Grade 8: Benchmark Modules Overview

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

Amplify's Reading with the B.E.S.T. modules are instructional resources that provide an introduction to each grade level B.E.S.T. reading standard. The targeted interactive instruction and practice routines are designed to help students develop a foundational understanding of each benchmark and how it supports text analysis.

Within each module, students apply the targeted benchmark to an analysis of passages from Florida Sample Book List texts 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.

Each module is divided into five sections:

Benchmark Introduction: 5 min.

- Key student-friendly 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

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, the teacher-facing PDF that accompanies each benchmark module includes:

- **Possible Responses:** Sample answers for the Check for Understanding section of the module
- **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

Integrating the Modules Into Instruction

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

- **Introduce the Benchmark (45–50 min.)**
  Integrate and teach the module as a whole class lesson within units where this benchmark is a Spotlight. Use the list on the following pages to identify the relevant units and lessons.
- **Review the Benchmark (5–15 min.)**
  Provide whole class or small group review of benchmark definitions and/or a skill routine as needed within lessons where students work with this benchmark.
- **Resource for students who need additional support**
  Use the modules with a small group during Amplify Flex Days to reinforce and practice a benchmark.

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA

The list that follows identifies Amplify lessons where students work closely with the specified benchmark in their textual analysis. This list also identifies the source text(s) for the passages used in each module.

Use this list to plan how to integrate the benchmark modules in the ways suggested above.



8th Grade

ELA.8.R.1.1

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

Source text:

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

Benchmark Lessons:

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

ELA.8.R.1.2

Theme: Analyze two or more themes and their development throughout a literary text.

Source text:

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Benchmark Lessons:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 13

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 5

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

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 15

ELA.8.R.1.3

Perspective and Point of View: Analyze how an author develops and individualizes the perspectives of different characters.

Source text:

The Princess and The Goblin by George MacDonald

Benchmark Lessons:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lessons 3, 8, 12

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 1, Lessons 11 and 12



ELA.8.R.1.4

Poetry: Analyze structure, sound, imagery, and figurative language in poetry.

Source text:

"The Bells" by Edgar Allan Poe

"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

Benchmark Lessons:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 5

8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 5

Poetry in America: Grade 8, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 2

Poetry in America: Grade 8, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2

ELA 8.R.2.1

Structure: Analyze how individual text sections and/or features convey a purpose and/or meaning in texts.

Source text:

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh

Benchmark Lessons:

8A: Perspectives & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 3

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 2, Lessons 7 and 14

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

8F: The Space Race Collection, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 1



ELA.8.R.2.2

Central Idea: Analyze two or more central ideas and their development throughout a text.

Source text:

"Blessings of Liberty and Education" by Frederick Douglass

Benchmark Lessons:

8A: Perspectives & Narrative, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 8

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 2, Lessons 8 and 9

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

8F: The Space Race Collection, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 2

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.

Source text:

"On Woman's Rights" by Sojourner Truth

Benchmark Lessons:

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 2, Lessons 4, 6, 11

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

8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning, Sub-unit 7, Lesson 1



ELA.8.R.2.4

Argument: Track the development of an argument, analyzing the types of reasoning used and their effectiveness, identifying ways in which the argument could be improved.

Source text:

"A Date Which Will Live in Infamy" by Franklin D. Roosevelt

Benchmark Lessons:

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 2, Lesson 3

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 2

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 7, Lesson 1

8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning, Sub-unit 3, Lesson 3

ELA.8.R.3.1

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

Source text:

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Benchmark Lessons:

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

ELA.8.R.3.2

Paraphrase and Summarize: Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.

Source text:

"Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving

Benchmark Lessons:

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 5, Lessons 1 and 2

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 5

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

8F: The Space Race Collection: Sub-unit 1, Lesson 3



ELA.8.R.3.3

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

Source text:

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Benchmark Lessons:

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

ELA.8.R.3.4

Understanding Rhetoric: Explain how an author uses rhetorical devices to support or advance an appeal.

Source text:

"9/11 Address to the Nation" by George W. Bush

Benchmark Lessons:

8B: Liberty & Equality, Sub-unit 2, Lessons 6, 7, 12

8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning, Sub-unit 7, Lesson 1

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