



[CONNECTIONS]

English Language Arts

GRADE 7

UNIT 1 Essential Question How do you know right from wrong?

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
Chapter 1 Article from "Our Brains Are Wired for Morality" by Jean Decety and Jason M. Cowell (1230L) 6 pages	Summarizing a Text (10, 13)	Understanding Technical Terms (15)	Identifying Claims, Reasons, and Evidence (17)	Prefixes, Suffixes and Root Words (20)	Response Journal (13) Write a summary of the authors' beliefs (15)	Discuss definitions of key terms (context and dictionary) (17) Discuss evidence—based claims (20)	Roundtable Discussion (23) Argumentative Essay (24)	Discuss the "Trolley Problem" Discuss Nature Vs. Nurture (25)	Summarizing a text, determining word meanings, analyzing claims (26)
Chapter 2 Short Story from "Three Questions" by Leo Tolstoy (750L) 4 pages	Analyzing Plot and Conflict (31)	Identifying Theme (36)	Understanding Point of View (38)	Using Commas to Set Off Nonrestrictive Phrases and Clauses (39)	Response Journal (34) Write a paragraph— inferences from dialogue (39)	Share your analysis of a text's conflict (36) Share themes identified through context (37) Discuss inferences you made from dialogue (39)	Change the Point of View (40)	Read more from Tolstoy Full text suggestion: <i>The Three Questions</i> Ted Talk (42)	Analyze story elements, such as conflict, plot, theme, and point of view (43)
Chapter 3 Article from "Zoo Complicated: Are Captive Animals Happy?" by Kathryn Hulick (940L) 4 pages	Making Inferences (48)	Understanding Structure and Purpose (53)	Determining Point of View (56)	Sentence Structure (57)	Response Journal (51) Write a paragraph— form an argument and support with contextual evidence (52) Write a paragraph— explain text structure (55) Write a paragraph— summarize an article	Share your analysis of text structure (55) Discuss your inferences (context) (57)	Digital Presentation (58) Roundtable Discussion (59)	Research Article suggestion: "Do Animals Have a Sense of Self?" Film suggestion: <i>Blackfish</i> Research	Practice making inferences, analyzing structure and purpose, and identifying point of view (61)
Chapter 4 Short Story from "The Doll's House" by Katherine Mansfield (730L) 4 pages	Summarizing Central Ideas (66)	Understanding Figurative Language (71)	Determining Points of View (72)	Connotations and Denotations (74)	Response Journal (69) Write a paragraph— compare and contrast points of view (74)	Discuss your summary of central ideas (context) (71) Discuss your inferences about relationships (context) (74) Share your thoughts on words' connotations (75)	Pictorial Presentation (75) Literary Analysis (76)	Analyze a quote Suggested full texts: <i>The Doll's House</i> Film suggestion: <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> ; <i>A Little Princess</i> ; <i>Poor Kids</i>	Analyzing central ideas, figurative language, and point of view (78)

UNIT 1 Continued

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
<p>Chapter 5 Informational from <i>A Plea for the Animals</i> by Matthieu Ricard (860L) 3 pages</p> <p>Magazine Article "Vegetarianism" by Judy Krizmanic (810L) 3 pages</p>	Identifying Author's Purpose (83)	Evaluating an Argument (86)	Comparing and Contrasting Arguments (89)	Consistent Verb Tenses (93)	<p>Response Journal (85)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—analyze arguments (88)</p> <p>Write a few paragraphs—analyze arguments (92)</p>		<p>Awareness Speech</p> <p>Letter to the Editor (94)</p>	<p>Ted Talk Research</p> <p>Suggested full text: <i>A Teen's Guide to Going Vegetarian</i></p> <p>Research</p> <p>Develop an argument about societal changes (95)</p>	Practice determining an author's purpose and analyzing evidence (96)
End of Unit	Writing Process Assignment: Writing an Argumentative Essay—Vegetarianism (99–108)								
	Practice Performance Task: Synthesize multiple short excerpts from the unit to answer the Essential Question (109–116)								

UNIT 2 Essential Question Can you trust what you hear, see, and read?

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
Chapter 6 Memoir from <i>Catch Me If You Can</i> by Frank Abagnale Jr. (860L) 4 pages	Making an Inference (120, 124)	Analyzing Point of View (125)	Comparing and Contrasting Presentations (127)	Understanding Context Clues (131)	Response Journal (123) Make an inference—context (125) Write a paragraph—compare text to movie (131)	Compare text to movie (131)	Introducing Frank Abagnale (132) Character Analysis (133)	Research	Support ideas with evidence, analyze points of view, compared two presentations (135)
Chapter 7 Nonfiction from <i>Think: Why You Should Question Everything</i> by Guy Harrison (1070L) 4 pages	Analyzing Central Ideas (140, 144)	Determining Word Meanings (145)	Evaluating an Argument (148)	Using Commas with Coordinating Adjectives (150)	Response Journal (143) Write a paragraph—tone (148)	Dig deeper to find a second central idea (145) Discuss the tone of a text (148) Discuss the merits of a phrase (opinion) (150)	Response Essay (152) Draw a Diagram (153)	Suggested full text: <i>Think: Why You Should Question Everything</i> Film suggestion: <i>How Does The Brain Work?</i> (Nova) (154)	Analyzing central ideas, determining the meanings of words and phrases, and evaluating part of an argument (155)
Chapter 8 Article from “The Fact Checker’s Guide for Detecting Fake News” by Glenn Kessler (1170L) 4 pages	Making an Inference (159, 162)	Analyzing Text Structure (164)	Determining Point of View and Purpose (166)	Correcting Misplaced Modifiers (167)	Response Journal (162) Write a paragraph—analyze author’s assumptions (163) Discuss why or why not you think something is fake news (165)	Share opinions on author’s assumptions (164) Discuss purpose of subheads (165)	Investigative Report (170) Compare and Contrast Essay (171)	Research	Make inferences, analyze text structure, determine author’s point of view (174)
Chapter 9 Nonfiction from <i>Debunk It! How to Stay Sane in a World of Misinformation</i> by John Grant (1260L) 4 pages	Analyzing Interactions of Ideas, People, and Events (178, 181)	Analyzing Structure and Purpose (183)	Evaluating Reasons and Evidence (185)	Complex Sentences with Subordinating Conjunctions and Relative Pronouns (187)	Response Journal (181) Write a paragraph—tone (184)	Share your analysis of interactions (context) (183) Discuss counterclaims in the article (187)	Digital Presentation (190) Brochure (191)	Viewing suggestion: <i>Frontline</i> Research (191)	Examine how ideas, people, and events interact (192)
Chapter 10 Novel from <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry (590L) 4 pages	Citing Evidence (197, 200)	Analyzing the Interaction of Story Elements (202)	Analyzing Points of View		Response Journal (200) Write a paragraph—make and support a claim (202) Write a paragraph—character’s point of view (206)	Share what you have inferred from evidence (201) Discuss a character’s point of view (206)	Personal Essay Roundtable Discussion (209)	Suggested full texts: <i>The Giver; 1984; Animal Farm</i> Film suggestion: <i>The Giver</i>	Cite textual evidence, analyze how elements of a story interact, examine how author develops characters’ points of view (212)
End of Unit	Writing Process Assignment: Writing an Informative Text—Disproven scientific beliefs (214–224)								
	Practice Performance Task: Synthesize multiple short excerpts from the unit to answer the Essential Question (225–230)								

UNIT 3 Essential Question Essential Question: How is technology shaping society?

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
Chapter 11 Nonfiction from <i>Smarter Than You Think</i> by Clive Thompson (1040L) 4 pages	Analyzing Interactions of People, Ideas, and Events (234, 237)	Analyzing Text Structure (239)	Analyzing Point of View and Purpose (241)	Using Dashes (243)	Response journal (237) Write a paragraph—cause and effect (239) Write a list: central ideas (241)	Discuss analysis of characters' interactions (239) Discuss main idea and purpose of selection (241)	Letter to the Principal (244) Write a Narrative (245)	Use Khan Academy Research Interview (246)	Analyze how people, ideas, and events interact; how structure of a text develops ideas; and how an author conveys point of view (247)
Chapter 12 Poetry from "The Secret of the Machines" by Rudyard Kipling 3 pages	Determining a Central Idea (251, 253)	Examining the Impact of Repeated Sounds (255)	Analyzing how Structure Helps Develop an Idea (257)	Interpreting Figures of Speech (259)	Response Journal (253) Write a paragraph—analyze repetition of sounds (256) Write a paragraph—how stanzas develop the idea (259)	Share your opinion on central idea (255) Discuss meaning of repetition of sounds (256) Share your analysis of stanza structure (258)	Poem About Modern Technology (261) Digital Presentation (262)	Research Compare two poems (263) Ted Talk Suggested full texts: <i>Just-So Stories</i> ; <i>The Jungle Book</i> (264)	Identifying a central idea, considering the effects of repetition, analyzing structure and meaning, learning about allusions. (265)
Chapter 13 Article from "Robots Will Eliminate 6% of All US Jobs by 2021, Report Says" by Olivia Solon (1350L) 3 pages "Robots Are Slowly Taking Over the Job Market" by Lindsey Pulse (1010L) 2 pages	Analyzing the Development of Central Ideas (270, 272)	Comparing Media Portrayals of a Topic (274)	Speak and Listen (278)	Subject and Verb Agreement (280)	Response Journal (272) Write a paragraph—summarize central idea (274) Write a paragraph—video versus text (278)	Discuss video versus text (278) Discuss differences between two articles (280)	Op-Ed (281) Job Fair Pamphlet (282)	Suggested full texts: <i>R.U.R (Rossum's Universal Robots)</i> ; <i>I, Robot</i> (283)	Analyzing development of central ideas, comparing media portrayals of a topic, analyzing presentations of the same topic (284)
Chapter 14 Novel from <i>Feed</i> by M.T. Anderson (1100L) 5 pages	Comparing Points of View (288, 292)	Analyzing the Effects of Setting (293)	Determining Theme (295)	Using Context Clues (298)	Response Journal (292) Write a prediction (293) Write a paragraph—character development (294)	Discuss the effect of point of view (292) Discuss character development (294) Discuss interpretation of theme (298)	Response Essay (299) Write a Book Chapter (300)	Ted Talk Suggested full text: <i>Brave New World</i> Research (301)	Determining theme of a story, examining setting, analyzing point of view (302)

UNIT 3 Continued

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
<p>Chapter 15 Article from "It's 'digital heroin': How Screens Turn Kids Into Psychotic Junkies" by Dr. Nicholas Kardaras (1300L) 3 pages</p> <p>from "Why Calling Screen Time 'Digital Heroin' Is Digital Garbage" by Rachel Becker (1240L) 3 pages</p>	Finding Supporting Evidence (306, 308)	Determining Point of View and Purpose (309)	Analyzing Interpretations of Evidence (311)	Comma Usage (317)	<p>Response Journal (308)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—opinions on author's argument (309)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—explain point of view (311)</p>	<p>Discuss evidence for author's argument (309)</p> <p>Discuss word choice (311)</p> <p>Discuss a quote from the article (317)</p>	<p>Develop a Public Service Announcement (319)</p> <p>Roundtable Discussion (320)</p>	<p>Research</p> <p>Viewing suggestion: <i>The Video Game Revolution</i> (PBS)</p> <p>Reading suggestion: <i>The Caped Crusader: Fredric Wertham and the Campaign Against Comic Books</i> (321)</p>	Citing evidence to support an analysis, determine an author's point of view and purpose, and examine how differing points of view (322)
End of Unit	<p>Writing Process Assignment: Writing a Fictional Narrative—Technology (324–332)</p> <p>Practice Performance Task: Synthesize multiple short excerpts from the unit to answer the Essential Question (333–328)</p>								

UNIT 4 Essential Question What does history tell us about ourselves?

Genre/Text	1st Read Focus	2nd Read Focus	3rd Read Focus	Language Lesson	Integrated Writing in Response to Reading	Integrated Speaking/Listening	Project-Based Assessments	On Your Own: Integrating Ideas	Connect to Testing
<p>Chapter 16 Novel from <i>The Lions of Little Rock</i> by Kristin Levine (600L) 5 pages</p> <p>Timeline Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site 5 pages</p>	Analyzing How Setting Affects Conflict (342)	Analyzing How Point of View Affects a Story (347)	Comparing and Contrasting Historical Fiction and Nonfiction (350)	Capitalization (356)	<p>Response journal (346)</p> <p>Write two to three paragraphs—how setting affects conflict (347)</p> <p>Write two to three paragraphs—analyze points of view (349)</p> <p>Write a summary of two texts; present to class (356)</p>	<p>Discuss your analysis of the setting (347)</p> <p>Share analyses; offer suggestions for improvement to other students (350)</p> <p>Fill in a Venn diagram—compare two texts (355)</p>	Historical Background (357) Historical Fiction (358)	Suggested full texts: <i>The Lions of Little Rock</i> ; <i>Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High</i> Research (359)	Answering questions about setting, point of view, or differences and similarities between nonfiction and fiction (360)
<p>Chapter 17 Short Story from "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" by Ray Bradbury (650L)</p> <p>Article from "Drummer Boys" by Stephen Currie (1050L) 4 pages</p>	Making Inferences (365, 368)	Analyzing an Author's Use of Language (370)	Analyzing a Fictional Account of a Historical Event (371)	Spelling (374)	<p>Response journal (368)</p> <p>Make inferences based on evidence (369)</p> <p>Write several paragraphs—analyze short story vs. historical event (374)</p>	<p>Share analyses of language's effect on the reader (370)</p> <p>Discuss analysis of historical fiction; share opinions of the historical event (374)</p>	Response Essay (376) Argumentative Essay (377)	Suggested full text: "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" Film suggestion: <i>The Civil War</i> (Ken Burns) Research	Making inferences, analyzing literary devices, and comparing and contrasting historical fiction and nonfiction (378)
<p>Chapter 18 Short Story from "Our Jacko" by Michael Morpurgo (750L) 3 pages</p>	Analyzing Parallel Stories (382, 384)	Exploring Theme (386)	Analyzing Figurative Language (387)	Word Meanings (389)	<p>Response Journal (385)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—relate two stories (386)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—explain theme (387)</p> <p>Write a paragraph—describe the mood (388)</p>	<p>Discuss how two stories' conflicts are related (386)</p> <p>Discuss the mood of the story (388)</p>	Letter (390) Oral Presentation (391)	Research (391)	Analyzing the structure of a story, identifying theme, and analyzing the effects of figurative language (392)
<p>Chapter 19 Novel from <i>Fallen Angels</i> by Walter Dean Myers (610L) 4 pages</p>	Analyzing the Impact of Setting on Conflict (396, 400)	Making Inferences About Characters (401)	Analyzing Author's Use of Humor (403)	Using Phrases Effectively (405)	Response Journal (400) Summarize how setting affects conflict (401)	<p>Discuss character development (403)</p> <p>Discuss word choice and use of humor (405)</p>	Diary (407) Personal Interview (407)	Suggested full texts: <i>Fallen Angels</i> ; <i>Invasion</i> ; <i>Sunrise Over Fallujah</i> Research Compare two stories Small group discussion (408)	Analyzing setting and conflict, inferring characterization, and analyzing an author's use of humor (409)
<p>Chapter 20 Play from <i>Elizabeth Blackwell</i> by Cynthia Mercati 4 pages</p>	Determining Theme (413, 417)	Analyzing the Unique Format of a Play (418)	Analyzing the Purpose of a Scene (421)	Determining Word Meaning (422)	<p>Response Journal (416)</p> <p>Write a paragraph explaining theme (417)</p> <p>Write a few paragraphs—explain the purpose of a scene (422)</p>	<p>Discuss the theme of the passage (417)</p> <p>Discuss the differences between a play and other literature (421)</p>	Dramatic Scene (425) Documentary (426)	Research (426)	Determining theme, analyzing structure, and identifying the author's purpose (427)
End of Unit	<p>Writing Process Assignment: Writing a Research Paper—Historical Figure (429–436)</p> <p>Practice Performance Task: Synthesize multiple short excerpts from the unit to answer the Essential Question (437–442)</p>								