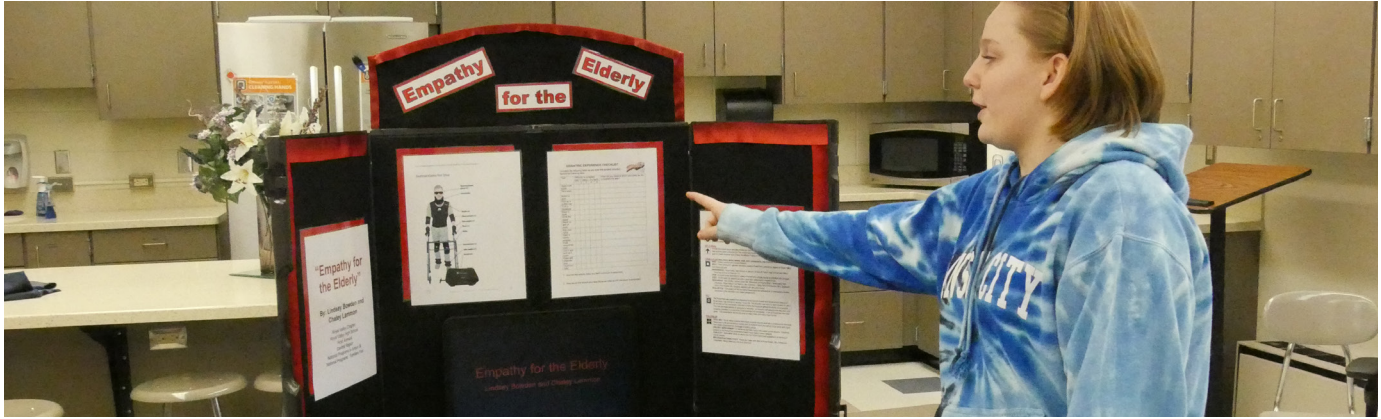




# FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## Grade 8



Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student’s mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

### Example KELA expectations:

**Ask** and **answer** questions.

**Determine** central ideas of themes of a text and analyze their development.

**Follow** the progression of logic in an argument, recognizing flaws in the argument.

**Cite** evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of a text.

**Analyze** how two or more texts address similar

themes or topics in order to build knowledge.

**Develop** and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, editing and revising.

**Engage** in a writing conference with an adult.

**Create** coherent, well-sequenced texts for specific purposes, audiences and tasks.

**Support** ideas with sound reasoning and evidence, precise word choices, transitions and different sentence structures.

**Engage** in an inquiry process to build an understanding of a range of topics, and create meaningful work based on learning.

**Analyze** the purpose of information presented in multiple formats, including

its social, political or commercial motives.

**Engage** in civil discourse, and express original ideas professionally, clearly, and persuasively in a variety of settings and with diverse partners who both agree and disagree with their point of view.

**Interpret** literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases presented in a text.

## What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

**Write, speak, read** and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

**Set goals** and monitor their progress.

**Solve** problems.

**Create** meaning.

**Think** critically about real-world issues.

**Develop** a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

**Build** on their literacy skills from prior years.

## How can language arts help me in the real world?

### In your job ...

- You will need to **understand** other points of view.
- You will need to **problem solve**.
- You will need to **communicate** with others effectively.

### In your life ...

- You will need to **gather information** to make good decisions.
- You will need to **form opinions** and **support them** through action.
- You will need to know how to **express yourself through speaking** and **writing**.

## Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:**  
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:**  
<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** [www.ksde.org/ela](http://www.ksde.org/ela)

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