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Grade 8 English Language Arts

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Literary Genres

Essential Skill: Recognize elements of fiction.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment: Class Discussion Ask: <i>What is your favorite book? What genre is it?</i></p>	<p>Literary Genres Movie Discover how genres are defined by the conventions they share.</p>	<p>Primary Source Activity Review these genre film clips, and use evidence to answer the accompanying questions.</p>	<p>Quiz What did you learn about literary genres?</p>	<p>Plot Theme</p>

Essential Skill: Recognize elements of nonfiction.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Which is an example of a byline?</p>	<p><u>Reading a Newspaper Movie</u> Find your way around a newspaper, from byline to headline, sports to culture.</p>	<p><u>Primary Source Activity</u> Peruse this historic front page, and use evidence to answer the accompanying questions.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Apply critical thinking skills to show what you know about reading a newspaper.</p>	<p><u>Five-Paragraph Essay</u></p>

Essential Skill: Recognize elements of poetry.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What do you know about meter in poetry?</p>	<p><u>Poetry Movie</u> Discover how writers use meter, rhythm, metaphor and more to create rich images.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Choose a poem and identify the poetic techniques the author uses.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about poetry?</p>	<p><u>Maya Angelou</u> <u>Mood and Tone</u></p>

Essential Skill: Recognize elements of drama.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What do you know about different types of drama?</p>	<p><u>Drama</u> Learn about drama through the ages—comedy to tragedy, and ancient Greece through Shakespeare.</p>	<p><u>Make-a-Movie</u> Identify and define five drama terms from the <u>informational article</u> titled “Language.”</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about drama?</p>	<p><u>William Shakespeare</u> <u>Dialogue</u></p>

Literary Elements

Essential Skill: Understand figurative language/lit techniques.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Which is an example of figurative language?</p>	<p><u>Figurative Language Movie</u> Discover how figurative language, like similes,</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Identify at least three types of figurative</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about figurative language?</p>	<p><u>Similes and Metaphors</u> <u>Mood and Tone</u></p>

	metaphors, and hyperbole, give words extra impact.	language, and give an example of each.		
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Elements of Fiction

Essential Skill: Recognize symbolism.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What do you know about literary devices in fiction writing?</p>	<p><u>House on Mango Street Movie</u> Learn how this novel uses symbolism to strengthen the plot and theme.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Identify the uses of symbolism in “The House on Mango Street,” and indicate how each symbol reflects Esperanza's coming-of-age.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about the novel “The House on Mango Street.”</p>	<p><u>Theme</u> <u>Mood and Tone</u></p>

Essential Skill: Identify theme.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment: Class Discussion Ask: <i>What is the theme of your favorite book?</i></p>	<p>Theme Movie Learn how authors use story elements like plot and characterization to develop a theme.</p>	<p>Primary Source Activity Review the Aesop’s fables, and use evidence to answer the questions.</p>	<p>Challenge Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about theme.</p>	<p>Plot Literary Genres</p>

Writing

Essential Skill: Review stages of the writing process.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment What is the sequence of steps in the writing process?</p>	<p>Writing Process Movie Discover the stages of the writing process, from pre-writing to publishing.</p>	<p>Make a Concept Map Identify the stages and sequence of the writing process.</p>	<p>Quiz What did you learn about the writing process?</p>	<p>Pre-Writing: Choosing a Topic Outlines</p>

Essential Skill: Review paragraph structure/essay development.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Where in a five-paragraph essay would you first state your argument or opinion?</p>	<p><u>Five-Paragraph Essay</u> Learn about a five-paragraph essay formula that can help you make a strong, well-supported argument.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Identify the components of a five-paragraph essay, and what each paragraph achieves.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about writing a five-paragraph essay?</p>	<p><u>Writing In Sequence</u> <u>Prewriting: Choosing a Topic</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review elements of biographies.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What kind of interview source is the subject of a biography?</p>	<p><u>Biography Movie</u> Discover the elements that make biographies compelling, and learn the steps towards writing a biography.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Select a person whose biography you'd like to write. Identify the stages of research, and the primary and secondary sources you'll use.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about biographies?</p>	<p><u>Writing In Sequence</u> <u>Research</u></p>

Essential Skill: Identify point of view.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Select the definition of what writers mean by "point of view."</p>	<p><u>Point of View Movie</u> Learn about four different points of view, and how to choose pov for your own writing.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Compare and contrast the features and impact of first person, third person omniscient, and third person objective point of view.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking to show what you know about point-of-view.</p>	<p><u>Mood and Tone</u> <u>Show, Not Tell</u></p>

Essential Skill: Expand, combine, and reduce sentences to improve readability.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> How would you strengthen this sentence?</p>	<p><u>Strengthening Sentences Movie</u> Figure out how to keep readers interested by strengthening sentences.</p>	<p><u>Make-a-Movie</u> Make a tutorial describing ways to fix sentences that are too long or are not complete.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about strengthening sentences?</p>	<p><u>Run-On Sentences</u> <u>Sentence Fragments</u></p>

Grammar and Usage

Essential Skill: Review types of sentences.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What are the four main types of sentences?</p>	<p><u>Types of Sentences Movie</u> Learn about four sentence types, plus when and how to use them.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Categorize sentences by type from one of these <u>informational articles</u>.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about types of sentences?</p>	<p><u>Strengthening Sentences</u> <u>Diagramming Sentences</u></p>

Essential Skill: Fix sentence fragments.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment:</u> What's the difference between a dependent and an independent clause?</p>	<p><u>Sentence Fragments Movie</u> Learn about how to identify different types of sentence fragments and ways to fix them.</p>	<p><u>Make-a-Movie</u> Show how to convert a sentence fragment into a complete sentence.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about sentence fragments?</p>	<p><u>Types of Sentences</u> <u>Run-On Sentences</u></p>

Essential Skill: Revise run-on sentences.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Which is the run-on sentence?</p>	<p><u>Run-On Sentences Movie</u> Learn how run-on sentences happen, what they look like, and two ways to fix them.</p>	<p><u>Make-a-Movie</u> Make a tutorial describing ways to fix run-on sentences.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about run-on sentences.</p>	<p><u>Sentence Fragments</u> <u>Strengthening Sentences</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review subject and predicate.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What is true of all predicates?</p>	<p><u>Subject and Predicate Movie</u> Learn how to find the simple subject and simple predicate in a sentence, and the role each plays.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Write a sentence that contains a simple subject and a simple predicate. Use labels to identify both and explain what purpose both serve.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about subject and predicate.</p>	<p><u>Subject-Verb Agreement</u> <u>Verbs and Their Objects</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review parts of speech.

<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Write a sentence that includes at least three parts of speech.</p>	<p><u>Parts of Speech Movie</u> Learn about the four main parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.</p>	<p><u>Play a Sorting Game</u> Sort words by part of speech.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about parts of speech?</p>	<p><u>Nouns</u> <u>Verbs and their Objects</u> <u>Adverbs</u> <u>Adjectives</u></p>
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Essential Skill: Review noun usage and case.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> How do common nouns differ from proper nouns?</p>	<p><u>Nouns Movie</u> Discover the different types of nouns.</p>	<p><u>Primary Source Activity</u> Identify nouns in the poem, suggest replacements, and note the missing type of noun.</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about nouns.</p>	<p><u>Verbs and their Objects</u> <u>Adverbs</u></p>

Essential Skill: Identify and use verbs, direct objects, and indirect objects.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Identify the indirect object in the sentence.</p>	<p><u>Verbs and their Objects Movie</u> Learn how to identify and use verbs, direct objects, and indirect objects.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Create sentences and identify the verbs, their objects, and how the objects function in the sentence.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> Show what you learned about verbs and their objects.</p>	<p><u>Subject-Verb Agreement</u></p> <p><u>Active and Passive Voice</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review verb tense.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Identify the statement with the correct verb tense.</p>	<p><u>Tenses Movie</u> Learn how to use the correct verbs tense when describing the past, present, and future.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Add a verb in the center of a map. Identify each verb tense and write a sentence using the word in that tense.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about verb tense?</p>	<p><u>Verbs and their Objects</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review active and passive voice.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Identify whether a sentence is in the active or the passive voice.</p>	<p><u>Active and Passive Voice</u> Learn the difference between using the active and passive voice in writing.</p>	<p><u>Graphic Organizer</u> Rewrite the sentences in the active voice column</p>	<p><u>Challenge</u> Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about active and passive voice.</p>	<p><u>Verbs and Their Objects</u> <u>Subject and Predicate</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review subject-verb agreement.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Which verb agrees with the given subject?</p>	<p><u>Subject-Verb Agreement Movie</u> Learn how a subject's number affects the verb that agrees with it.</p>	<p><u>Make-a-Movie</u> Create a video tutorial describing how to make subjects and verbs agree.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about subject-verb agreement?</p>	<p><u>Diagramming Sentences</u> <u>Subject and Predicate</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review clauses.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What is the difference between an independent clause and a dependent clause?</p>	<p><u>Clauses Movie</u> Learn the difference between independent and dependent clauses, and how to assemble clauses to strengthen your writing.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Create and identify clauses that act as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about clauses?</p>	<p><u>Sentence Fragments</u> <u>Diagramming Sentences</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review pronoun usage and case.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What is the role of personal pronouns in sentences?</p>	<p><u>Personal Pronouns Movie</u> Find out how personal pronouns work in a sentence and why they have to agree in gender, number, and case.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Create example sentences that include a personal pronoun as subject, as an object, and as a possessive case, and label each sentence.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about personal pronouns?</p>	<p><u>I vs. Me</u> <u>They're, Their, and There</u></p>

Essential Skill: Practice sentence diagramming.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment: Class Discussion Ask: <i>What does it mean to diagram a sentence? How might this help us be stronger writers?</i></p>	<p>Diagramming Sentences Movie Discover why diagramming sentences is important, what you can learn from it, and how it can improve your writing.</p>	<p>Make a Concept Map Diagram a sentence and label each part.</p>	<p>Quiz Show what you know about diagramming sentences.</p>	<p>Prepositional Phrases Subject-Verb Agreement</p>

Essential Skill: Review conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, subordinating.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment Identify the sentence with a correlative conjunction.</p>	<p>Conjunctions Movie Discover three types of conjunctions: coordinating, correlative, and subordinating.</p>	<p>Make-a-Movie Make a BrainPOP-style movie that includes at least one example of each type of conjunction.</p>	<p>Quiz What did you learn about conjunctions?</p>	<p>Run-On Sentences Sentence Fragments</p>

Punctuation and Capitalization

Essential Skill: Review capitalization

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment Identify the proper nouns.</p>	<p>Capitalization Movie Learn the rules of capitalization.</p>	<p>Make a Concept Map Identify at least three capitalization rules and provide an example of each.</p>	<p>Quiz What did you learn about capitalization?</p>	<p>Nouns Types of Sentences</p>

Essential Skill: Review apostrophe rules for singular and possessive nouns.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p>Pre-Assessment: Quiz Identify the singular possessive.</p>	<p>Possessives Movie Discover the grammar of ownership by using apostrophes, possessive</p>	<p>Make a Concept Map Choose a noun and add it to the map. Identify the singular and plural</p>	<p>Challenge Use critical thinking skills to show what you know about</p>	<p>Contractions Conjunctions</p>

	nouns, and pronouns.	possessive of the noun, and write a sentence for each.	possessives and apostrophes.	
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Essential Skill: Review punctuation: periods, commas.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> Identify which situation requires commas.</p>	<p><u>Punctuation Movie</u> Explore the function of different punctuation marks—and how they can make a big difference in meaning.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Identify each type of punctuation you learned about and type a sample sentence using the punctuation.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about punctuation?</p>	<p><u>Hyphens and Dashes</u></p> <p><u>Semicolons</u></p> <p><u>Types of Sentences</u></p>

Essential Skill: Review colons.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> What does a colon indicate about the relationship between parts of a sentence?</p>	<p><u>Colons Movie</u> Learn what independent clauses are, and how the colon serves the same function as a common mathematical symbol.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Identify and label the correct uses of colons</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about colons?</p>	<p><u>Semi-Colons</u> <u>Conjunctions</u></p>

Essential Skill: Distinguish differences between hyphens and dashes.

Warm Up	Build Background	Think and Do	Assess	Explore More Topics
<p><u>Pre-Assessment</u> When do we use hyphens?</p>	<p><u>Hyphens and Dashes Movie</u> Discover the punctuation marks that separate phrases, words, parts of words, and numbers.</p>	<p><u>Make a Concept Map</u> Use labels and images to identify and define when hyphens and dashes are used.</p>	<p><u>Quiz</u> What did you learn about hyphens and dashes?</p>	<p><u>Clauses</u> <u>Conjunctions</u></p>