



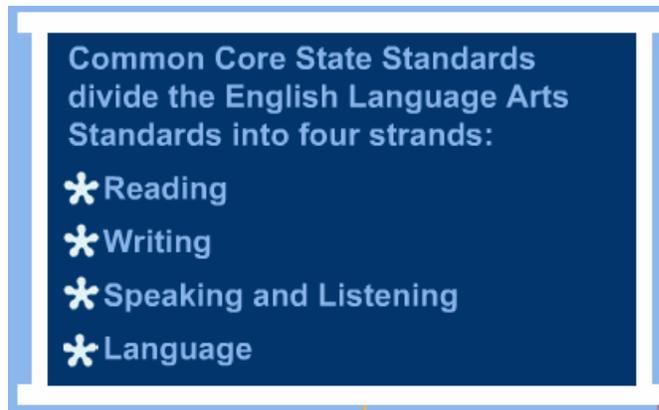
Common Core State Standards and The Reader's Journey

Introduction This guide discusses how The Reader's Journey aligns to the Common Core State Standards.

It begins with a brief review of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in Grades 6 through 12 and then discusses the ways that The Reader's Journey aligns to each of the four strands of the standards.

This guide refers to The Reader's Journey Common Core State Standards Correlations. This resource is available for all three grade levels of the program and can be downloaded from The Reader's Journey Web site.

Common Core State Standards Overview The Common Core State Standards are rigorous standards that were designed to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge that they need to succeed in college and work. This guide focuses on the English Language Arts standards for Grades 6 through 12. These standards are divided into four strands: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language.



Within each strand are grade-specific standards. These standards define what students should understand and be able to do at the end of each grade level as they develop skills for college and career readiness. As this guide looks at each of the four strands of the Common Core State Standards, it explores how The Reader's Journey aligns to each strand.

The images and examples seen are from Grade 7 materials, but the information can be applied to Grades 6 and 8 as well.

Reading Standards

For Grades 6 through 12, the Common Core State Standards divide the Reading Standards between literature and informational text.

The grade-level standards for both literature and informational text are based on the Common Core State Standard's ten College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading. These standards fall under one of the following four categories: Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, and Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity.

Alignment to the Reading Standards

The Reader's Journey aligns to these standards. Reading both literature and informational text is an integral part of the Common Core State Standards. The Anchor Books and Student Work Texts, which are essential components of the program, offer opportunities to read both literature and nonfiction.

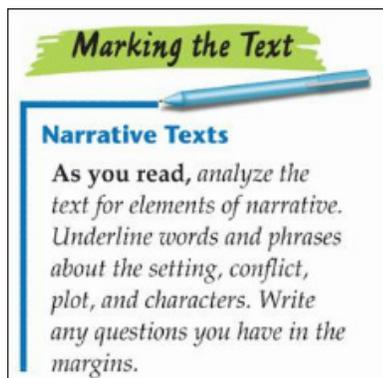
The Reader's Journey is a novel-based program, and each of the six units focuses on a different genre. The program allows ample opportunity for students to read a wide range of quality works, which is an important part of the Common Core State Standards.

The six unit genres of all three grade levels of The Reader's Journey provide a range of content and complexity that is essential to college and career readiness.



Each unit has been developed around a Big Question. Guided by the work of author Grant Wiggins, the Big Question and the leveled Anchor Books were carefully chosen for each unit to inspire deeper understanding. This focus on students actively engaging with high-quality literature and informational text is in alignment with the Reading Standards.

The active reading strategy of Marking the Text is based on the work of author Harvey Daniels and is an integral part of the program.



Marking the Text is a strategy that students can use in college and beyond. Be sure to read the correlations guides to learn how specific activities in The Reader’s Journey align to the Common Core Reading Standards in specific grade levels.

The Reader’s Journey aligns to the reading strand, and it also aligns to the writing strand of the Common Core State Standards.

Writing Standards

The Writing Standards focus on three types of writing: arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives.

Each of the ten writing standards falls under one of the following four categories:

- Text Types and Purposes
- Production and Distribution of Writing
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge
- Range of Writing

Many of the Writing Standards are further broken down into substandards.

Alignment to the Writing Standards

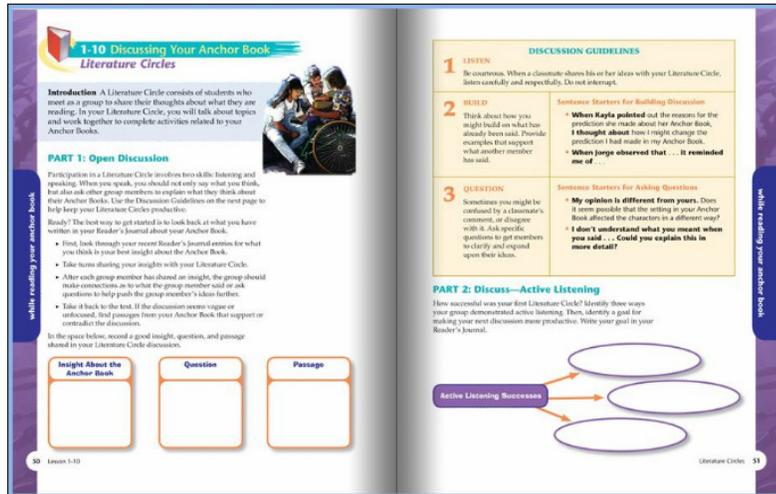
The Writer’s Workshops within each unit of The Reader’s Journey are aligned to the Big Question and unit genre. They provide an opportunity for students to make deeper connections between the reading and writing strands. Here’s an example of how the program aligns to Writing Standard 2.

Writing Standard 2 states that students should be able to “write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content” (Common Core State Standards Initiative 2010, 41).

Alignment to the Speaking and Listening Standards

In The Reader’s Journey, there are a variety of opportunities for speaking and listening in whole groups, small groups, and during partner activities. The Big Question and genre-specific focus of each unit provides the rich content for these conversations.

For example, Literature Circles are a part of each unit and provide an opportunity for students to improve their speaking and listening skills. By linking the Literature Circles to the Big Question, students gain a deeper understanding of what they are reading. Speaking and listening skills are directly addressed in the parts of a Literature Circle.



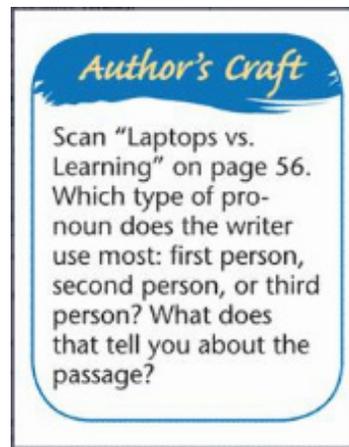
Be sure to look at the correlations guide for more examples of how The Reader’s Journey correlates to the Speaking and Listening Standards.

Language Standards

Language is the last of the four English Language Arts strands. The six Language Standards fall into one of three categories: Conventions of Standard English, Knowledge of Language, or Vocabulary Acquisition and Use.

Alignment to the Language Standards

The Reader’s Journey includes skill lessons in the Student Work Text that directly correlate to the Language Standards. The Language Coach lessons that are a part of each unit provide instruction on targeted



skills that are in alignment with the Language Standards. The Author’s Craft notes help students make the connection to what they are reading, and Web Codes provide additional practice with each language skill.

The Web Code links to a Grammar to Go activity that can be used to practice the language skill of subject-verb agreement.

Look at the correlations guide for more examples of how The Reader’s Journey correlates to the Language Standards.

Review

This guide discussed how to use The Reader’s Journey to address the four strands—Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language—in the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

References

Common Core State Standards Initiative. 2010. “Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.” Accessed January 1, 2011. <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>.