Grade 8: Reading Benchmark
Theme

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.1.2

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

Benchmark Lessons in Amplify ELA:

8C: Science & Science Fiction, Sub-unit 1, Lesson 14

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 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.1.2

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

- **ELA.K12.EE.3.1**
  ELA Expectation: Make inferences to support comprehension.
- **ELA.8.R.1.1**
  Literary Elements: Analyze the interaction between character development, setting, and plot in a literary text.
- **ELA.8.R.3.2**
  Paraphrase and Summarize: Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.
- **ELA.8.R.3.3**
  Comparative Reading: Compare and contrast the use or discussion of archetypes in texts.

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Possible Responses

1. What are three or four observations you made about what the main character learns and how he changes?
    - Buck embraces the wild ways of the ancestors who preceded him in this remote setting.
    - The men and animals face many challenges in an unforgiving environment.
    - Over time, the setting and the instincts needed to survive start to feel familiar to Buck.

2. What universal messages or ideas do these observations suggest?
    - At the end of a journey to self-awareness, we can accept our true nature.
    - Nature is a powerful force that all humans and animals must face.
    - Sometimes fate or destiny is unavoidable.

3. Trace and analyze the themes that emerge in *The Call of the Wild*. How have the themes you identified developed? How does one theme affect your understanding of another theme? Are any of the themes universal?
    - All the themes focus on nature as a powerful force. All humans and animals must confront natural forces at some time. Nature can also create internal conflict within humans or animals as they struggle between civil ways and primitive instincts.
    - All humans and animals may experience change or a journey to self-understanding. All people, communities, and animals have struggles with nature.
    - The struggle against an unforgiving environment emphasizes the powerful force of nature. The force of natural instinct leads Buck on a journey to self-understanding.

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