

8th Grade ELA
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
1	<i>Personal Literature</i> Published fiction (including its literary elements) can serve as a model for telling one’s own story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do good readers do when comprehension breaks down? What similarities and differences appear in literature from different cultures? ▪ How might differences in rhetoric reflect the culture of origin? ▪ How is your culture reflected in your writing? ▪ What effect does the placement of subordinating conjunctions have on the emphasis and punctuation of a sentence?
2	<i>Personal Literature</i> Published and unpublished memoirs use rhetoric and analogy to tell the writer’s story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do good readers decide when to slow down and when to speed up while reading? ▪ How can the understanding of Greek and Latin roots unlock the meaning of countless words? ▪ How do literary devices and figurative language enhance writing?
3	<i>Personal Literature</i> Memoirs can be written in both narrative and poetic forms which include rhetoric and literary elements to tell the writer’s story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do authors do to convey their message? ▪ How does the author’s background and style reflect his purpose for writing? ▪ How does reading what others have written change me? ▪ How do you account for the many different genres written on similar subjects?
4	<i>Nonfiction Literature</i> Writers purposely include persuasive devices, varied sentence structures and logical patterns of organization to influence their readers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do effective writers hook and hold readers and make writing easy to follow? ▪ How do authors mix facts with their piece of writing and still keep the reader’s interest?
5	<i>Nonfiction Literature</i> Writers purposely include persuasive devices, varied sentence structures and logical patterns of organization to influence their readers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do authors prove their point? ▪ What are the different genres that an expert uses to explain their opinion? ▪ How do writers choose a pattern of development when writing essays?
6	<i>Nonfiction Literature</i> Writers purposely include persuasive devices, varied sentence structures and logical patterns of organization to influence their readers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How do authors appeal to their audience? ▪ What skills do you need to have to be a cautious consumer? ▪ What clues do readers use to determine connotative and denotative meanings of words and phrases?
7	<i>Research Literature</i> Researchers begin with open-ended questions, obtain and paraphrase information gathered from reliable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What makes a topic good for researching? ▪ What’s the difference between plagiarism and paraphrasing? ▪ How do researchers synthesize information from two

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	print and electronic sources, and analyze their notes to broaden or narrow questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> or more different sources? ▪ What makes a resource valid and reliable
8	<p><i>Research Literature</i> Researchers draw conclusions from information gathered, provide evidence for their conclusions, and present information in meaningful ways (often using multi-media and multi-genre approaches)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does a researcher decide what information belongs in the documents or presentation that will be shared with others? ▪ How do decide how you will present what you've discovered to others? ▪ What makes effective multimedia and/ or multi-genre presentations?
9	<p><i>Practical Literature</i> Writers use carefully selected organizational patterns and add graphics to informational texts (directions, technical publications, articles, etc) to provide clarity and make the information accessible to the reader.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What different kinds of things would want someone to include when writing directions for you to follow? ▪ What kinds of things do you notice in books, magazines, and other sources that help you locate information without reading from cover to cover? ▪ What structures can you use in your writing to make it easier for your reader to follow?
10	<p><i>Practical Literature</i> Writers use carefully selected organizational patterns and add graphics to informational texts (directions, technical publications, articles, etc) to provide clarity and make the information accessible to the reader.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can you have an impact on other people or groups with your writing? ▪ What forms of writing are needed to get a job? ▪ What are the differences in purpose and form between text messages, email, personal letters, and business letters?
11	<p><i>Innovative Literature</i> Writers use P.O.V., dialogue, staging and other techniques to impact the tone, mood and theme perceived by the audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How are the written word and the dramatized word similar and different? ▪ What impact do dialogue, staging, voice inflection, etc have on the way the audience views a character? ▪ What techniques does an actor or presenter use to make his/her words comprehensible to an audience?
12	<p><i>Innovative Literature</i> Writers use P.O.V., dialogue, staging and other techniques to impact the tone, mood and theme perceived by the audience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does a writer capture and keep the reader's attention throughout a story? ▪ What elements go into the writing of an imaginative story?