



FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 7



Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The **Kansas English Language Arts (KELA)** standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student's mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:

- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

Example KELA expectations:

Ask and **answer** questions.

Cite several sources of specific evidence from a piece when offering an oral or written analysis of a book, essay, article or play.

Synthesize multiple texts and use evidence from multiple texts to support conclusions.

Analyze works of fiction to see how events advance the plot and how setting shapes

the characters or plot.

Recognize the similarities and differences between a fictional and factual account of the same time period.

Analyze how central ideas develop during the course of a text.

Use narrative techniques to develop the progression of events in a story.

Introduce a topic clearly,

previewing what is to follow; organize ideas; and include formatting and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely.

Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional questions for further

research and investigation.

Avoid plagiarism, following a standard format for citations.

Evaluate a speaker's key points and reasoning; ask questions; and state ideas in a discussion.

Present claims and findings to others, emphasizing main points, speaking clearly, using organizational skills and using formal English as the situation calls for it.

What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to ...

Write, speak, read and **listen** in all content areas to build knowledge.

Set goals and monitor their progress.

Solve problems.

Create meaning.

Think critically about real-world issues.

Develop a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

Build on their literacy skills from prior years.

How can language arts help me in the real world?

In your job ...

- You will need to **understand** other points of view.
- You will need to **problem solve**.
- You will need to **communicate** with others effectively.

In your life ...

- You will need to **gather information** to make good decisions.
- You will need to **form opinions** and **support them** through action.
- You will need to know how to **express yourself through speaking** and **writing**.

Outside Resources

- **Learning Heros:** <https://belearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:**
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:**
<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** www.ksde.org/ela

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