



# FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## Grade 9/10



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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:

**Cite** textual evidence to support analysis of what a text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from a text.

**Analyze** how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters and advance the plot or develop the theme.

**Determine** a central idea of a text and analyze its development during the course of a text.

**Interpret** figures of speech in context and analyze their role in a text.

**Write** an argument to support a claim in an analysis of a text, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

**Use** words, phrases and clauses to link the major sections of a text, create cohesion and clarify the relationships between

claims and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claims and counterclaims.

**Gather** relevant information from multiple print and digital sources.

**Analyze** documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts.

**Propel** conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes and larger ideas.

**Respond** thoughtfully to diverse perspectives.

**Evaluate** a speaker's point of view, reasoning and use of evidence and rhetoric.

**Identify** fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.

## 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)

### For more information, contact:

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