Grade 8: Reading Benchmark
Figurative Language

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.3.1

Figurative Language: Analyze how figurative language contributes to meaning and explain examples of symbolism in text(s).

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 2

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 1, Lessons 4 and 7

Poetry in America: Grade 8, Sub-unit 1, 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.3.1

Figurative Language: Analyze how figurative language contributes to meaning and explain examples of symbolism in text(s).

- **ELA.8.R.1.4**
  Poetry: Analyze structure, sound, imagery, and figurative language in poetry.
- **ELA.8.R.2.3**
  Author's Purpose and Perspective: Explain how an author establishes and achieves purpose(s) through rhetorical appeals and/or figurative language.
- **ELA.8.R.3.2**
  Paraphrase and Summarize: Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.
- **ELA.8.V.1.3**
  Context and Connotation: Apply knowledge of context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the connotative and denotative meaning of words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.

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Possible Responses

1. What language does the author include that isn't literal and/or could be an example of symbolism?
    - "And it is like a woman stooping down and creeping about behind that pattern." (par. 125) (simile and possible symbolic detail)
    - "it becomes bars! The outside pattern I mean, and the woman behind it is as plain as can be." (par. 153) (possible symbolic detail)
    - "By daylight she is subdued, quiet. I fancy it is the pattern that keeps her so still. It is so puzzling. It keeps me quiet by the hour." (par. 155) (possible symbolic detail)

2. What feelings or ideas are suggested by the figurative language and/or symbols?
    - "[I]t is like a woman stooping down and creeping about behind that pattern" compares the wallpaper to an image of a woman behind a pattern, making it seem like she's trapped there. This reminds me of the narrator feeling trapped in the house.
    - "[I]t becomes bars! The outside pattern I mean, and the woman behind it is as plain as can be" makes me think the wallpaper is a kind of prison, which connects to the narrator's feeling that she's trapped and confined.
    - "By daylight she is subdued, quiet. I fancy it is the pattern that keeps her so still. It is so puzzling. It keeps me quiet by the hour" suggests that the narrator feels connected to the the woman in the wallpaper because they're both quiet during the day and restless at night.

3. Explain how the figurative language and symbols in this text convey meaning.
    - The passage focuses on the narrator's increasing obsession with the wallpaper and her certainty that she sees a woman trapped behind its pattern. The narrator's description of wallpaper is symbolic of her own condition, specifically her being kept against her will, forced to remain idle, and feeling unhappy and desperate.

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