



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



LA 6, 7, 8 Intensive (Comprehension)
Course # 0611, 0711, 0811

General Information

Credits: N/A

Weighted: N/A

Prerequisite: Meets entrance criteria

Length: Full Year

Format: Meets daily for a minimum of 90 minutes

Grade: 6-8

Course Description

Intensive Language Arts Comprehension is specially designed for students for whom reading and/or writing achievement limits their ability to fully benefit from the grade-level language arts course. Skill deficits in the area of comprehension are the greatest need, impacting all content areas. Students are admitted to this course based on criteria which considers past performance and current academic needs. The course is specially designed to advance below level reading and writing. The delivery model for this course includes the use of a research-based instructional program, specially trained staff, additional minutes of instruction, and specialized technology. Direct instruction and guided practice in comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness, and phonics are aligned with each student's specific areas of need. Students in this course may be exposed to some of the RTSD core language arts curriculum, but the priority is building skills in reading and written language to ensure future academic success in all areas.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will think critically about reading to promote the deeper comprehension of complex text required for success in school, career, and life.
2. Students will improve academic writing in order to enhance reading comprehension, oral communication and learning across the content areas.
3. Students will acquire academic vocabulary to improve their comprehension and written language.
4. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to informational text such as essays, articles, and biographies.
5. Students will be able to read, understand, and respond to works of literature, including novels, stories, poetry, and drama.
6. Students will develop the skills of informational, argumentative, and narrative writing.
7. Students will engage in evidence-based analysis of text.
8. Students will focus on communication skills that enable critical listening and effective expression of ideas, including collaborative discussion, inquiry, and presentation.
9. Students will develop and refine vocabulary skills to improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
10. Students will practice grammatical conventions, and apply them consistently as they write across all content areas.

For more detailed information on course objectives, please refer to Pennsylvania's Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (Draft): http://static.pdesas.org/content/documents/6-12_ELA_Standards_8-2-12_DRAFT.pdf

Common Assessments:

Quizzes
rSkills Tests
Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI)

Major Units of Study:

Comprehension

Main Idea and Details
Sequence of Events
Story Elements
Summarizing
Problem and Solution
Cause and Effect
Compare and Contrast
Make Inferences

Vocabulary/Word Study

Synonyms
Antonyms
Prefixes
Suffixes
Verb Endings
Word Families
Using a Dictionary
Multiple Meaning Words
Homophones
Compound Words
Idioms
Context Clues
Latin Roots

Writing and Conventions

Informational Paragraph
Identifying Sentences and Fragments
Using End Punctuation
Narrative Paragraph
Correcting Sentence Fragments
Using Capital Letters
Literary Analysis
Correcting Run-On Sentences
Using Correct Word Order
Informational Summary
Using Correct Verb Tense
Using Commas in a Series
Argument Essay
Using Irregular Verbs
Using Commas with Introductory Words
Subject-Verb Agreement
Using Possessive Nouns
Using Subject and Object Pronouns
Avoiding Double Negatives
Personal Narrative
Using Adverbs
Using Quotation Marks
Research Paper
Using Adjectives That Compare

Materials & Texts

- Read 180 Next Generation web based Scholastic Adaptive Computer Software, student and teacher resources as well as classroom literature and informational text related to the program. <http://read180.scholastic.com/reading-intervention-program/about>
- Scholastic rBook
- Common Novels for Grade Level
- Audio Books

- Independent Reading Books

Summer Assignment

Follow the grade level summer reading requirements – read two books of your choice and complete validation for each.