



STORYWORKS Jr. Meets Common Core State Standards

The Magazine for Growing Readers

Storyworks Jr. supports the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and similar state standards. The authentic texts and specially-designed lesson plans and activities in this language-arts magazine support anchor standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language.

Anchor Standards for Reading

Storyworks

Key Ideas and Details

1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

- Every Student Edition features highly engaging content for students to read, including narrative nonfiction, original fiction, nonfiction paired-text features, read-aloud plays, poetry, and debates.
- Think and Read boxes at the beginning of major features help students set a purpose for reading and look for specific textual evidence as they read.
- Writing prompts at the end of major features guide students to make inferences and use textual evidence to compose a written response to the feature.
- Paired-text features in the Student Edition prompt students to cite textual evidence to identify similarities and differences.
- Online activities accompanying all major features prompts students to cite textual evidence to support ideas.
- Debate features in the Student Edition prompt students to identify supporting evidence on each side of a debate.
- The opinion-writing activity guides students to write an essay using textual evidence to support a conclusion.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher's Guide include close-reading and critical-thinking questions that prompt students to use comprehension strategies, including making inferences, citing details from text, identifying the main idea and supporting details, summarizing, comparing and contrasting, and drawing conclusions.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher's Guide include questions and tasks that prompt students to speak and write about texts.
- Reading comprehension quizzes reinforce comprehension strategies, such as making inferences, drawing conclusions, and identifying supporting details.
- Up to 25 printable activity sheets for each issue are available online. These focus on specific reading strategies and core skills for each feature in the magazine.

Key Ideas and Details

2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

- Think and Read boxes at the beginning of major features set a purpose for reading, often prompting students to identify central ideas or themes.
- Writing prompts at the end of major features ask students to write a paragraph identifying elements such as theme.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher’s Guide include close-reading and critical-thinking questions and writing tasks that ask students to discuss themes and provide examples to support their ideas.
- Core-skills activity sheets with all nonfiction and fiction features reinforce identifying theme, main idea and supporting details, and summarizing.
- Printable activity sheets available online guide students to identify central ideas or themes of stories and to use text evidence to support their ideas.

3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

- High-interest nonfiction articles, paired-text features, original fiction, and plays provide ideal material for students to analyze individuals, events, and ideas, and how they interact.
- Character, plot, and theme activity sheets focus on how individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact.
- Think and Read boxes and writing prompts on major features guide students to analyze how elements within a text affect each other.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher’s Guide focus on critical thinking and analyzing elements such as character and plot.
- Text pairings add insights and perspectives to various elements of the text.
- Printable activity sheets provide scaffolded support for students to analyze nonfiction and fiction texts.

Craft and Structure

4

Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

- Vocabulary words are highlighted in bold and defined on the page in major features. They are also listed in the Teacher's Guide.
- Vocabulary slideshows add visual and audio support to word definitions.
- Word Power, a short nonfiction feature, includes a built-in vocabulary activity.
- The column One Word, Three Ways focuses on multiple-meaning words
- Vocabulary-in-context activity sheets help students preview words and learn word meanings.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher's Guide ask students to analyze word choice when appropriate.

5

Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

- Features in the Student Edition offer varying text structures, including sequence, description, cause and effect, problem and solution, and compare and contrast.
- Text features such as headlines, subheads, and genre labels help students comprehend text structure.
- Close-reading questions in the Teacher's Guide prompt students to analyze text structures.
- Activity sheets often focus on specific text structures, such as cause and effect or compare and contrast.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher's Guide focus on important reading skills, such as determining the importance of specific parts of a text.

6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

- Student Edition features include first- and third-person accounts and stories, as well as objective and persuasive pieces.
- The debate feature is often composed of two separate texts examining an issue from opposing points of view.
- Think and Read boxes prompt readers to look for elements like author's purpose and point of view.
- Paired texts in the Student Edition let readers examine one topic or theme across two different genres or from different points of view.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher's Guide teach essential reading skills, such as identifying author's purpose and point of view.
- Writing prompts in the Teacher's Guide ask students to rewrite a stories from a different point of view.
- Printable activity sheets available online focus on point of view and author's purpose.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

- A “Video Read-Aloud” offers a narration of the main nonfiction feature along with photos and video footage, providing background knowledge and context.
- The Student Editions incorporate photographs, illustrations, maps, charts, graphs, and sidebars to enhance texts.
- Nonfiction, paired texts, fiction, and poetry are available in audio versions.
- Lessons in the Teacher’s Guide prompt students to conduct research using a variety of media.
- Links to relevant websites are available online for all major features.

8

Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

- Debate features in the Student Edition present two sides of an issue and ask students to evaluate them.
- The “Write an Opinion Essay” activity guides students to evaluate arguments and support opinions with textual evidence.
- Lesson plans in the Teacher’s Guide ask students to practice skills such as analyzing author’s purpose and point of view.

9

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

- Every issue offers paired texts of the same or different genre that share a topic or theme.
- Writing prompts with every paired-text feature give students the opportunity to analyze and write responses to multiple texts.
- Online activity sheets guide students to compare and contrast or synthesize two or more texts.
- Thematic connections can sometimes be made between features in one issue, such as the nonfiction features and poems.
- Lessons in the Teacher’s Guide prompt students to make connections between texts.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10

Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

- *Storyworks Jr.* presents a wide range of complex texts, including nonfiction, fiction, plays, poetry, and debates.
- Nonfiction is offered on up to four levels, allowing everyone from struggling readers to advanced readers to access the text. Paired texts, fiction, and debates are often offered on two levels.
- The Teacher’s Guide lists Lexiles, guided-reading levels, and DRA levels for all major features.

Text Types and Purposes

1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- All major Student Edition features conclude with writing prompts that require students to support claims with textual evidence.
- The Teacher's Guide offers differentiated writing tasks.
- Writing contests motivate students to respond to writing prompts.
- Teacher's Guide lesson plans include questions and writing prompts to develop writing and reasoning skills.
- The opinion-writing activity provides scaffolded support for students to write opinion essays in response to the debate feature.
- Printable activity sheets available online help students practice specific writing and reasoning skills, such as identifying cause and effect or problem and solution.

2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

- Writing prompts and contests in the Student Edition ask students to produce clear, thoughtful, and effective paragraphs.
- Questions and writing prompts in the Teacher's Guide let students practice clarity and organization in writing.
- Online essay kits guide students to select and organize ideas to include in various types of essays.

3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- Teacher's Guide writing prompts ask students to write personal narratives and creative stories relating to articles they have read.
- Printable activity sheets available online help students practice specific writing skills and techniques.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- Writing prompts throughout the Student Edition and Teacher's Guides provide many opportunities for students to practice clear and coherent writing on interesting topics.
- Writing prompts create varied tasks and hypothetical audiences—for example, writing a letter to a friend, an editorial for a newspaper, a journal entry in the voice of a fictional character, etc.
- The opinion-writing activity guides students to write opinion essays.

Anchor Standards for Writing

Storyworks

Production and Distribution of Writing

5

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

- Writing activities in the Student Edition, Teacher's Guide, and online can be further developed by following the steps of the writing process.
- Articles in the Student Edition can be used as exemplar texts of published writing.

6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

- Writing tasks prompt students to use technology to research and write about a topic.
- Teachers can adapt writing prompts to use on class web pages and in learning management systems.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

- Close-reading and critical-thinking questions in the Teacher's Guide ask students to search within articles for answers to probing questions.
- Activities in the Teacher's Guide ask students to conduct more in-depth research on a topic presented in the magazine, using a variety of sources.
- Articles lend themselves to being used as starting points for research projects and inquiry-based learning.

8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

- *Storyworks Jr.* videos accompanying articles give students an opportunity to integrate information from multimedia sources.
- Links to relevant websites can be found online for each issue.
- Writing prompts, questions, and printable activity sheets help students determine author's purpose, which can shed light on the credibility of a source.

9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

- Student Edition articles are high-interest informational and literary texts from which students can draw evidence for a variety of writing assignments.

Range of Writing

10

Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

- The writing prompts and activities in the Student Edition and Teacher's Guides and online can be used during instruction to write for a wide variety of purposes.

Comprehension and Collaboration

1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

- Articles in the Student Edition lend themselves to discussions, which can be held as a class, in small groups, or in partnerships.
- Close-reading and critical-thinking questions in the Teacher's Guide help move discussions along with probing questions.
- Debate features in the Student Edition can be used to stage classroom debates or informal conversations in various group formats.

2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

- Student Edition features include photographs, maps, charts, graphs, and related sidebars.
- Illustrations by acclaimed children's illustrators enhance fiction, plays, and poetry.
- Video features augment information in *Storyworks Jr.* articles.
- Read-aloud plays let students read text aloud while others listen.
- Audio formats allow students to access articles aurally.

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

- Articles and critical-thinking and discussion questions can be used to spark moderated discussion among students.
- Debate features can be used to stage classroom debates or informal conversations in various group formats. Listeners can identify a speaker's reasons and evidence for an argument.
- Videos that accompany articles provide opportunities to evaluate what a speaker says.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

- Activities in the Teacher's Guide ask students to present findings on a topic to their classmates.
- Topics covered in the Student Edition can be used as springboards for oral presentations about specific topics.

5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

- Activities in the Teacher's Guide prompt students to interpret ideas and information visually—for example, in a digital infographic, timeline, video, poster, or brochure.
- Online activity sheets can be used with interactive whiteboards so students can explain their reasoning to the class as they complete them.

Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

Storyworks Jr.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

6

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

- Writing prompts and close-reading and critical-thinking questions can be used for oral responses in formal and informal settings.
- Articles in the Student Edition can be used to stimulate discussion about given topics.

Anchor Standards for Language

Storyworks Jr.

Conventions of Standard English

1

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

- The Student Edition and other print materials serve as models for standard English grammar and usage.
- Writing prompts and other writing activities in the Student Edition and Teacher's Guides provide students with many opportunities for writing and speaking using standard conventions.
- Grammar Cop, in every issue, helps students recognize and use standard English grammar.
- Key skills presented in Grammar Cop are examined in context in an article in the Student Edition and reinforced with an activity sheet online.
- Word Power, in every issue, draws attention to parts of speech in context.

2

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- The Student Edition and other print materials serve as models for correct usage of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Writing prompts and other writing activities in the Student Edition and Teacher's Guides provide students with many opportunities for writing using standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Grammar Cop, in every issue, helps students recognize and use standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Knowledge of Language

3

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

- Articles in the Student Edition provide examples of diverse writing styles.
- Read-aloud plays provide examples of language used in different contexts by a variety of characters.
- A variety of writing activities in the Student Edition and Teacher's Guides and online require students to determine appropriate writing styles to respond effectively.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

- Vocabulary words are highlighted in bold in major features and defined on the page. They are also listed in the Teacher's Guide.
- Vocabulary-in-context activity sheets help students preview words and learn word meanings.
- Vocabulary slideshows add visual support to word meanings.
- Teachers can prompt students to determine meanings of challenging words through context.
- Every Student Edition includes Word Power, a short nonfiction feature with a built-in vocabulary activity.
- It also includes One Word, Three Ways, which focuses on multiple-meaning words.
- Activities such as Grammar Cop and online activity sheets teach word roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

5

Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Printable vocabulary activity sheets explain nuances when appropriate.
- The One Word, Three Ways activity in the Student Edition helps students understand multiple-meaning words.
- The Word Power feature helps students understand relationships between words with similar meanings.

6

Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

- Articles contain academic and domain-specific vocabulary words. The words are supported by printable vocabulary-practice activities.
- Various activities prompt students to use context clues to find word meanings.
- Vocabulary slideshows help students acquire new words.
- Word Power in every issue introduces related academic vocabulary.

To order *Storyworks Jr.*, for additional editorial information, or to receive product samples:

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