2: Breaking Through Barriers Essential Question: Are some differences too great to overcome?	Unit 3: Crime Scenes Essential Questions: Who suffers when a crime is committed?
Performance Goal: Developing an argument essay	Performance Goal: Developing a narrative	Performance Goal: Developing an informational essay
<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Literary Nonfiction Analyze Author's Perspective Analyze Arguments Analyze Rhetorical Devices Analyze Flashback and Tension Make Inferences Analyze Poetic Language Analyze Poetic Structure Analyze Memoirs Analyze Word Choice Compare Accounts <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an argument <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patterns of Word Changes Synonyms Prefixes Multiple-Meaning Words <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colons and Semicolons Commas Relative Clauses Clauses 	<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Central Idea and Detail Analyze Text Structure Analyze Purpose and Message Analyze Voice and Tone Analyze Setting and Theme Analyze Text Structure Analyze Theme and Details Analyze Figurative Language Analyze Representations in Different Mediums Compare Across Genres Analyze Author's Purpose and Rhetoric <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a narrative <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffixes that Form Nouns Denotative and Connotative Meanings Words from Latin Multiple-Meaning Words <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Clauses Adverbial Clauses Prepositional Phrases Parallel Structure 	<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Universal Themes Analyze Characterization Analyze Main Idea and Details Summarize and Paraphrase Texts Make Inferences About Characters Make Inferences About Theme Paraphrase Texts Analyze Media Messages Build Active Listening Skills Make Inferences Compare Accounts of a Subject <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an informational essay <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context Clues Verify Word Meanings Affixes Words from Greek and Latin <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colons Adjective and Adverb Phrases Sentence Variety Active and Passive Voice

Unit 4: Love and Loss Essential Question: How can love bring both pain and joy?	Unit 5: Freedom at All Costs Essential Question: Can each of us find freedom?	Unit 6: Epic Journeys Essential Question: What drives us to take on a challenge?
Performance Goal: Developing a literary analysis	Performance Goal: Developing a research report	Performance Goal: Developing an expository essay
<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Literary Devices Analyze Parallel Plots Analyze Source Material Compare Authors' Claims Analyze Rhetoric Compare Arguments <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a Literary Analysis <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare's Language Figurative Language <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel Structure Verb Phrases 	<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Irony Analyze Arguments Analyze Rhetorical Devices Analyze Author's Purpose Analyze Text Structure Analyze Narrator Perspective Analyze Poetic Language Analyze Rhetorical Devices Analyze Setting and Purpose Determine Author's Point of View Compare Treatments of a Topic <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a Research Report <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context Clues Antonyms Reference Sources Denotative and Connotative Meanings <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participial Phrases Repetition and Parallelism Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement Verb Tense 	<p>Key Reading Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze Character Analyze Epic Poetry Make Predictions Determine Central Idea Analyze Ideas and Events Evaluate Graphic Features Interpret Figurative Language Make Connections Compare Messages Across Genres <p>Key Writing Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an Expository Essay <p>Key Vocabulary Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words from Latin Use References Word Roots <p>Key Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absolute Phrases Appositives Sentence Variety