Grade 8: Reading Benchmark
Literary Elements

Welcome to Reading with the B.E.S.T.
Amplify ELA Modules for Florida

The Florida Reading Benchmark Modules are projectable instructional resources that provide an introduction to each grade level B.E.S.T. Reading benchmark. They provide students with a foundational understanding of each benchmark and how it supports text analysis through targeted interactive instruction and practice.

Modules are based on a gradual release model and can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- Whole class lessons to introduce and apply benchmark skills and concepts
- Whole class or small group review of benchmark definitions in any lesson where a refresher is needed
- Small group instruction to reinforce and practice skills for struggling students

Within each module, students apply the targeted benchmark to an analysis of passages from texts from the Florida booklists housed in the Amplify Library. Students are given directions on how to access the texts and use the Amplify eReader to highlight and annotate the passages for whole class discussion. The sections in the modules are designed to build upon each other–starting with an introduction to benchmark definitions and culminating with independent practice. This design works best if the modules are approached as a whole, rather than using the sections out of order or skipping parts.

The modules are divided into five sections:

Benchmark Introduction: 5 min.

- Key benchmark definitions, terms, and examples

Benchmark Skill Routine: 10 min.

- Teacher-led introduction to a skill routine for applying the benchmark to text analysis

Benchmark in Action: 10–15 min.

- Teacher-led walkthrough, using a passage from a relevant Florida text to demonstrate how to use the skill routine to analyze a text

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Independent Practice: 10–15 min.

- Directions for student practice, applying the benchmark and skill routine to a second passage from a relevant text

Check for Understanding: 5 min.

- 2–4 key questions students use during whole class discussion to explain their findings and to wrap up the work on each benchmark

In addition, teacher resources in this PDF include:

- **Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:** List of selected lessons where students will encounter and practice the benchmark
- **Benchmark Stack:** List of benchmarks that students are likely to work with while using the spotlight benchmark to analyze a text
- **Possible Responses:** Sample answers for the Check for Understanding section of the module

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Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA

List of selected Amplify ELA lessons where students will encounter and practice the benchmark

ELA.8.R.1.1

Literary Elements: Analyze the interaction between character development, setting, and plot in a literary text.

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 1

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 1, Lessons 1 and 12

8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 2

Benchmark Stack

List of benchmarks that students are likely to work with while using the spotlight benchmark to analyze a text

ELA.8.R.1.1

Literary Elements: Analyze the interaction between character development, setting, and plot in a literary text.

- **ELA.K12.EE.1.1**
  ELA Expectation: Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
- **ELA.K12.EE.2.1**
  ELA Expectation: Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
- **ELA.8.R.1.2**
  Theme: Analyze two or more themes and their development throughout a literary text.
- **ELA.8.R.1.3**
  Perspective and Point of View: Analyze how an author develops and individualizes the perspectives of different characters.

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Possible Responses

1. What are a few key details about the characters, setting, and plot?

    - "We walked through a corridor and followed the nurse into an examination room. It had white walls, a white chair, a white, glass-enclosed cabinet, and a tall metal table with a white sheet over the mattress. Mr. Galanter helped me onto the table" (par. 1)
    - "I lay there and stared up at the white ceiling out of my right eye" (par. 1)
    - "I was frightened, and I wondered what was causing the pain in my eye." (par. 4)
    - "thinking of Danny Saunders, I found myself hating him again and all the other side-curled fringe wearers on his yeshiva team." (par. 4)
    - "The call would frighten him terribly. I found I could not keep back my tears, and I blinked a few times and winced with the pain." (par. 4)

2. How do the characters, setting, and plot influence one another in this passage?

    - Effect of setting on character: The cold, unfamiliar setting of the hospital makes Reuven afraid and sad that his dad will be afraid, too. Those feelings make him hate Danny Saunders and his teammates.
    - Effect of setting on plot: The doctor's arrival and departure are dependent on the setting.
    - Effect of character on plot: Reuven's fear spurs him to lay still and think about everything.

3. How have the characters, setting, and plot changed since the previous passage? What were the effects of these changes?

    - The first setting prompts the narrator to feel pride, while the second stokes fear and makes him upset. The first setting causes the narrator to act and join the softball team, but the second setting makes him stay still and await the doctor's opinion.

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