

GRADE 8

Program structure



What is Amplify ELA?

Amplify ELA is a blended curriculum designed for students in grades 6–8. We put text at the heart of every lesson and enable teachers to impart skills through these texts, developing their students' muscles for building meaning through reading. With Amplify ELA, students learn to attack any complex text and make observations, grapple with interesting ideas, and find relevance for themselves in their own lives.

We offer:

- Rich texts that are a delight to teach.
- Powerful differentiation and assessment tools that help you establish better connections with your students.
- Step-by-step instructional guides and resources that save you time and simplify your day-to-day experience.



Component overview



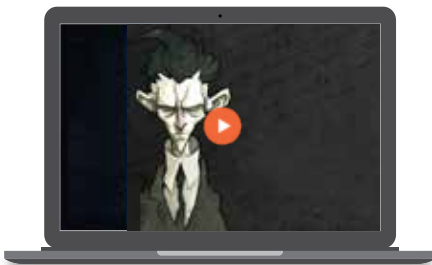
Digital Teacher Edition



Print Teacher Edition



Teacher projection materials



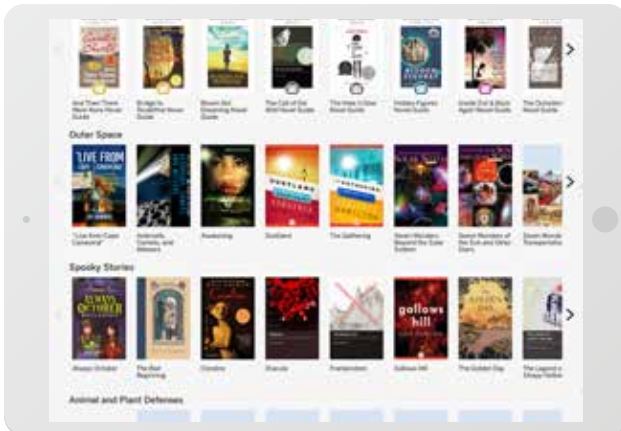
Digital Student Edition



Interactive print Student Edition



Student Writing Journal



PLUS+ The digital Amplify Library

The Amplify Library is free with the program and offers over 650 classic and contemporary fiction and nonfiction texts. These texts are all aimed at fostering a love of reading and learning in students with a wide range of reading abilities and interests.

Year at a glance

Grade 8 includes multiple units centered on literary or informational texts, delivered through several forms of media. Your classroom will also benefit from an immersive learning experience called a Quest, plus dedicated units focused on story writing and poetry.



8A: Perspectives & Narrative



8B: Liberty & Equality



8C: Science & Science Fiction



8D: Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet



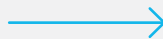
8E: Holocaust: Memory & Meaning



8F: The Space Race Collection

Lesson at a glance

Amplify ELA lessons follow a structure that is grounded in regular routines but flexible enough to allow a variety of learning experiences. Lesson structures vary from day to day, ensuring that students are always engaged.



Build vocabulary

(5 minutes)

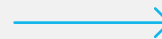
Build vocabulary

Students work independently to build key vocabulary with the adaptive Vocab App.

or

Teacher–student check-ins

Teacher greets students and makes sure they're set up for success.



Collaborate and interpret text

(15–20 minutes)

Work with text out loud

Students make meaning by interpreting audio and dramatic performances of the text.

or

Work visually

Students make meaning by visually conveying ideas in a text.

or

Work with text as theater

Students make meaning by planning and performing dramatic interpretations of a text.

or

Select the best evidence

Students closely reread passages to identify and analyze language that supports an idea.

or

Use the text as referee

Students partner to talk through questions, using specific places in the text to come to a consensus.

What teachers have to say

Amplify ELA is savvy about the challenges of teaching adolescent learners and is passionate about helping students and teachers alike experience the rewards of a rich and robust curriculum.

“It was engaging for students, fun and easy to teach, and led to deeper discussions and written responses than I have seen in a long time! The embedded differentiation helped ensure students had just the right amount of challenge and supports. I wish I had this earlier in my teacher career!”

—Ashley, a teacher from Washington



Develop and present ideas

(15–25 minutes)

Try It on

Students try their hand at writing like the authors they are reading, incorporating new techniques using classic and contemporary works as models.

or

Write for an authentic audience

Students use independent writing time to focus their ideas and express them in a way that will inform or persuade their audience.

or

Revise

Students change, delete, and reorder text; they consider the impact of these changes on the clarity and power of their communication.

or

Debate

Students engage in formal or informal group debates where they develop claims, anticipate and respond to counterclaims, and convey information persuasively.

Reflect

(5–10 minutes)

Exit Ticket

Quick snapshot of students' understanding of a focus standard.

and

Wrap-Up

Share and respond.

Synthesize or extend thinking.

Preview upcoming elements.

Independent work

(20–60 minutes)

Complete Solo

or

Read independently

or

Teacher uses time to prepare for next class session

Let's go on a Quest!

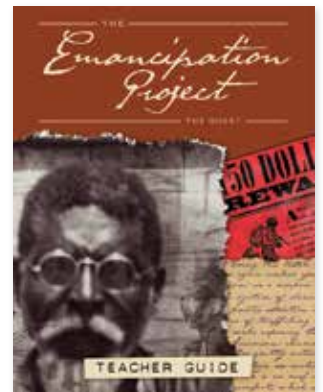
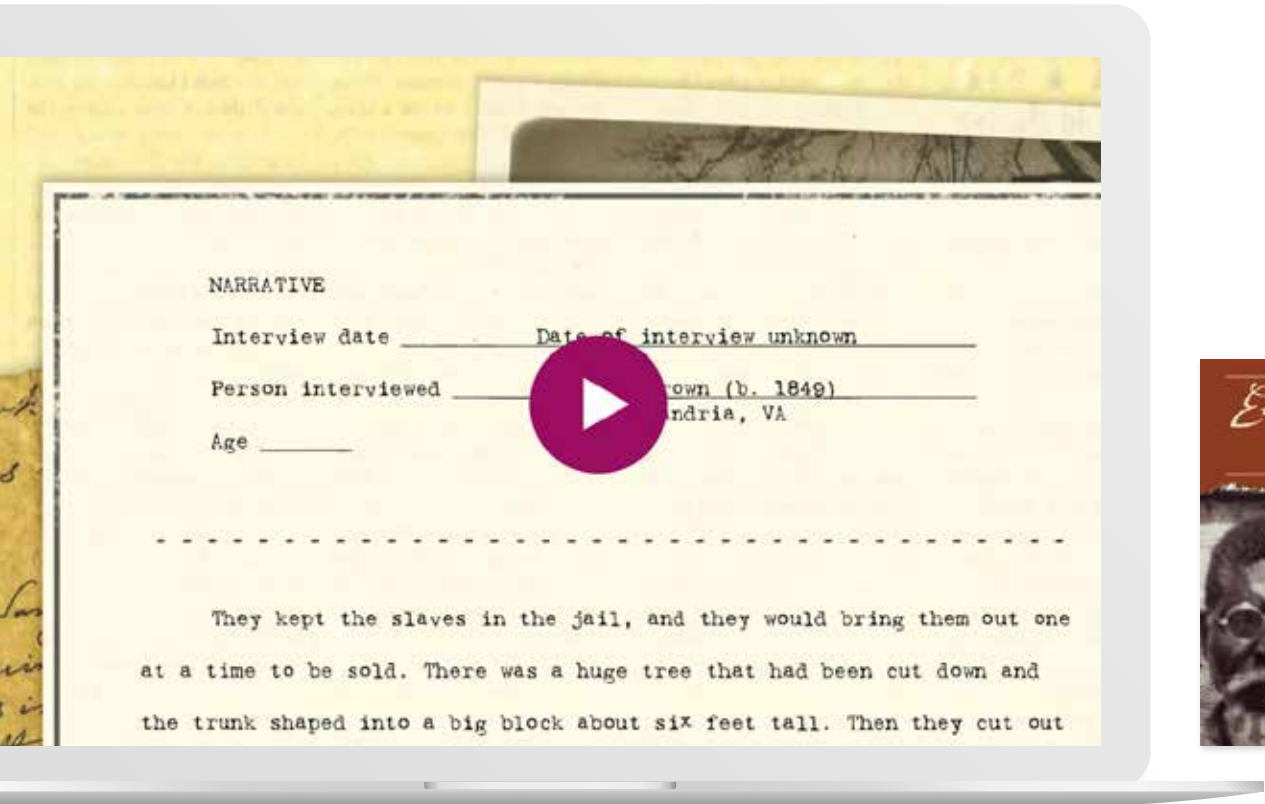
Quests are immersive team experiences that weave adventure into the development of analytical and writing skills required by the standards. These week-long narrative lesson plans build on the literacy skills students have been developing in the core lessons while shaking up classroom routines and allowing students to take the lead.

A unique learning experience for teachers and students

In grade 8, students practice the real task of being a historian: assembling big stories and big ideas by seeing a moment from dozens of smaller perspectives. In this optional paper-pencil Quest, students explore the power of reading through two lenses: as detective work, in which students must consider what's left out of a text by analyzing the clues that currently exist in the text; and as liberation, in which students begin to understand that for Frederick Douglass and many others like him, freedom had to do with being able to write and having their stories read.



The Emancipation Project (8B: Liberty & Equity)



Let's read some poetry!

Amplify ELA partnered with Harvard professor Elisa New to create dynamic multimedia poetry lessons. These activities are focused on a diverse selection of contemporary poetry based on the public television series *Poetry in America*. The engaging lessons combine Amplify ELA's close reading pedagogy with video interviews with celebrities such as Regina Spektor, President Joe Biden, and Shaquille O'Neal discussing the power of poetry.

These poetry lessons are designed to be used flexibly, at the discretion of the teacher.

Looking for the Gulf Motel
Marco Island, Florida

Richard Blanco

There should be nothing here I don't remember...

The Gulf Motel with mermaid lampposts
and ship's wheel in the lobby should still be
rising out of the sand like a cake decoration.



Author Richard Blanco reading his poem
“Looking for the Gulf Motel”

Carrying a Ladder

Kay Ryan

We are always
really carrying
a ladder, but it's
invisible. We
only know



Shiza Shahid interprets “Carrying a Ladder”



For more information on Amplify ELA,
visit [amplify.com/ela](https://www.amplify.com/ela).

Amplify.

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