



# A CLOSER LOOK

**ELA Guidebooks** is a curriculum for whole-class instruction. **Made by teachers for teachers**, the guidebook units ensure all students can read, understand, and express their understanding of complex grade-level texts.

Teachers across the state began work on the guidebooks in the spring of 2013 and have continued to improve them to provide Louisiana teachers with a **high-quality, affordable curricular option**.

ELA Guidebooks units are a coherent set of plans focused on **real learning grounded in a collection of texts**. Each text collection has a shared idea, such as the American Revolution, and contains **authentic texts and novels** commonly celebrated by teachers and students. Students engage with the texts and ideas repeatedly throughout a unit to build knowledge and tackle big ideas.

**Support is central to the design of ELA Guidebooks**. Student-friendly slides create a consistent structure across all grades and lessons, which **help students and teachers stay on track** and work toward a series of unit assessments aligned to end-of-year expectations. Student look-fors and example responses set the bar for quality student work.

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Read the **Pilot Feedback Report** to learn about Louisiana teachers' experiences with ELA Guidebooks.

2

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Watch a **video** of a Louisiana classroom to learn how guidebooks improve learning.

## WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT THE GUIDEBOOKS?

*"I would wholeheartedly endorse the use of guidebooks in schools where administrators want to ensure effective and efficient delivery of standards. Guidebooks have provided the foundation upon which we continue to build a strong curriculum that responds to students' interests/needs. The guidebooks are especially valuable for new and struggling teachers."*

*- Louisiana principal*

*"Students love the texts; they are engaged and excited, but the best thing about the guidebook is everything builds and connects. I've seen real growth in my students."*

*- Louisiana teacher*

*"The guidebook helped me expand my writing skills and allowed me to work on them throughout the day."*

*- Louisiana student*

*"I liked the consistency of knowing what to expect."*

*- Louisiana student*

# WHAT COMES WITH THE ELA GUIDEBOOKS?

Each ELA Guidebooks unit comes with three unit assessments and approximately 40 classroom-ready daily lessons on an online platform. Because the lessons include everything a teacher needs to teach, teachers can focus on adjusting the lesson supports so all students meet the lesson and unit assessment goals, instead of spending time finding something to teach.

**The lessons include many resources:**

Card 1 of 12

**Begin lesson** ▾

Full screen



Begin lesson >

Teaching notes [Print all](#)

Click the "Begin lesson" button to view this lesson plan. Teaching notes for each slide will appear in this box.

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Card 7 of 12

**Let's Read!** ▾

Full screen



- Read stanzas 2-7 of "Paul Revere's Ride" with a partner.
- Highlight in one color any words which relate to sound.
- Then read stanzas 8-13 with a partner and do the same with a different color.
- Be prepared to share your examples with the class.

Teaching notes [Print all](#)

**Suggested Pacing:** ~5 minutes

**Directions:**

- Ask students to follow the directions on the slide.
- Stanzas 2-7 start with line 6 and end with line 72. Stanzas 8-13 start with line 73 and end with the end of the poem.
- Once students have finished their work, instruct students to share their examples with the class.
- Record their responses on a two-column class chart using chart paper or some other collection method.

**Guiding Questions and Prompts**

- As needed, provide an example to help students understand the task: "For example on line 15, you might circle or highlight 'muffled.' Why?"

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LESSON PLAN

**Lesson 18: Analyze a poem** [Quick Assign](#)

Created by: Louisiana Department of Education

Lesson plan **Additional materials** About this lesson

- American Revolution Text Access**  
Type: Page
- "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**  
Type: File
- Evidence chart (blank)**  
Type: File
- Evidence chart (completed)**  
Type: File

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Card 8 of 9

**Let's Express Our Understanding!** ▾

Full screen



- With a partner, create a timeline of events of Paul Revere's ride.
- Summarize the events of the poem on the summary of Paul Revere's ride handout.

Teaching notes [Print all](#)

**Suggested Pacing:** ~15 minutes

**Directions:**

- Direct students to use their same partner from the paired reading.
- Make sure each pair has markers or map pencils to mark the requested events.
- Then tell students to answer the provided questions by marking the events on the map.
- Finally, ask students: "How did placing details on this map help you better understand the events of Paul Revere's ride?"

**Student Look-Fors:**

- Access a completed map under the Additional Materials tab.
- Students should indicate that recording information on the map helps them to

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- 2** Student-friendly slides
- 3** Teaching notes with directions, guiding questions, and student look-fors
- 4** Blank and completed student handouts
- 5** Daily formative assessments

# HOW DO I ACCESS AND PURCHASE ELA GUIDEBOOKS?

The guidebooks are easy to access and use. With an open license ([CC BY 4.0](#)), the units can be used, adapted, shared, and printed without any permission needed. To implement ELA Guidebooks, teachers will need access to the units, the books, additional texts, student materials, and training. All decisions about access are local decisions.

View detailed information on [how to access guidebook materials and communicate with schools and teachers](#).

For additional information about ELA Guidebooks, access the Louisiana Department of Education's [ELA Guidebooks webpage](#) or contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov).