Grade 8: Reading Benchmark
Structure

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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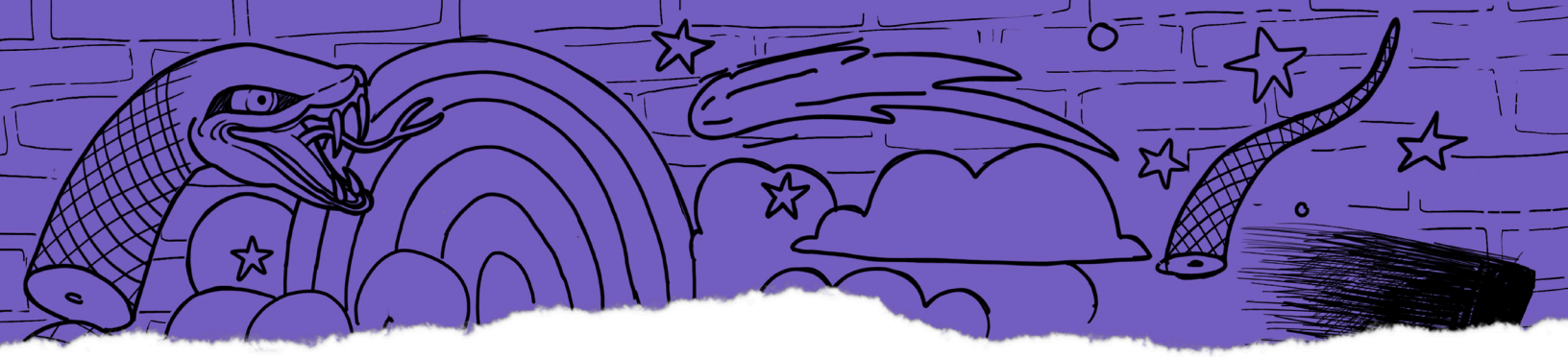

Independent Practice: 10–15 min.

- 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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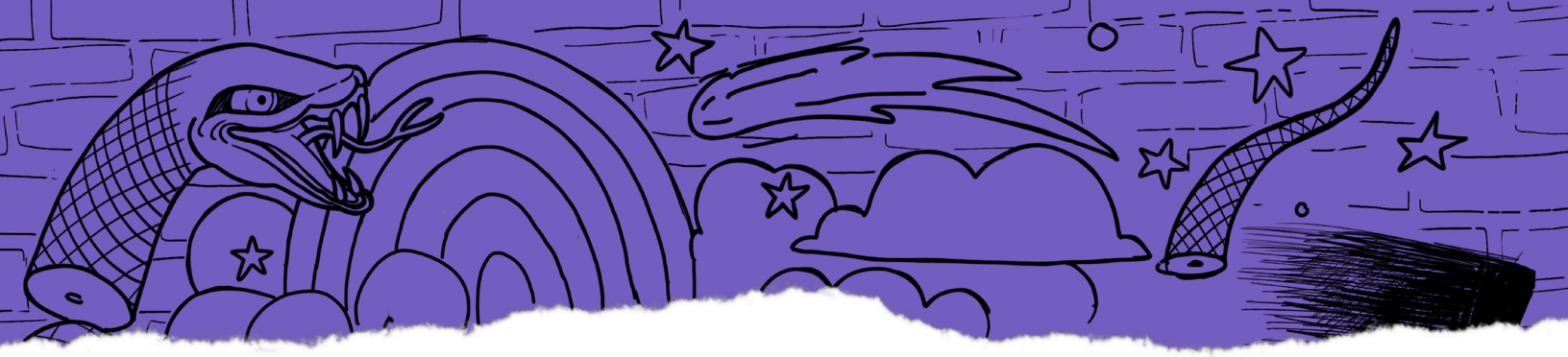

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA

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

ELA 8.R.2.1

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

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:

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

Benchmark Stack

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

ELA.8.R.2.1

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

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

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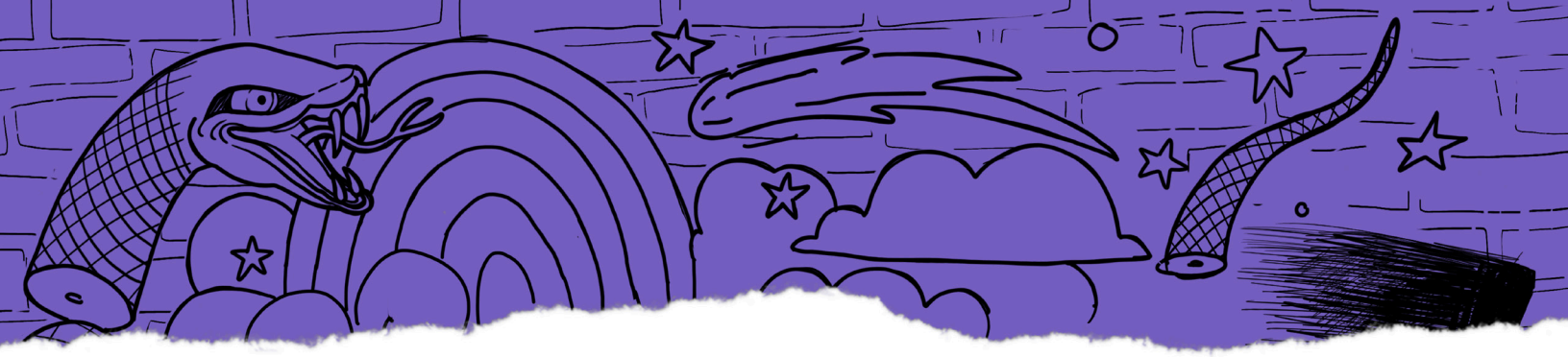

Possible Responses

1. What is the topic and how is the information organized? What is the central idea?
    - The topic is the spacesuit and boots that kept the *Apollo 11* astronauts safe on the moon.
    - The information is organized by problem and solution and description text structures.
    - The central idea is that it took a team of hundreds of people to design the spacesuits, and many, many hours of testing. The spacesuit and boot designs were successful.

2. What are the key text structures used to organize and present information? What text features do you notice?
    - The author uses problem and solution, sequence, and description text structures to tell about the comprehensive process of designing the space gear.
    - Photographs and quotes are interspersed throughout the text. They add additional detail and visual meaning to the text sections.

3. How do the text sections and features help you understand the information and ideas and the purpose of the text?
    - The photographs show the astronauts and spacesuits in action, enhancing understanding of the tasks the astronauts performed in the suits and the environment from which the suits protected the astronauts.
    - The quotes give information about how the spacesuits performed for the astronauts.
    - The text and text features support the purpose of informing and entertaining readers with the story of the *Apollo 11* mission.

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