



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
Reading Standards for Literature Grade 8										
KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS										
RL.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, quoting or paraphrasing as appropriate.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
RL.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			
RL.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE										
RL.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, tone, or mood including the impact of allusion or irony.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RL.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style in each text.					✓	✓	✓			✓
RL.6 Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.						✓	✓			✓



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS										
RL8.7 Analyze the extent to which an audio, filmed or staged production of a story, drama, or poem stays faithful to or departs from the original text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓
RL8.8 (Not applicable)										
RL8.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is rendered new.					✓	✓		✓	✓	
RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY										
RL8.10 Independently and proficiently read and comprehend literary texts representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives and exhibiting complexity appropriate for at least grade 8.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading Standards for Informational Text Grade 8										
KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS										
RI8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, quoting or paraphrasing as appropriate.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
RI8.2 Determine a text’s central idea(s) and analyze its/their development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
R18.3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).		✓	✓		✓	✓				
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE										
R18.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R18.5 Analyze in detail the structural elements of a text, including the role of specific sentences, paragraphs, and text features in developing and refining a key concept.		✓	✓	✓						
R18.6 Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS										
R18.7 Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.			✓	✓				✓	✓	
R18.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.			✓	✓						



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
<p>W8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p> <p>a. Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include text features (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.</p> <p>b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.</p> <p>c. Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</p> <p>d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.</p> <p>e. Establish and maintain a style appropriate to audience and purpose.</p> <p>f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.</p>		✓	✓							



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
W8.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. a. Demonstrate command of standard English conventions. b. Demonstrate the ability to select accurate vocabulary appropriate for audience and purpose.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
W8.6 Use technology, including current web-based communication platforms, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE										
W8.7 Conduct short, as well as more sustained, research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.			✓	✓						
W8.8 When conducting research, gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.		✓	✓	✓						



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
Speaking and Listening Standards Grade 8										
COMPREHENSION AND COLLABORATION										
<p>SL.1.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on <i>grade 8 topics, texts, and issues</i>, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p> <p>a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.</p> <p>b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.</p> <p>c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.</p> <p>d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>SL.1.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>SL.1.3 Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</p>								✓	✓	



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
PRESENTATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS										
SL8.4 Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SL8.5 Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.										
SL8.6 Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. (See grade 8 Language standards 1 and 3).							✓			✓



Lowell Public Schools
Grade 8 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts & Literacy

TIMELINE:	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
MA 2017 ELA & Literacy Framework (Grade 8)										
Language Standards Grade 8										
CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH										
L8.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; retain and further develop language skills learned in previous grades. <i>Sentence Structure, Variety, and Meaning</i> a. Coordinate phrases and clauses in simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences, with emphasis on agreement of pronouns and their antecedents. b. Form and use verbs in the active and passive voices and the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive moods to communicate a particular meaning. ¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
L8.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break. b. Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. c. Spell correctly, recognizing that some words have commonly accepted variations (e.g., donut/doughnut).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ These skills are particularly likely to require continued attention in higher grades as they are applied to increasingly sophisticated writing and speaking. See the table in the Grades 6–12 resource section in this Framework.

