

The goal of English language arts is for students to read, understand, and express understanding of complex texts independently. To accomplish this goal, programs must build students’ knowledge and skill in language, comprehension, conversations, and writing integrated around a volume of complex texts and tasks.¹ In grades K-5, programs must also build students’ foundational skills to be able to read and write about a range of texts² independently. Thus, a strong ELA classroom is structured with the below components.



Title: **[Title]** Grade: **[Grade]**

Publisher: **[Publisher]** Copyright: **[Copyright]**

Overall Rating: **[Choose one: Tier I, Exemplifies quality; Tier II, Approaching quality; Tier III, Not representing quality]**

Tier I, Tier II, Tier III Elements of this review:

STRONG	WEAK

To evaluate each set of submitted materials for alignment with the [standards](#), begin by reviewing Column 2 for the non-negotiable criteria. If there is a “Yes” for all required indicators in Column 2, then the materials receive a “Yes” in Column 1. If there is a “No” for any required indicators in Column 2, then the materials receive a “No” in Column 1. (Note: If materials do not represent a full curricula, then some of Criteria 1 – 8 may not apply.)

Tier 1 ratings receive a “Yes” in Column 1 for Criteria 1 – 8.

Tier 2 ratings receive a “Yes” in Column 1 for all non-negotiable criteria (Quality of Texts, Foundational Skills (as applicable), Coherence of Tasks, and Text-Dependent Questions), but at least one “No” in Column 1 for the remaining criteria.

Tier 3 ratings receive a “No” in Column 1 for at least one of the non-negotiable criteria.

¹ A volume of texts is a collection of texts written about similar topics, themes, or ideas.

² A range of texts are texts written at different reading levels.

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
Section I. Text Selection			
<p>Tier 1 and 2 Non-Negotiable</p> <p>1. QUALITY OF TEXTS:</p> <p>Texts are of sufficient scope and quality to provide text-centered and integrated learning that is sequenced and scaffolded to (1) advance students toward independent reading of grade-level texts and (2) build content knowledge (e.g., ELA, social studies, science, and the arts). The quality of texts is high—they support multiple readings for various purposes and exhibit exceptional craft and thought and/or provide useful information. Materials present a progression of complex texts as</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>1a) In grades 2-12, materials provide texts that are appropriately complex for the identified grade level according to the requirements outlined in the standards. Measures for determining complexity include quantitative and qualitative analysis,³ as well as reader and task considerations. Poetry and drama are analyzed only using qualitative measures.</p> <p>In grades K-2, extensive read-aloud texts allow sufficient opportunity for engagement with text more complex than students could read themselves.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>1b) At least 90% of texts are authentic⁴ and offer rich opportunities for students to meet the grade-level ELA standards; the texts are well-crafted, representing the quality of content, language, and writing that is produced by experts in various disciplines.</p>		

³ The process for determining quantitative and qualitative measures is available at <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/teacher-toolbox-resources/guide---how-to-determine-text-complexity-grades-k-12.pdf?sfvrsn=5>. More information may be found in the Louisiana Believes Documents: “[Guide for Determining Text Complexity](#)” and “[Creating Text Sets for Whole-Class Instruction](#)”

⁴ Authentic texts are previously published rather than “commissioned.”

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>stated by Reading Standard 10.</p> <p><i>(Note: In K and 1, Reading Standard 10 refers to read-aloud material. Complexity standards for student-read texts are applicable for grades 2+.)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>1c) Materials provide a coherent sequence or collection of connected texts that build vocabulary knowledge and knowledge about themes with connected topics and ideas through tasks in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language.</p> <p>In grades K-2, the inclusion of read-aloud texts in addition to what students can read themselves ensures that all students can build knowledge about the world through engagement with rich, complex text. These texts as well must form a coherent sequence or collection of connected texts that build vocabulary knowledge and knowledge about themes with connected topics and ideas through tasks in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language.</p> <p>REQUIRED</p> <p>1d) Within a sequence or collection, quality texts of grade-level complexity are selected for multiple, careful readings throughout the unit of study. These texts are revisited as needed to support knowledge building.</p> <p>1e) Texts increase in complexity as materials progress across grade bands. Read-aloud texts follow the same trend, although they may have greater variability because listening skills in elementary school generally outpace reading skills.</p>		
<p>2. RANGE AND VOLUME OF TEXTS:</p> <p>Materials reflect the distribution of text types and genres suggested by the standards (e.g. RL.K.9, RL.1.5, RI.1.9, RL.2.4, RI.2.3, RL.3.2, RL.3.5, RI.4.3,</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>2a) In grades K-12, ELA materials seek a balance in instructional time between literature and informational texts. (Reviewers will consider the balance within units of study as well as across the entire grade level using the ratio between literature/informational texts to help determine the appropriate balance.)</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>RL.5.7, RI.7.7, RL.8.9, RI.9-10.9, and RL.10/RI.10 across grade levels.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED 2b) Materials include print and non-print texts of different formats (e.g. a range of film, art, music, charts, etc.) and lengths (e.g. short stories and novels).</p>		
	<p>2c) The majority of informational texts have an informational text structure rather than a narrative structure. In grades 3-12, materials include literary nonfiction (e.g. speeches, biographies, essays).</p>		
	<p>2d) Additional materials provide direction and practice for regular, accountable independent reading of texts that appeal to students' interests to build reading stamina, confidence, motivation, and enjoyment and develop knowledge of classroom concepts or topics.</p>		
Section II. Foundational Skills (grades K-5 only)			
<p>Tier 1 and 2 Non-Negotiable* 3. FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS: Materials provide instruction and diagnostic support in concepts of print, phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, development, syntax, and fluency in a logical and transparent progression. These foundational skills are necessary and central components of an effective, comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED *Indicator for grades K-2 only 3a) Materials follow a sequence of appropriate foundational skills instruction indicated by the standards while providing abundant opportunities for every student to become proficient in each of the foundational skills.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 3b) In grades K-2, materials include engaging, content-rich, and phonetically controlled student texts that allow for systematic, explicit, and frequent practice of foundational skills as they are introduced.</p> <p>In grades 3-5, materials demand knowledge of grade-level phonic patterns and word analysis skills.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 3c) In grades K-2, materials provide instruction and practice in word study including pronunciation, roots, prefixes, suffixes and spelling/sound patterns, as well as decoding of grade-level words, including high-frequency words, by using sound-symbol knowledge and knowledge of syllabication and</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>*As applicable (e.g., when the scope of the materials is comprehensive and considered a full program)</p>	<p>regular practice in encoding (spelling) the sound symbol relationships of English.</p> <p><i>(Note: Instruction and practice with roots, prefixes, and suffixes is applicable for grade 1 and higher.)</i></p> <p>In grades 3-5, materials provide instruction and practice in word study including systematic examination of grade-level morphology, decoding of multisyllabic words by using syllabication, and automaticity with grade-level regular and irregular spelling patterns.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 3d) Materials encourage students to self-monitor and to use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, directing students to reread purposefully to acquire accurate meaning.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 3e) Opportunities are frequently built into the materials that allow for students to achieve reading fluency in oral and silent reading, that is, to read a wide variety of grade-appropriate prose, poetry, and informational texts with accuracy, rate appropriate to the text, and expression. This should include monitoring that will allow students to receive regular feedback on their oral reading fluency in the specific areas of appropriate rate, expressiveness, and accuracy.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 3f) Materials guide students to read grade-level text with purpose and understanding and to make frequent connections between acquisition of foundation skills and making meaning from reading.</p>		
	<p>3g) *Indicator for grades K-2 only Materials provide opportunities for teachers to assess students' mastery of foundational skills and respond to the needs of individual students based on ongoing assessments offered at regular intervals. Monitoring should include</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
	attention to invented spelling as appropriate for its diagnostic value.		
	3h) Materials provide abundant and easily implemented materials so teachers can readily provide more time, attention and practice for those students who need it.		
Section III. Questions and Tasks			
<p>Tier 1 and 2 Non-Negotiable</p> <p>4. COHERENCE OF TASKS: Materials contain meaningful, connected tasks that build student knowledge and provide opportunities for students to read, understand, and express understanding of complex texts through speaking and listening, and writing. Tasks integrate reading, writing, speaking and listening, and include components of vocabulary, syntax, and fluency, as needed, so that students can gain meaning from text.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>4a) Coherent sequences of questions and tasks focus students on understanding the text and its illustrations (as applicable), making connections among the texts in the collection, and expressing their understanding of the topics, themes, and ideas presented in the texts. Questions and tasks are developed so that students build knowledge and skill over the course of the unit.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>4b) Questions and tasks are designed so that students build and apply knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language through quality, grade-level complex texts. For example, in grade 6, students read a text, work collaboratively to develop a plan for analyzing or emulating the text, write a response, and then share their writing with a peer who reviews the writing against using a peer review checklist.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>4c) Questions and tasks support students in examining the language (vocabulary, sentences, and structure) critical to the meaning of texts measured by Criteria 1 and 2.</p> <p>Questions and tasks also focus on advancing depth of word knowledge through emphasizing word meaning and relationships among words (e.g., concept- and thematically-related words, word families, etc.) rather than isolated vocabulary practice, and engaging students with multiple repetitions of words in varied contexts (e.g., reading different</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
	texts, completing tasks, engaging in speaking/listening).		
<p>Tier 1 and 2 Non-Negotiable</p> <p>5. TEXT-DEPENDENT QUESTIONS:</p> <p>Text-dependent and text-specific questions and tasks reflect the requirements of Reading Standard 1 by requiring use of textual evidence in support of meeting other grade-specific standards.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>5a) A majority of questions in the materials are text dependent and text specific; student ideas are expressed through both written and spoken responses.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>5b) Questions and tasks include the language of the standards and require students to engage in thinking at the depth and complexity required by the grade-level standards to advance and deepen student learning over time. <i>(Note: not every standard must be addressed with every text.)</i></p>		
<p>6. WRITING TO SOURCES, SPEAKING AND LISTENING, AND LANGUAGE:</p> <p>The majority of tasks are text-dependent or text-specific, reflect the writing genres named in the standards, require communication skills for college and career readiness, and help students meet the language standards for the grade.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED</p> <p>6a) Materials include a variety of opportunities for students to listen, speak, and write about their understanding of texts measured by Criteria 1 and 2; those opportunities are prominent, varied in length and time demands (e.g., informal peer conversations, note taking, summary writing, discussing and writing short-answer responses, whole-class formal discussions, shared writing, formal essays in different genres, on-demand and process writing, etc.), and require students to engage effectively, as determined by the grade-level standards.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED *Indicator for grades 3-12 only</p> <p>6b) The majority of oral and written tasks at all grade levels require students to demonstrate the knowledge they built through the analysis and synthesis of texts, and present well-</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
	<p>defended claims and clear information, using grade-level language and conventions and drawing on textual evidence to support valid inferences from text.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED *Indicator for grades K-2 only 6c) Materials address grade-level foundation standards that require students in the early grades to know their letters, phonetic conventions, sentence structures, and spelling.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 6d) Materials include multiple writing tasks aligned to the three modes of writing (opinion/argumentative, informative, narrative) as outlined by the standards at each grade level. For example, as students progress through the grades, narrative prompts decrease in number and increase in being based on text(s).</p> <p>In grades 3-12, tasks included blended modes (i.e., analytical writing). For example, materials engage students in many shared (grades K-2) or short research projects annually to develop the expertise needed to conduct research independently.</p>		
	<p>6e) Materials provide models for writing and student exemplars to support writing development in English language arts.</p>		
	<p>6f) Materials explicitly address the grammar and language conventions specified by the language standards at each grade level and build on those standards from previous grade levels through application and practice of those skills in the context of reading and writing about unit texts. For example, materials create opportunities for students to analyze the syntax of a quality text to determine the text’s meaning and model their own sentence construction and writing after texts as a way to develop more complex sentence structure and usage.</p>		
<p>7. ASSESSMENTS: Materials offer assessment</p>	<p>REQUIRED 7a) Measurement of progress via assessments should include</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
<p>opportunities that genuinely measure progress and elicit direct, observable evidence of the degree to which students can independently demonstrate the assessed grade-specific standards with appropriately complex text(s).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>gradual release of supporting scaffolds for students to measure their independent abilities.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 7b) Aligned rubrics or assessment guidelines (such as scoring guides or student work exemplars) are included and provide sufficient guidance for interpreting student performance.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 7c) Materials use varied modes of assessment, including a range of pre-, formative, summative and self-assessment measures.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 7d) Materials assess student understanding of the topics, themes, and/or ideas presented in the unit texts. Questions and tasks are developed so that students demonstrate the knowledge and skill built over the course of the unit.</p>		
	<p>7e) Materials assess student proficiency using methods that are unbiased and accessible to all students.</p>		
Section IV. Scaffolding and Support			
<p>8. SCAFFOLDING AND SUPPORT: Materials provide all students, including those who read below grade level, with extensive opportunities and support to encounter and comprehend grade-level complex text as required by the standards.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>REQUIRED 8a) Pre-reading activities and suggested approaches to teacher scaffolding are focused and engage students with understanding the text itself. Pre-reading activities should be no more than 10% of time devoted to any reading instruction.</p>		
	<p>REQUIRED 8b) Materials must have the goal of students gaining full comprehension of complex text (through read-aloud in grades K-1) and do not confuse or substitute mastery of skills or strategies for full comprehension of text; reading strategies support comprehension of specific texts and focus on building knowledge and insight. Texts must not serve as platforms to practice discrete strategies.</p>		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
	REQUIRED 8c) Materials regularly direct teachers to return to focused parts of the text to guide students through rereading, discussion and writing about the ideas, events, and information found there.		
	REQUIRED 8d) The materials are easy to use and well organized for students and teachers. Teacher editions are concise and easy to manage with clear connections between teacher resources. The reading selections are centrally located within the materials and the center of focus.		
	8e) Appropriate suggestions and materials are provided for supporting varying student needs at the unit and lesson level (e.g., alternate teaching approaches, pacing, instructional delivery options, suggestions for addressing common student difficulties to meet standards, reteaching strategies or suggestions for supporting texts, suggestions for more advanced texts for extension, etc.).		
	8f) The content can be reasonably completed within a regular school year and the pacing of content allows for maximum student understanding. The materials provide guidance about the amount of time a task might reasonably take.		

FINAL EVALUATION

Tier 1 ratings receive a “Yes” in Column 1 for Criteria 1 – 8.

Tier 2 ratings receive a “Yes” in Column 1 for all non-negotiable criteria (Quality of Texts, Foundational Skills (as applicable), Coherence of Tasks, and Text-Dependent Questions), but at least one “No” in Column 1 for the remaining criteria.

Tier 3 ratings receive a “No” in Column 1 for at least one of the non-negotiable criteria.

Compile the results for Sections I-VII to make a final decision for the material under review.

Section	Criteria	Yes/No	Final Justification/Comments
I. Text Selection	1. Quality of Texts (Non-Negotiable)		
	2. Range and Volume of Texts		

CRITERIA	INDICATORS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY	MEETS METRICS (YES/NO)	JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS WITH EXAMPLES
II: Foundational Skills (grades K-5 only)	3. Foundational Skills (Non-Negotiable*)		
III: Questions and Tasks	4. Coherence of Tasks (Non-Negotiable)		
	5. Text-Dependent Questions (Non-Negotiable)		
	6. Writing to Sources, Speaking and Listening, and Language		
	7. Assessments		
IV: Scaffolding and Support	8. Scaffolding and Support		
FINAL DECISION FOR THIS MATERIAL: [Choose one: Tier I, Exemplifies quality; Tier II, Approaching quality; Tier III, Not representing quality]			

*As applicable