New York State ELA Curriculum

Educational Media Library
Reading Materials

These modules include authentic reading materials. Authentic reading materials include published works that are typically encountered by students in daily life, such as in magazines, books or newspapers. The use of authentic reading material may mean that some material is emotionally charged or may use language outside of a student's particular cultural experience.
NYS NEXT GENERATION ELA CURRICULUM MODULES

Grade 3 Module 1: SEEKING THE POWER OF EDUCATION AND READING

What is the power of reading and education?
- How does where people live in the world affect how they access reading and books?
- People overcome great challenges in order to access learning and books.

Rain School  BC 187 (25) Student Copies

Children in Chad build a schoolhouse that washes away during the rainy season after the end of each school year. James Rumford, who lived in Chad as a Peace Corps volunteer, fills these pages with the vibrant colors of Africa and the spare words of a pet to show how important learning is in a country where only a few children are able to go to school. Author: James Rumford.

The Librarian Of Basra BC 188  (25) Student Copies

Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library-along with the thirty thousand books within it-will be destroyed forever. This true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.
Author: Jeanette Winter

Nasreen's Secret School BC 189 (25) Student Copies

Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared. In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness? This book is based on a true story from Afghanistan. Author and Illustrator: Jeanette Winter.

My Librarian Is A Camel BK 190  (1) Copy

Do you get books from a public library in your town or even in your school library? In many remote areas of the world, there are no library buildings. In many countries, books are delivered in unusual way: by bus, boat, elephant, donkey, train, even by wheelbarrow. Why would librarians go to the trouble of packing books on the backs of elephants or driving miles to deliver books by bus? Because, as one librarian in Azerbaijan says, "Books are as important to us as air or water!" This is the intriguing photo essay, a celebration of books, readers, and libraries.
Thank You, Mr. Falker  BC 270 191  (20) Student Copies

Patricia Polacco is now one of America's most loved children's book creators, but once upon a time, she was a little girl named Trisha starting school. Trisha could paint and draw beautifully, but when she looked at words on a page, all she could see was jumble. It took a very special teacher to recognize little Trisha's dyslexia: Mr. Falker, who encouraged her to overcome her reading disability. Patricia Polacco will never forget him, and neither will we.

The Incredible Book Eating Boy  BK 192  (1) Student Copy

Like many children, Henry loves books. But Henry doesn't like to read books, he likes to eat them. Big books, picture books, reference books . . . if it has pages, Henry chews them up and swallows (but red ones are his favorite). And the more he eats, the smarter he gets, he's on his way to being the smartest boy in the world! But one day he feels sick to his stomach. And the information is so jumbled up inside, he can't digest it! Can Henry find a way to enjoy books without using his teeth? Author and Illustrator: Oliver Jeffer

The Boy Who Loved Words  BC 272  (20) Student Copies

In this Parents' Choice Gold Award's winning book, Selig collects words, ones that stir his heart (Mama!) and ones that make him laugh (giggle). But what to do with so many luscious words? After helping a poet find the perfect words for his poem (lozenge, lemon, and licorice), he figures it out: His purpose is to spread the word to others. And so he begins to sprinkle, disburse, and broadcast them to people in need. Author: Roni Schotter, Illustrator Giselle Potter

Waiting For The Biblioburro  BC 273  (20) Student Copies

Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros—all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own. Author: Monica Brown, illustrated by John Parra.

That Book Woman  BC 266  (20) Student Copies

Cal is not the readin' type. Living way high up in the Appalachian Mountains, he'd rather help Pap plow or go out after wandering sheep than try some book learning. Nope. Cal does not want to sit stoney-still reading some chicken scratch. But that Book Woman keeps coming just the same. She comes in the rain. She comes in the snow. She comes right up the side of the mountain, and Cal knows that's not easy riding. And all just to lend his sister some books. Why, that woman must be plain foolish -- or is she braver than he ever thought? Author: Heather Hansen, pictures by David Small. That Book Woman is a rare and moving tale that honors a special part of American history -- the Pack Horse Librarians, who helped untold numbers of children see the stories amid the chicken scratch, and thus made them into lifetime readers.
GRADE 3 - Module 2A

Module Overview

Researching To Build Knowledge and Teaching Others: Adaptations and the Wide World of Frogs

Unit Overview

Building Background Knowledge: Learning To Become An Expert (about Frogs)

Includes:

Poison Dart Frogs Up Close BC 196 (25) Student Copies
Why are they called poison dart frogs, anyway? Learn the answer to this question and more in this exciting installment in the Zoom In On Animals! series. Colorful, up-close photos of these beautiful, tiny frogs in their native habitats give readers a stunning view of these fascinating creatures. Author: Carmen Bredeson.

Deadly Poison Dart Frogs BC 197 (25) Student Copies

Everything You Need To Know About Frogs and Other Slippery Creatures BC 198 (25) Student Copies
Everything You Need to Know about Reptiles and Amphibians looks at the lives and times of the amazing world of our cold-blooded friends from all angles. A fascinating read packed with information on habitats, breeding habits, as well as oddities, shocking facts and anatomy, this information is presented through close ups, quizzes, games, engaging text and innovative, high quality design, making it perfect for in depth research or a quick dip for fast facts. Author: DK Publishing.

Bullfrog At Magnolia Circle BC 199 (25) Student Copies
Bullfrog is ready to find a spot of his own where he will use his deep, croaking song to attract a mate. On his search Bullfrog is alert for danger but still faces many challenges along the way. Reviewed by the Smithsonian Institution for accuracy, Bullfrog at Magnolia Circle is a fun and informative story with beautifully detailed illustrations. Watch your children have a blast reading and learning about the animals that live in an American backyard! Author: Deborah Dennard, illustrated by Kristin Kest.

Lizards, Frogs and Polliwogs BC 264 (26) Student Copies
Douglas Florian’s new collection of twenty-one original poems and paintings. From transparent glass frogs and ravenous rattlesnakes to sticky geckos and stressed-out skinks, this slithery spectacle showcases once again a master’s incomparable skill for making poetry informative, fun-and irresistible!

All The Small Poems and Fourteen More BK 201 (1) Student Copy
This collected edition of the Small Poems series includes all the original 99 poems and illustrations (first published in four volumes) and also 14 new poems by Author Valerie Worth. Illustrations by Natalie Babbitt.
Grade 3  Module 3A

Module Overview  Analyzing Narratives and Supporting Opinions: A Study of Peter Pan

Peter Pan  BC 202 (25) Student copies
An abridged retelling of the adventures of the three Darling children in Never-Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up. Author: James Matthew Barrie, Adapted by: Tania Zamorsk

Aesop’s Fables  BC 225 (25) Student copies

Grade 3  Module 3B Considering Perspectives and Supporting Opinions: Wolves in Fiction and Fact.

Lon Po Po  BC 265 (20 ) Student copies
This beautifully illustrated, old Chinese folktale involves three little sisters who outsmart a wolf who has gained entry to their home by pretending to be their maternal grandmother. ALA Notable Children’s Book 1995, Caldecott Medal 1990.

Grade 4  Module 1 Module Overview  Becoming A Close Reader and Writing To Learn: Native Americans in New York

Eagle Song  BC 203 (25) Student copies
Danny Bigtree’s family has moved to a new city, and Danny can't seem to fit in. He's homesick for the Mohawk reservation, and the kids in his class tease him about being an Indian? the thing that makes Danny most proud. Can he find the courage to stand up for himself? Author: Joseph Bruchac, Illustrator Dan Andreasen.

The Iroquois: the Six Nations Confederacy  BC 204 (25) Student copies
Bold photography, illustrations and captivating text provide insightful glimpses into American Indian nation the Iroquois. Fascinating descriptions of the history and lifestyles of this nation help readers understand these rich cultures that have endured to this day. Special features throughout the book include biographical profiles, time lines, maps, and recipes. Author: Mary Englar

Grade 4  Module 2a

Building Background Knowledge: Life in Colonial America

The Scoop on Clothes, Homes, and Daily Life in Colonial America  BC 205  (25) Student Copies
Travel back to a time when: All children wore dresses, even boys. Chasing a pig was a form of entertainment. Step into the lives of the colonists, and get the scoop on clothes, homes, and daily life in colonial America. Author: Elizabeth Raum.

If You Lived in Colonial Times  BC 206 (25) Student Copies
If you lived in colonial times-What kind of clothes would you wear? Would you go to school? -What would happen if you didn't behave? This book tells you what it was like to live in the New England colonies during the years 1565 to 1776. Author: Ann McGovern, illustrated by June Otani.
GRADE 4, MODULE 3A

CONSIDERING PERSPECTIVES AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS: SIMPLE MACHINES

**Simple Machines** BC 207 (25) Copies

How did the Ancient Egyptians build the pyramids? What is an Archimedes' screw? Which wedge do you use every time you eat? Do It Yourself offers an exciting new approach to understanding and investigation. Each book helps you conduct your own experiments and activities to learn more about the world around you. Author: Buffy Silverman

**Take A Quick Bowl! 26 Short Plays For Classroom Fun** BK 207 (1) Student Copy

Think you don't have time to put on a class play? This book simplifies the process and makes it easy to integrate one into your curriculum, with plays that cover everything from seasons and holidays to art and science. Each play runs 312 minutes and ensures that every student has at least one line.

GRADE 4, MODULE 4 Gathering Evidence and Speaking to Others

**Hope Chest** BC 246 (30) Student copies

When eleven-year-old Violet runs away from home in 1918 and takes the train to New York City to find her older sister who is a suffragist, she falls in with people her parents would call "the wrong sort," and ends up in Nashville, Tennessee, where "Suffs" and "Antis" are gathered, awaiting the crucial vote on the nineteenth amendment.

GRADE 5, MODULE 1

BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**Esperanza Rising** BC 124 and BC 208 (25) Student Copies

Esperanza believed her life would be wonderful forever. She would always live on her family's ranch in Mexico. She would always have fancy dresses and a beautiful home filled with servants. Papa and Abuelita would always be with her. But sudden tragedy shatters her world and forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California, where they settle in camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, and lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick, a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances because Mama's life and her own depend on it. Includes a teacher guide. Author: Pam Ryan

GRADE 5, MODULE 2A

READING AND WRITING LIKE A SCIENTIST:

OBSERVING NATURE, CONDUCTING RESEARCH, AND CREATING A FIELD JOURNAL ENTRY

**The Most Beautiful Roof in the World: Exploring the Rainforest Canopy** BC 209 (25) Student Copies

Journey along with Dr. Meg Lowman, a scientist who, with the help of slings, suspended walkways, and mountain-climbing equipment, has managed to ascend into one of our planet's least accessible and most fascinating ecosystems; the rain-forest canopy, an area unexplored until the last ten years and home to previously unknown species of plants and animals. Author: Kathryn Lasky, Illustrator: Christopher G. Knight.

**Rainforest Research Journal** BK 210 (1) COPY

Introduces the animals and plants of the Amazon basin and environmental conditions in the region through the diary entries of an American scientist and the letters she sends to her sponsors to report on her findings. Author: Paul Mason
GRADE 5, MODULE 3A
CONSIDERING PERSPECTIVES AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS:
SPORTS AND ATHLETES’ IMPACT ON CULTURE

PROMISES TO KEEP: HOW JACKIE ROBINSON CHANGED AMERICA  BC 211 (25) Student Copies
A biography of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues, as told by his daughter.
Author: Sharon

GRADE 5, MODULE 4
GATHERING EVIDENCE AND SPEAKING TO OTHERS:
NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

DARK WATER RISING  AU 401 (2) Copies
Audio book CD, (5)Sound Discs. While salvaging and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Galveston flood of 1900, sixteen-year-old Seth proves himself in a way that his previous efforts never could, but he still must face his father man-to-man.

GRADE 6, MODULE
MYTHS: NOT JUST LONG AGO

THE LIGHTNING THIEF BC 175 (25) COPIES
Twelve-year-old dyslexic Percy Jackson goes to summer camp where he sees images of Greek gods and goddesses everywhere even when no one else can. Percy learns he is the child of a famous god right in the middle of an intense battle as the gods try to topple each other. Rick Riordan

GRADE 6, MODULE
MYTHS: NOT JUST LONG AGO

D’AULAIRES BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS  AU 405 (2) Copies
Unabridged (4) Compact Sound Discs. Here are the immortals of Olympus—the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece—as freshly described as if they were alive today. Might Zeus with his fistful of thunderbolts; mischievous little Hermes; grey-eyed Athena, goddess of wisdom; Asclepius, the first physician; Orpheus and his beloved Euridice; Helios the sun, crossing the heavens in his fiery chariot...these and other equally fabulous figures are featured here with their heroic deeds and petty squabbles illuminated in full dimension.

GRADE 6, MODULE 2A
“RULES TO LIVE BY...”

BUD, NOT BUDDY  BC 123 and ER 1 (25) COPIES
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Includes a teacher guide. Author: Christopher Paul Curtis
GRADE 6, MODULE 3

**Dragonwings** BC 242 (30) Student copies, AU 402 (2) Copies **PLAYAWAY DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK**

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine. Author: Laurence Yep

GRADE 6 Module 3B Understanding Perspectives: Sustaining the Oceans

**Flush** BC 243 (30) Student Copies, AU 415 CD (1) Copy

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

**World Without Fish** BC 238 (25) Student Copies

Includes index. Describes what is happening to fish, the oceans, and the environment in the early twenty-first century, explaining how commonly-consumed fish, such as tuna, cod, and salmon, are disappearing; and discusses the impact of overfishing on other species and the effects of fishing on the oceans.

GRADE 6, MODULE 4

**Frightful’s Mountain** BC 174 (8) Copies, BC 250 (20) Copies, AU 403 (2) Copies **PLAYAWAY DIGITAL AUDIOBOOK**

As she grows through the first years of her life in the Catskill Mountains of NY, a peregrine falcon called Frightful interacts with various humans, including the boy who raised her, a falconer who rescues her, and several unscrupulous poachers, as well as with many animals that are part of the area’s ecological balance. Author: Jean Craighead George

GRADE 7, MODULE 1 - READING CLOSELY AND WRITING TO LEARN: JOURNEYS AND SURVIVAL

**A Long Walk To Water** BC 214 (20) COPIES

From Newbery medalist Linda Sue Park, an emotional novel based on a true story. Nya goes to the pond to fetch water for her family. She walks eight hours every day. Salva walks away from his war-torn village. He is a “lost boy” refugee, destined to cover Africa on foot, searching for his family and safety.

GRADE 7, MODULE 2A - WORKING WITH EVIDENCE: WORKING CONDITIONS THEN AND NOW

**LYDDIE** BC 125, (20) Student copies and BC 252 (20) Student copies **(25) COPIES**

When Lyddie and her younger brother are hired out as servants to help pay off their family farm’s debt, Lyddie is determined to find a way to reunite her family once again. Hearing about all the money a girl can make working in the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, she makes her way there, only to find that her dreams of returning home may never come true. Includes a teacher guide. Author: Katherine Paterson.

GRADE 7, MODULE 3

**The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass** BC 233, (25) Student Copies and AU 404 (2) Copies **Playaway Digital Audiobook**

Born into a family of slaves, Frederick Douglass educated himself through sheer determination. His unconquered will to triumph over his circumstances makes his one of America’s best and most unlikely success stories. Douglass’ own account of his journey from slave to one of America’s great statesmen, writers, and orators is as fascinating as it is inspiring.
**GRADE 7, MODULE 2B**

*Pygmalion* BC 244 (25) Copies

An idealistic professor transforms an unsophisticated Cockney girl into a refined young lady in this classic drama set in turn-of-the-century London.

**GRADE 7, MODULE 1 - READING CLOSELY AND WRITING TO LEARN: JOURNEYS AND SURVIVAL**


The People Could Fly, the title story in Virginia Hamilton’s prize-winning American Black folktale collection, is a fantasy tale of the slaves who possessed the ancient magic words that enabled them to literally fly away to freedom. And it is a moving tale of those who did not have the opportunity to “fly away”, who remained slaves with only their imaginations to set them free as they told and retold this tale.

**GRADE 7, MODULE 4B Research, Decision Making, and Forming Positions: Water Is Life**

*The Big Thirst* BC 234 (25) Copies

The Big Thirst brilliantly explores our strange and complex relationship to water. We delight in watching waves roll in from the ocean; we take great comfort from sliding into a hot bath; and we will pay a thousand times the price of tap water to drink our preferred brand of the bottled version. We love water—but at the moment, we don’t appreciate it or respect it. Just as we’ve begun to reimagine our relationship to food, a change that is driving the growth of the organic and local food movements, we must also rethink how we approach and use water. The good news is that we can. As Fishman shows, a host of advancers are under way, from the simplicity of harvesting rainwater to the brilliant innovations devised by companies such as IBM, GE, and Royal Caribbean that are making impressive breakthroughs in water productivity. Knowing what to do is not the problem. Ultimately, the hardest part is changing our water consciousness.

**GRADE 8, MODULE 1 Reading Closely and Writing to Learn: Finding Home: Immigration**

*Inside Out and Back Again* BC 235 (30) Student Copies

For all the ten years of her life, Ha has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by, and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Ha and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. This is the moving story of one girl’s year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next. Author: Thanhha Lai.
GRADE 8, MODULE 2

WORKING WITH EVIDENCE: TAKING A STAND

To Kill A Mockingbird BC 130 (25) COPIES

Takes readers to the roots of human behavior: to innocence and experiences to kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. The unconditioned and unconditional wisdom of children is shown to be superior in this story of conflict between Black and White. Includes a teacher guide. Author: Harper Lee

GRADE 8 MODULE 2B

A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS' DREAM ER 1 (50) Student Electronic Readers

William Shakespeare’s most popular comedy, was written around 1594 or 95. It portrays the adventures of four young lovers and a group of amateur actors, their interactions with woodland fairies and a duke and duchess. Taking place in a mythical Athens and an enchanted forest, there is a handsome fairy king, a misguided parent, star-crossed lovers, a weaver who’s transformed into a half-donkey, wood sprites and elves. But as Puck knows, falling in love can make fools of us all.

GRADE 8, MODULE 3

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival BC 212 (20) Copies

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane’s bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. The lieutenant’s name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he’d been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. Telling an unforgettable story of a man’s journey into extremity, Unbroken is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

GRADE 8, MODULE 4

The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat BC 213 (20) Student Copies, ER 1 (50) Copies

What’s for dinner? It seemed like a simple question until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers’ adaptation of Pollan’s famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices.

GRADE 9, MODULE 4

Romeo and Juliet ER 1, (50) Student Electronic Readers

A play about two young people who defy their warring families’ prejudices and dare to fall in love.
**GRADE 9, MODULE 2**

*The Tell-Tale Heart* ER 1, (50) Student Electronic Readers
Contains sixteen short stories, one novel, and fifteen poems

**GRADE 9, MODULE 3**

*1984* ER 1, (50) Student Electronic Readers
Depicts life in a totalitarian regime of the future. Winston Smith, a worker at the Ministry of Truth, a political entity of Oceania, puts his life on the line when he joins a covert brotherhood in rebelling against the Party that controls all human thought and action. George Orwell.

**GRADE 9, MODULE 4**

*The Scarlet Letter* ER 1 (50) Electronic Readers
In a devout Puritan town, a young married woman named Hester Prynne conceives a child. There is a catch, however; her husband has been missing for years. Hester is sent to prison, where she gives birth and calls the child Pearl, for she is her mother's only treasure. As her punishment, Hester is brought into the marketplace and is forced to wear a SCARLET LETTER upon her breast, which she proudly embroiders with gold thread.

**GRADE 10, MODULE 1**

*Ender's Game* BC 161, (25) Student copies
Once again, the Earth is under attack. Alien “buggers” are poised for a final assault. The survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the buggers. But who? Ender Wiggin. Brilliant, Ruthless, Cunning. A tactical and strategic master. And a child. Recruited for military training by the world government, Ender’s childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle school. Among the elite recruits Ender proves himself to be a genius among geniuses. In simulated war games he excels. But is the pressure and loneliness taking its toll on Ender? Simulations are one thing. How will Ender perform in real combat conditions? After all, Battle school is just a game. Right?

**GRADE 10, MODULE 3**

*The Book Thief* ER 1, (50) Electronic Readers
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

**GRADE 10, MODULE 4**

*Animal Farm* BC 157, (25) Student copies, ER 1 (50) Electronic Readers
A political satire in which the animals take over running the farm but find their utopian state turning into a dictatorship.

**GRADE 12, MODULE 1**

*Frankenstein* ER 1 (50) Electronic Readers
Written in 1816 when she was only nineteen, Mary Shelley’s novel chillingly dramatized the dangerous potential of life begotten
Upon a laboratory table. A frightening creation myth of our own time, Frankenstein remains one of the greatest horror stories ever written and is an undisputed classic of its kind.