



imagine
Reading

Standards and Focus Skills



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Grade 3



Incredible Creatures

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit discusses some of the world's smallest animals and the abilities they've developed to protect themselves.

FOCUS QUESTION

What big measures will small creatures take in order to survive?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Tiny but Tough	Reading for details and evidence	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Fearless, Fantastic, and Frightening	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5

Language and Writing Systems

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit discusses some of the ways humans communicate, from ancient writing systems and totem poles to codes and ciphers.

FOCUS QUESTION

What counts as a way of communicating?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Wood, Stones, Wax and Bones: That's What People Wrote On	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Totem Poles: An Ancient Art	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Wampanoag Spoken Here	Text summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2
Johannes Finds a Way	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Louis Braille: Opening the Doors of Knowledge	Identify how character actions contribute to sequence of events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
PVVKRMT HVXIVGH (KEEPING SECRETS)	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3

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Grade 3

Impressive Animals

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on animals' abilities to work together, use tools, and how they have adapted to survive.

FOCUS QUESTION

How smart are animals?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Animal Adaptations	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.5
The Right Tools for the Job	Apply background knowledge	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Why Animals Love to Play	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Sixth Sense	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Attack of the Flying Squid	Refer to text for answers	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1

Defining Art

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit introduces the basic elements of art and invites students to consider what "counts" as art.

FOCUS QUESTION

What is art?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Is That Really Art?	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Unexpected Art: Thinking outside the Frame	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.5
Aelita Andre: Painting Prodigy	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Art or Advertising? Fearless Girl Faces Charging Bull	Predict	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Sandpainting: A Temporary Art	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3
The Vivid World of Synesthesia	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2

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Grade 3

Folktales around the World

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents folktales from Russia, New Zealand, Venezuela, Kenya, Scotland, and North America.

FOCUS QUESTION

What can our stories tell us about our values?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Baba Yaga	Determine the central message/moral lesson of a story	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2
Gift of the Kiwi	Identify how character actions contribute to sequence of events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
How the Birds Changed Their Colors	Determine the central message/moral lesson of a story	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2
Meat of the Tongue	Distinguish between literal and nonliteral language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4
Baking in the Fairy Mound	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7
Coyote and Fire	Identify how character actions contribute to sequence of events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.R.3

What Is a Community?

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines how we create and define communities and how we contribute to them.

FOCUS QUESTION

What is a community?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
DeSmet, South Dakota: A "Little Town on the Prairie"	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3
Is an Online Community a Community?	Identify author's point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.6
The Floating City	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Firefighters Commemorate 9/11	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Planting Roots	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
Empty Streets, Blank Canvas	Identify key details	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2

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Grade 3

Icy Antarctica

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores the fascinating Antarctic continent, including the animals, researchers, and geologic formations that are found there.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do living things adapt to extreme cold?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Meteorite Hunters	Sequence steps in a procedure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3
Drawing under Ice	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Ghost Mountains, Volcanoes, and Hot Spots in Antarctica	Use multimedia formats to support understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Brrr: Growing Up in Antarctica	Sequence events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3
The Penguin Whisperer	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
The Wild Science of Water Bears	Answer general comprehension questions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1

Rivers and Streams

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on how flowing bodies of water, from small streams to major rivers, influence the people and animals who live near them.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do rivers affect the lives of people and animals?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Life-Giving Rivers	Compare multiple texts on same topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.9
New Orleans: Yesterday and Today	Sequence events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3
Our Creek	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Twain's Tall Tales	Identify how illustrations contribute to meaning	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7
Noah Count and the Arkansas Ark	determine character's/narrator's/speaker's point of view on a topic/event/element	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6
Busy Beavers	Identify cause and effect relationships	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3

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Grade 3

The Wizard of Oz

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of L. Frank Baum's classic novel *The Wonderful World of Oz* that introduces readers to Dorothy and her friends as they travel to the Emerald City.

FOCUS QUESTION

What makes a good story?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part 1: How Dorothy Saved the Scarecrow	Identify characters	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
Part 2: The Rescue of the Tin Woodman	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
Part 3: The Cowardly Lion	Identify how character actions contribute to sequence of events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
Part 4: Journey to the Great Oz	Determine how parts build on earlier sections	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5
Part 5: The Deadly Poppy Field	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7
Part 6: Arriving at the Emerald City	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3

Poetry of Imagery*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explains how poets create meaningful imagery in poetry. Each poem is paired with a prose passage that explores topics such as autobiographical information about the poet, further context for the poem, or techniques the poet used to craft imagery.

FOCUS QUESTION

How can words create a picture?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
A Jelly-Fish	Distinguish between literal and nonliteral language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4
Fog	Distinguish between literal and nonliteral language (metaphors)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4
Autumn	Interpret figurative language (sensory language)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4
The Eagle	Distinguish between literal and nonliteral language (poetic device)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4
Spring in New Hampshire	Identify/describe/analyze structure/structural elements of a text (stanza)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5
The Pasture	Identify narrator's/speaker's/character's point of view (direct address)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6

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Grade 4



Incredible Creatures

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit discusses some of the world's smallest animals and the abilities they've developed to protect themselves.

FOCUS QUESTION

What big measures will small creatures take in order to survive?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Tiny but Tough	Reading for understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Fearless, Fantastic, and Frightening	Text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5

The Secret World of Movies

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores the world of movie-making, including the inventions and careers that create the spectacular films of today.

FOCUS QUESTION

What makes movies magical?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Evolution of the Movies	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10
William Dickson: Movie Pioneer	Make inferences	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1
The First Movie on the Moon	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
CGI Pro and Con	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8
How Did They Do That? (Hint: It's Mocap)	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Movie Jobs You Never Knew You Could Have	Identify/describe/analyze text structure/organizational patterns	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.5

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Grade 4

East Asia

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on the history and cultures of East Asia, from ancient inventions to modern Mongolian radio, and how they impact the lives of the people who live there.

FOCUS QUESTION

How has technology influenced life and culture in Asia?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Amazing Inventions of Ancient China	Answer general comprehension questions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1
Fascinating Facts about Bicycles in Asia	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Delicious Delivery in South Korea	Synthesize information from multiple texts on the same topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.9
Will Pandas Thrive in the Wild?	Identify cause and effect relationships	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
"Good Morning," Mongolia!	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
The Popularity of Robots in Japan (and the Rest of the World)	Refer to text for answers	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

Ecosystems: A Balancing Act

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the interdependence between living organisms and their physical environments, focusing on how small changes can impact entire systems.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does one change affect an entire ecosystem, for good or bad?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Welcome Back, Wolves!	Identify cause and effect relationships	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
Alien Invasion	Apply background knowledge	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10
Guardian Dogs to the Rescue	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Polar Bears: Adapting to the Arctic	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
A Great Match	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10
The Case of the Disappearing Bees	Predict	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10

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Grade 4

Maps and Navigation

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on the evolution of maps and navigation through the ages, from the methods used by early explorers to GPS and geocaching.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do our maps change how we see our world?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Mapping Our World	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Magellan's Voyage	Identify cause and effect relationships	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
Space-Age Geographers	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Which Way?	Apply background knowledge	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Clocking Longitude	Relationships/interactions between individuals, events, and ideas (problem/solution)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3
Geocaching Is Catching On	Author's/narrator's point of view (3rd and 1st person)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.6

Human Influences on the Environment

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores how humans impact the environment, discussing topics such as water quality, dams, and pesticides.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do we change our environment to fit our needs, or change ourselves to fit our environment?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Map That Saved the Forest	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.10
Cool, Clear Water: Why It Is So Important	Use illustrations to help determine meaning of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7
Caine's Cardboard Arcade	Text summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2
Human Homes That Master the Weather	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2
Rachael Carson and the Silent Spring	Identify how character actions contribute to sequence of events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3
A New Home on the Yangtze River	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3

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Grade 4

The Need for Speed

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores things that go fast, from roller coasters and Formula 1 cars to rockets and warp drives.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why are people always trying to go faster?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
A Wild Ride	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
Formula 1: The Fastest Sport in the World	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8
High-Speed Rail	Synthesize information from multiple texts on the same topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.9
Riding Rockets	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3
Warp Drives and Wormholes	Use multimedia formats to support understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.7
Flying on Ice	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3

All the World's a Stage*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the different elements of creating a theatrical experience, from traditional to modern theatrical productions.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does theater help us all share our stories?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Acting through the Ages	Identify/explain how multimedia contributes to understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI 4.7
Director's Cut	Identify structural differences between poetry/drama/prose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL 4.5
Meet William Shakespeare	Describe how oral/visual presentations select details in a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL 4.7
Setting the Stage for the Tooth Fairy: An Interview with Set Designer Lizzie Bracken	Identify problem solution relationships	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3
A Raisin in the Sun	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI 4.8
Two Forms of Theater	Compare first and secondhand accounts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI 4.6

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Grade 4

Anne of Green Gables

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of L. M. Montgomery's classic novel *Anne of Green Gables* that introduces readers to Anne and her friends in Avonlea.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does an author create memorable literary characters?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part 1: Mathew Cuthbert Is Surprised	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3
Part 2: Marilla Cuthbert Is Surprised	Determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4
Part 3: A Solemn Vow and Promise	Determine/describe plot/setting	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3
Part 4: The Loss of a Brooch	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3
Part 5: Anne Confesses	Determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4
Part 6: A Tempest in the School Teapot	Analyze how details support /convey the theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2

Poetry of Imagination*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on imaginative poems. Each poem is paired with a prose passage that explores topics such as autobiographical information about the poet, further context for the poem, or techniques the poet used to express the wonder of imagination.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does imagination change how we see the world?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Climbing	Identify narrator's/speaker's/character's point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.6
Dear March – Come in –	Interpret/explain figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.5A
Limericks	Identify/describe/analyze structure/structural elements of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5
My Shadow	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3
The Sugar-Plum Tree	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4
Antigonish	Identify/describe/analyze structure/structural elements of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.5

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Grade 5



Environmental Ingenuity

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit examines creative solutions to some of the earth's biggest environmental problems.

FOCUS QUESTION

Which is more important: imagination or knowledge?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
What Will They Think of Next?	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5
The Rooks of Puy du Fou	Reading for details and evidence	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1

American Revolutionaries

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores the impact of the American Revolution on the everyday people who lived through it, including some of the lesser-known contributors to the founding of the United States.

FOCUS QUESTION

What did the American Revolution mean to the people who lived through it?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
A Massacre in March	Determine/describe characters' traits/motivations/feeling/thoughts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5
A Spectacular Ride	Compare the structure of two or more texts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9
The List Continues	Identify/describe/analyze text structure/organizational patterns	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.5
From Secret Agents to Soldiers: Women Who Helped Win the American Revolution	Author's/narrator's point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.6
The Fake General Who Helped Free America	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
A Difficult Decade	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.10

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Grade 5

The Fight for Civil Rights

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights how groups and individuals have struggled for equality at different points in history.

FOCUS QUESTION

How far should people go to protect their rights or the rights of others?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Marching to Montgomery and Beyond	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
The Birmingham Children's Crusade	Quote accurately from text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1
Salem Witch Trials: Why Did It Happen?	Describe the influence /effect of a point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI..6
Carved on the Walls	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Viva La Causa: Chavez's Fight for Social Justice	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.10
The Bandit Runner	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.10

Space: Exploring beyond the Horizon

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores what science has taught us about the mysteries and wonders of outer space as well as what science can teach us about them in the future.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why have we always looked beyond the horizon and worked to discover more?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Home, Sweet Home	Author's purpose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.6
Apollo 11: The Eagle Has Landed	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Where Does the Sun Get Its Shine?	Use multimedia formats to support understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.7
What's Wild about Space?	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.10
Martian Metropolis	Connect text to self	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.10
The Guest Star: Does the Beautiful Crab Nebula Hold the Secret to a Thousand-Year-Old Mystery?	Sequence events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3

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Grade 5

Survival

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights survival skills and the importance of having them in dangerous situations.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do humans survive in extreme conditions or without modern conveniences?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Bare-Bones Survival	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Marshmallows, Anyone? How to Build a Safe Campfire (and Put It Out!)	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Twin Perils	Determine how characters respond to challenges	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2
Lost in the Outback	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
The Marathon des Sables	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8
The Roof of the World	Compare the structure of two or more texts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.5

The Human Body

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores some of the amazing features of the human body, such as how dreams help us remember important information and how yawning can be contagious.

FOCUS QUESTION

Do we control our bodies, or do our bodies control us?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Skinny on Skin and Sweat	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Microorganisms: The Good, the Bad, and the Nasty	Identify/describe relationships/interactions in a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3
Exploring Reflex Actions: Sneezing and Yawning	Determine 2 or more main ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Mindset Matters	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8
The Old-Fashioned Dream Lab	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2
Can't Live without Them: The Power of Cell Phone Addiction	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8

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Grade 5

South Asia

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit discusses the history and cultures of South Asia, featuring individuals from Pakistan, Nepal, and India who have demonstrated how one person can begin a movement for change.

FOCUS QUESTION

What causes a person to strive for change?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Malala Yousafzai: Youngest Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize	Quote accurately from text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1
Teaching the Nepali People to Read	Compare the structure of two or more texts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.5
Instead of the War Drum: The Story of Ashoka	Compare individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3
Hooray for Bollywood!	Make inferences	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1
Gandhi's Legacy: Civil Rights in India and Beyond	Synthesize information from multiple texts on the same topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.9
Meet the Pangolin	Interpret figurative language (similes)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4

Perspective*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explains how there are two sides to every story by introducing readers to different perspectives, including two accounts of a solar eclipse written centuries apart.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does our perspective influence how we see and understand the world?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Two Sides of History	Identify reasons/evidence to support points/claims	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8
The Book of Everything	Identify/describe relationships/interactions in a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3
Total Eclipse of the Sun	Describe the influence /effect of a point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6
The Water Protectors	Compare multiple accounts of the same event/topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.6
Finding the Truth	Compare multiple accounts of the same event/topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.6
The Warnings of Shinpai	Determine how characters respond to challenges	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2

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Grade 5

Don Quijote de la Mancha*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of Miguel de Cervantes's classic novel *Don Quijote de la Mancha* that introduces readers to Spain's most famous literary character.

FOCUS QUESTION

What makes a story funny?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part 1	Determine effect of point of view on content/style/descriptions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6
Part 2	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4
Part 3	Determine how parts contribute to overall structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.5
Part 4	Analyze how multimedia contributes to meaning/tone/beauty	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.7
Part 5	Compare characters, settings, or events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3
Part 6	Compare stories within a genre	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.9

Poetry of Hope*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit looks at some of the ways humans communicate, from ancient writing systems and totem poles to codes and ciphers.

FOCUS QUESTION

What counts as a way of communicating?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Hoar-Frost	Analyze how details support /convey the theme (tone and symbolism)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2
Prairie Spring	Interpret/explain figurative language (alliteration, assonance, consonance)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.5
"Hope" is the thing with feathers	Determine effect of point of view on content/style/descriptions	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4
After the Winter	Interpret figurative language (apostrophe)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.6
Credo	Interpret figurative language (repetition as a poetic device)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4
The New Colossus	Determine how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2

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Grade 6



Environmental Ingenuity

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit examines creative solutions to some of the earth's biggest environmental problems.

FOCUS QUESTION

Which is more important: imagination or knowledge?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
What Will They Think of Next?	Text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5
The Rocks of Puy du Fou	Reading for understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1

Africa

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores how the geography and cultures of Africa shape the lives of its diverse peoples.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does where we live affect our lifestyle?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
So You Think You Know Africa	Connect text to self	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.10
The Niger River: One of Africa's Main Roads	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Matmata: A Town Underground	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.10
The Herdboys of Lesotho	Identify/determine author's purpose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.6
Listen to the Story of the Drum	Summarize text/part of text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Rescuing Orphan Elephants	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2

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Grade 6

Extreme Environments and Wild Weather

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit illustrates how extreme weather can change the course of history and influence where and how people live.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do people survive amidst the challenges caused by extreme environments and wild weather?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
A Hundred Coconuts and a Top Hat: A True Story	Describe story elements in depth	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Fleeing from the Weather	Relationships/interactions between individuals, events, and ideas (problem and solution)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3
Desert Dangers	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.10
Living Underground in Coober Pedy	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.1
Living with the Weather	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Weather's Hand in History	Relationships/interactions between individuals, events, and ideas (cause and effect)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3

Energy Buzz

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the energy sources we use to power our lives every day, including wind, water, and the sun.

FOCUS QUESTION

Which energy source is the best, and how do we determine what makes it the best?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Where Does Energy Come From?	Analyze development of individuals, events, and ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3
William Kamkwamba's Electric Wind	Analyze development of individuals, events, and ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3
Three Surprising Energy Sources for Our Bright Future	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Energy at Work in China	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Cosmic Kitchens	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
LEGOS and Paper Airplanes Launch a Career in Science	Identify/describe/analyze structure/ structural elements of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5

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Grade 6

The Stories That We Tell

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents myths from countries and cultures around the world, including Finland, China, and the Navajo nation.

FOCUS QUESTION

What do myths tell us about what is important to a culture?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Birth of the Earth	Compare characters, settings, or events	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3
Aino, Child of the Sea	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2
The Hero Twins: A Story of the Navajo People	Describe story elements in depth	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Legends of the Mid-Autumn Festival	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1
Loki and the Apples of the Gods: An Old Norse Tale	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2
Coyote, Spider Man, and the Rock: A Legend of the White River Sioux	Determine the central message/moral lesson of a story	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2

Transportation

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the means by which we travel, whether that be by land, water, or air.

FOCUS QUESTION

How has transportation allowed societies to innovate and people to realize their dreams?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
A Bumpy Ride	How theme or central idea are conveyed through particular details	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
The Andrea Doria Is Sinking!	Describe how characters respond as the plot moves toward resolution	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Bessie Coleman: She Dared to Dream	Describe how an individual, event or idea is introduced, illustrated and elaborated in a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3
Planes on the Brain	Compare and contrast different genres or forms in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.9
Are We There Yet?	How theme or central idea are conveyed through particular details	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Bikes, Trains, and Automobiles?	Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2

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Grade 6

Dance: A Cultural Tradition

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights the ways various styles of dance celebrate cultures around the world.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why is dance an important cultural and historical tradition?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Opa! Let's Do a Happy Dance	Analyze development of individuals, events, and ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3
The Festival of Flowers and Palms	Compare stories across genres (fiction and informational text)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.9
Capoeira: An Art for Everyone	Evaluate argument	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.8
Thiago Soares	Compare multiple authors' version of events (biography and interview)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.9
Hula: The History of Hawai'i	Integrate information from multiple sources	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.7
The Savoy	Analyze how the author develops/contrasts points of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6

Money and the Change It's Made

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the history and social impact of money and economic systems.

FOCUS QUESTION

What effect does an economy have on a society?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
What If...	Determine how point of view is conveyed	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.6
Cash, Credit, or Buffalo Chips?	Analyze how details convey/support main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2
Ways to Pay	Interpret technical meanings	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4
You Can Bank on Banks	Analyze development of individuals, events, and ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3
A Way Forward	Analyze author's choice of words	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4
Two Dollars	Identify/describe how author develops point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.6

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Grade 6

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of Mark Twain's classic novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* that introduces readers to Tom and his world.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do Tom Sawyer's choices define his character?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part I: Whitewashing a Fence	Describe character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Part II: Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2
Part III: A Life of Piracy	Identify/describe how author develops point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6
Part IV: An Unknown Fate	Describe character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Part V: Unhappy Pirates	Describe character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3
Part VI: Tom Sawyer Returns	Determine how parts contribute to overall structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5

Poetry of Connection*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights poems that explore the connections people make with each other. Each poem is paired with a prose passage that explores topics such as autobiographical information about the poet, further context for the poem, or techniques the poet used to convey a sense of connection.

FOCUS QUESTION

What do we gain by connecting with others?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Recuerdo	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4
Everyone Sang	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4
How Do I Love Thee (Sonnet 43)	Analyze impact of word choice on meaning and tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4
Oriflamme	Analyze parts' contribution to development of theme/setting/plot	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5
Taking Leave of a Friend	Analyze impact of word choice on meaning and tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4
I Hear America Singing	Identify/describe how author develops point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6

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Grade 7

Artificial Intelligence

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit explores our attitudes toward robots and artificial intelligence.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why do we love robots and fear them at the same time?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Deep in the Uncanny Valley	Reading for details and evidence	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Is It Possible to Avoid a Robot Rebellion?	Identify/use text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5

Architecture: A Window to Our Lives

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on innovative architecture and how geography, purpose, and culture influence it.

FOCUS QUESTION

What do our homes and architecture say about our lifestyle and what we value?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Designing Structures with Shapes	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
Home, Sweet Movable Home	Analyze how text parts contribute to the whole	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
A Garden for a Roof	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
An Icy Adventure	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas (problem and solution)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Whole-Tree Architecture	Apply background knowledge	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.10
Homes of Hidden Treasures	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2

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Grade 7

Australia and the South Pacific

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores how the cultures and geography of Australia and the South Pacific shape the lives of the people there, from traditional tattooing to geothermal activity.

FOCUS QUESTION

How have geography and cultural traditions influenced the way people live in Australia and the South Pacific?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Growing Up in Australia	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
The Indigenous Australian People Today	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
Living above the Boiling Earth	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Moko!	Analyze impact of word choice on style/mood/tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.4
The Gift from the Past	Analyze how text parts contribute to the whole	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
The Poisonous Pitohui	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3

Major Cities of the World

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit spotlights major international cities and explores the benefits and challenges of living in extreme urban environments.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why do so many people choose to live in cities, and do the benefits outweigh the challenges?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Monster Cities	Analyze how text parts contribute to the whole	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
Standing-Room Only: Two of the World's Most Crowded Places	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
San Francisco: Gateway to a Golden Dream	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas (problem and solution)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Cape Town: One of the World's Most Beautiful Seaports	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas (cause and effect)	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Mexico City: The Aztec Heritage Lives On	Identify key/supporting details/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
Riding the Underground Dragon	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4

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Grade 7

Inventors Who Changed the World

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights important inventors of the 19th and 20th centuries, providing insight into their lives and their contributions to society.

FOCUS QUESTION

How has a good idea changed the world?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Ada Lovelace and the Thinking Machines	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
Dot, Dash, and Ring-a-ling	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
An Electrifying Genius	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Edison, Tesla, and the Battle of the Currents	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
Madam C. J. Walker	Analyze how text parts contribute to the whole	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
Margaret E. Knight: "A Lady in a Machine-Shop"	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1

Fun With Physics!

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the world of physics and how its principles connect to our everyday lives.

FOCUS QUESTION

What have we learned about our world through the study of physics?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Moon Is Falling	Summarize text/part of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
Will It Fly?	Analyze how text parts contribute to the whole	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.5
Aim for the Stars	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Arc of Triumph	Identify central/main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.2
The Kingda Ka Roller Coaster: Action-Packed Ride	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
The Thrill of Time Travel	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.10

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Grade 7

Using Our Brains

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines the mysteries of the human brain, featuring topics such as déjà vu, daydreaming, artificial intelligence, and false memories.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why do scientists continue to study the human brain?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Daydreams and Doodles	Analyze contrasting emphasis/interpretation of information/facts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.9
Been There, Done That	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
The Girl Who Codes	Analyze how a theme is conveyed and developed	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Interpreters: Silver-Tongued Masters of Memory	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1
True or False: Can You Trust Your Memory?	Analyze interactions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
The Mind in the Machine	Analyze contrasting emphasis/interpretation of information/facts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.9

True Grit*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on people who have overcome immense challenges with patience, passion, and persistence.

FOCUS QUESTION

What causes a person to stick to their goals despite problems, setbacks and failures?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Ida Lewis, the Heroine of Lime Rock Lighthouse	Analyze impact of word choice on style/mood/tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.4
Speaking Up	Compare/analyze impact of text vs other mediums	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.7
A Home in the Ground	Compare a fictional portrayal to a historical account	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.9
Shining a Light on Invisible Issues	Analyze the interactions between individuals, and events, in a text (e.g., how events influence individuals, how individuals influence others).	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.3
Leng Ouch Fights to Save Forests	Identify/determine author's purpose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.6
Women on the Front Lines of Conservation	Analyze how authors distinguish their own point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.6

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Grade 7

The Call of the Wild

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of Jack London's classic novel *The Call of the Wild*, following the clever dog Buck on his epic adventure.

FOCUS QUESTION

What can we learn from Buck's story?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part 1: Chapter I. Into the Primitive	Determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4
Part 2: Chapter II. The Law of Club and Fang	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Part 3: Chapter III. The Dominant Primordial Beast, Chapter IV. Who Has Won to Mastership	Analyze how story elements interact	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3
Part 4: Chapter V. The Toil of Trace and Trail	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Part 5: Chapter VI. For the Love of a Man	Analyze how the author develops/contrasts points of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.6
Part 6: Chapter VII. The Sounding of the Call	Analyze how a theme is conveyed and developed	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2

Poetry of Emotion*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit highlights poems that center on emotion. Each poem is paired with a prose passage that explores topics such as autobiographical information about the poet, further context for the poem, or techniques the poet used to express emotion.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does language help us express emotion?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
In Flanders Fields	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Barter	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Garden Abstract	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4
O Captain! My Captain!	Interpret figurative language	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4
We Wear the Mask	Analyze development of central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2
Annabel Lee	Analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.5

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Grade 8

Artificial Intelligence

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This Jump Start unit orients students to Imagine Reading and how to use its features. This short unit explores our attitudes toward robots and artificial intelligence.

FOCUS QUESTION

Why do we love robots and fear them at the same time?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Deep in the Uncanny Valley	Reading for understanding	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Is it Possible to Avoid a Robot Rebellion?	Text features	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5

The DNA Question

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores our growing understanding of DNA, including the power and ethical dilemmas that understanding presents.

FOCUS QUESTION

Will increasing our understanding of DNA and genetics lead to dangerous, unethical science or miraculous leaps forward in medicine?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Probability of Purple Peas	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Rosalind Franklin: The Woman Who Should Have Won the Nobel Prize	Evaluate argument	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.8
Living Machines: Some Assembly Required	Analyze paragraph structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5
Anila Madiraju: Student Cancer Researcher Wins 54th Intel Competition	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1
The Stolen Legacy of Henrietta Lacks	Analyze how authors distinguish their own point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6
GMO: Friend or Foe?	Analyze connections/distinctions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3

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Grade 8

Life in Latin America

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit discusses how the history and cultures of Central and South America shape the lives of the people who live there.

FOCUS QUESTION

In what ways is the richness of Latin American culture the product of many diverse influences?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Family Life in Mexico	Analyze connections/distinctions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3
Facing Challenges Together	Identify/determine author's purpose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6
Pato: Argentina's National Sport	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1
Contemporary Indigenous Peoples of Latin America	Summarize text/part of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Central and South American Languages: Not All of Them Are Spanish	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10
Baseball Is a Way of Life	Analyze development of main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2

Making Music

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit discusses the history of various musical instruments and the role that music plays in our lives.

FOCUS QUESTION

What effect does music have on people and why is it so important to us?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Do You Have a Musical Brain?	Summarize text/part of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Sounds Good!	Analyze connections/distinctions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3
A Tale of Two Violins	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1
Benjamin Franklin's Singing Bowls	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10
Concerts Go Public	Analyze paragraph structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5
The Oud Player of Sana'a	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2

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Grade 8

The Mighty, Fragile Ocean

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit explores oceanic ecosystems and how they shape some of the earth's defining features.

FOCUS QUESTION

What will it take to protect our oceans?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Coral Reefs: Alive and Endangered	Analyze development of main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
The Captivating Creatures of the Arctic Ocean	Analyze connections/distinctions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3
The Great Pacific Garbage Patch	Identify/determine author's purpose	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6
Eyes on the Tide	Evaluate argument	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.8
Too Noisy for Whales	Question the text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10
Swimming with Seahorses	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1

The Living World of Plants

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines how our understanding of plants has influenced our attitudes and behavior toward them.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do certain characteristics of plants help people and help the plants survive?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Carl Linnaeus: The Roots of Ethnobotany	Cite text evidence to support analysis	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1
One Potato, Two Potato, More!	Provide an objective summary	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Legend of the Moccasin Flower	Analyze how dialogue and events affect plot and character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3
Malama Lumaha'i: Caring for the Forest Family	Analyze development of main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Are Plants Intelligent?	Evaluate argument	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.8
The Story of Life: How Plants Help Us and We Help Them	Evaluate argument	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.8

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Grade 8

Game Changers

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit examines various sports and analyzes the roles they play in different cultures around the world.

FOCUS QUESTION

How have evolving cultures and improving technology changed sports over time?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
The Evolution of Sports	Analyze connections/distinctions between individuals/events/ideas	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3
Cuju	Analyze paragraph structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5
Curious Sports of the UK	Analyze impact of word choice on style/mood/tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.4
Hard Heads vs. Helmets	Evaluate arguments	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.8
Real Sports, Virtual Reality	Analyze how details convey/support the main idea	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2
Holoball	Analyze how dialogue and events affect plot and character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3

Dessert: It's Not Just for Breakfast Anymore!

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit discusses candy- and dessert-making and their related sciences, technologies, and careers.

FOCUS QUESTION

How do science, technology and culture influence what we eat?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
From Scratch	Identify central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2
The Best Fruit You've Never Eaten	Interpret technical meanings	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.4
The Secrets of Candy Alchemy	Preview text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10
The Science and Art of Food	Analyze paragraph structure	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5
Chocolate to Die For	Identify/determine author's point of view	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6
The Chocolate Club	Predict	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.10

*Units marked with an asterisk have not been released. Information regarding unreleased units may change after February 3, 2020.

Sherlock Holmes: The Red-Headed League

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit presents an adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s classic story *The Red-Headed League* that follows Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes on one of their earliest and most head-scratching adventures.

FOCUS QUESTION

What elements of a Sherlock Holmes story make the detective so popular even today?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Part 1: An Unusual Problem	Analyze how dialogue and events affect plot and character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3
Part 2: Mr. Wilson’s Tale	Summarize text/part of a text	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3
Part 3: The Red-Headed League Is Dissolved	Analyze how point of view is used for effect	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.6
Part 4: The Fourth-Smartest Man in London	Analyze how dialogue and events affect plot and character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3
Part 5: A Nocturnal Expedition	Make inferences	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1
Part 6: Settling the Score with Mr. John Clay	Analyze how dialogue and events affect plot and character development	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3

Poetry of Self-Expression*

UNIT DESCRIPTION

This unit focuses on poems in which the poet explores identity and expression. Each poem is paired with a prose passage that explores topics such as autobiographical information about the poet, further context for the poem, or techniques the poet used to express some part of their identity.

FOCUS QUESTION

How does language reflect and express identity?

Passage	Focus Skill	Standard
Song of the Open Road, 1	Analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4
Flash	Analyze impact of word choice on meaning and tone	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4
To the Others	Make inferences	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1
When I Rise Up	Themes/topics/approaches across texts	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9
I Have a Rendezvous with Life	Analyze development of central idea/theme	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2
Wilderness	Analyze how structure contributes to meaning and style	CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.5

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