Grade 8: Reading Benchmark
Comparative Reading

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.3.3

Comparative Reading: Compare and contrast the use or discussion of archetypes in texts.

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 6

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 1

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 4, Lesson 1

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 1

Benchmark Stack

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

ELA.8.R.3.3

Comparative Reading: Compare and contrast the use or discussion of archetypes in texts.

- **ELA.K12.EE.3.1**
  ELA Expectation: Make inferences to support comprehension.
- **ELA.8.R.1.2**
  Theme: Analyze two or more themes and their development throughout a literary text.
- **ELA.8.R.2.2**
  Central Idea: Analyze two or more central ideas and their development throughout a text.

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Possible Responses

1. What are three or four details that reveal each author's use of the sage archetype?

    - Passage 3:
      Traits: "'Then listen to me,' [Uchendu] said and cleared his throat." (par. 1); "You think that you are the greatest sufferer in the world?" (par. 2)

      Actions and Outcomes: "He paused for a long while"; "'These are now your kinsmen.' He waved at his sons and daughters." (par. 1)

      Lessons: "Be careful or you may displease the dead. Your duty is to comfort your wives and children..." (par. 1)

    - Passage 4
      Traits: "Right. But do you think I could face my children otherwise?"; "I don't pretend to understand... (par. 4)

      Actions and Outcomes: "I scurried to my room and went to bed.... But I never figured out how Atticus knew I was listening"; "he wanted me to hear every word he said" (par. 4)

      Lessons: "I hope and pray I can get Jem and Scout through it without bitterness, and most of all, without catching Maycomb's usual disease."; "I just hope that Jem and Scout come to me for their answers instead of listening to the town." (par. 4)

2. What key qualities and message does each author associate with their use of the archetype?

    - Uchendu is depicted as having great concern for the mental state of his nephew, using warnings and examples from his own and others' lives to help Okonkwo pull himself out of his depression. He speaks with gravity, pausing to gather his thoughts, as he gives Okonkwo perspective on his suffering.

    - Atticus's conversation with Jack and his decision to have Scout overhear depict his desire to guide his children in the right direction and help them make the right decisions on their own. He wishes to teach his children that he will provide them with guidance by example and by answering their questions.

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3. Compare and contrast each author's use of the sage archetype.

    - Both sages want the younger people to be happy and get past difficult times. Achebe's sage uses his wisdom to share his experiences to help Okonkwo, while Atticus doesn't speak directly to Scout but encourages her to be better and seek help from him when she needs it.

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