

2021 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute

**Review Team Appraisal of Title
6-8 English Language Arts**

This appraisal form is provided for use by educators responsible for the selection of instructional materials for implementation with districts and charter schools across New Mexico to meet the need of their student populations.

This appraisal form should be used in conjunction with the publisher provided Form D: Research Based Effectiveness Determination that supports this reviewed material which can be found on the Instructional Material Bureau website.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/instructional-materials/the-adoption-cycle/>

Text Title	Amplify ELA G8 Student Digital License, 1 year	Publisher	Amplify Education, Inc.
SE ISBN	9781643831886	TE ISBN	9781643831800
SW ISBN	9781643831381	Grade Level/Content	Grade 8 ELA

Core Instructional Material Designation (*Core Instructional Material is the comprehensive print or digital educational material, including basal material, which constitutes the necessary instructional components of a full academic course of study in those subjects for which the department has adopted content standards and benchmarks.*)

Recommended
(90% and above)



Recommended with Reservations (80-89%)



Not Recommended and Not Adopted
(below 80%)



Total Score - The final score for the materials is averaged between the team of reviewers.

Average Score

97%

Cultural and Linguistic Relevance Recognition - *Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding cultural relevance and the inclusion of a culturally responsive lens. Those materials receiving a score of 90% or above on the CLR portion of the review are recognized as culturally and linguistically relevant.*

CLR Recognized



Average Score

100%

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):

The materials provide several sources that expanded upon cultural perspectives' such as the Liberty and Equality and Holocaust: Memory and Meaning, and Poetry in America. These units also exposed students to societal issues during specific time periods.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence (autofilled from All Content Appraisal tab):

This curriculum affords students the opportunity to delve deeper into societal issues at major turning points in several cultural histories and reflect what they have learned back to their own lives as well as express their own opinions. The materials require students to research societal issues in a variety of cultures and time periods. With that information students make a claim and argue or debate their point of view and how our society as a whole has contributed to these social issues.

Standards Review - Materials are reviewed for alignment with the state adopted content standards, benchmarks and performance standards.

Average Score

96%

Materials align with grade level ELA standards overall.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials provide a rigorous collection of texts, writing assignments, and activities that align with 8th grade level standards. The materials are a combination of informative and literary texts and cover a wide berth of genres.

Materials align to reading standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Reading selections are within the 8th grade level band for the majority of the text selections, however there are below grade text at the 750 lexile and texts at the challenging level up to the 1620 lexile level. Text genres include poetry, narrative, informational texts: primary and secondary sources, short stories, closed passages, novels, and graphic novels. The close reading exercises support formation of critical and higher level thinking skills, such as comparing and contrasting, problem solving, and relating to real-life circumstances.

Materials align to writing standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials align to writing standards and include the following styles of writing: argument, narrative, expository, informational, research projects, and multimedia projects. Each lesson contains one or more writing assignment ranging from a quick write up to full essays. Writing lessons include a graphic organizer, rubric, and editor's checklist for student support. Units contain additional resources including mastering conventions, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling support. Several of these resources are offered in both English and Spanish. The program offers both an online and print option of a writing journal and writing prompts can be modified to different levels of support for student's individual needs due to language and specific learning development. When writing research essays, students have to determine the credibility of internet sources and if a source was primary, secondary, or tertiary. Formative assessments are tied to writing prompts focusing on productivity, focus, use of evidence, and conventions. A story writing unit is incorporated at each grade level that follows a progression of writing a narrative.

Materials align to speaking and listening standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

This curriculum provides a wide variety of opportunities for students to engage with peers for speaking and listening standards including: Socratic seminars, role playing, debate activities, class discussion, group discussion, partner and collaboration work, and presentations. The Emancipation Project engages students in an immersive event requiring students to work together in groups to synthesize dozens of artifacts into a few larger stories. This activity requires complex thinking and reflection skills around societal issues from texts read in the unit. Differentiation support for special needs and ELL students are incorporated in each unit and lesson to provide the opportunity for these student populations to be fully engaged in the rigorous and complex lessons with their peers.

Materials align to language standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

This curriculum provides multiple resources for language growth and development. A self-guided vocabulary app, which uses game-like lessons, are at the beginning of each sub unit's lesson. Both academic and domain specific words are addressed through the vocabulary lesson which provides support for ELL students. During the weekly Flex days, the teacher can assign activities for additional skill support in Work that Word, PDF worksheets, and Mastering convention lessons.

ELA Content Review - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the specific content area reviewed.

Average Score

98%

Materials provide a selection and range of high-quality texts worthy of students' time and attention, exhibiting exceptional craft and thought and/or providing useful information.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

Within this curriculum, lessons are centered around high quality complex text that develop skills in critical thinking, vocabulary, and academic knowledge. A rich selection of novels and texts to meet the needs of a variety of students are found in the Amplify library that make reading available for all students. The lexile range begin at 750 supporting lower level readers and move through the lexile range up through 1620 to challenge advanced students. The genre of text including Graphic novels like Gris Grimley's "Frankenstein", Romeo and Juliet, and several seminal documents. In unit 2, Liberty and Equality, students have the opportunity to research and debate societal issues surrounding slavery and the civil rights era. The Amplify library also provides students with more than 650 novels to choose from in a wide range of genres including horror, science fiction, animal stories, sports, and more.

Questions in the materials are high-quality text-dependent and text-specific questions. The overwhelming majority of these questions are text-specific and draw student attention to the particulars in the text.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials consistently ask students a topic-based question then, follow up with referring students back to the text to find evidence that supports their answer to the previous question. The materials provide teachers with questioning techniques that engage students in the topic and assess their prior knowledge. Students are tasked with creating open ended questions to deepen comprehension and analyze information to prepare for Socratic seminars, debates, and group discussions. Teachers are provided with scripted questions in the Lesson Brief to aid comprehension and encourage students to access their background knowledge. The end of unit reading assessment addresses selective and constructive questions.

Materials provide scaffolding and supports to enable students' learning of English language arts.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials focus on supporting ELL and special needs students through scaffolding and differentiated activities in each lesson. Teachers can assign students to different levels of differentiation starting with the core or grade level students, the substantial or significant scaffolding for ELL and below grade level students, as well as the challenge activities for advanced AES students. ELL support is also provided in three levels from the light or bridging student to the moderate need or emerging student to the expanding student. Each lesson in the lesson brief provides a section labeled differentiation that support teachers with alternative activities and assessments that can be assigned to these students. The teachers are also supported with a variety of strategies on how to pair students, use graphic organizers and provide audio text of materials. Each text can also be read aloud at the students discretion by clicking on the microphone icon.

All Content Review - Materials are reviewed for relevant criteria pertaining to the support for teachers and students in the material regarding the progression of the standards, lesson structure, pacing, assessment, individual learners and cultural relevance.

Average Score

100%

Materials are coherent and consistent with the standards that all students should study in order to be college and career ready.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials provide a rigorous curriculum that align with grade level standards. Lessons are consistent with the skills and knowledge students need to have to pursue college and post-secondary careers. Students learn to read and comprehend a variety of genre. Lessons required students to gather evidence, form opinions and develop solutions/conclusions based on that evidence. Reading and researching political and societal events prepare students for engaging with their peers at a higher level of thinking. Speaking and listening activities such as role playing, debates and presentations prepare students for post-secondary education requirements in technology, teamwork and critical thinking.

Materials are well designed and take into account effective lesson structure and pacing.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The curriculum provides an ELA program guide and grade overview guide for grades 6-8 that supports consistency throughout all three grades and sets unit and lesson pacing structure. Each grade level unit is structured consistently with units, sub units, lessons and activities. The dashboard for each lesson is consistent, providing ease of use for students. Within each lesson is a lesson brief that supports teachers with: planning, differentiation, required materials, and standards. Lessons and tasks build upon each other, culminating in an online reading assessment for each unit.

Materials support teacher planning, learning, and understanding of the standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials provide teachers with the ELA Program Guide and Grade Overview. Each lesson also contains a lesson brief which outlines the individual standards used in that lesson, with emphasis on a focus standard. Additional materials for planning and preparation are the Mastering Conventions 1-4, writing journals, writing prompts, unit backgrounds in both English and Spanish, and a vocabulary app. In the Global Navigation additional tools can be found including: ELA apps, custom apps, the Amplify library, Quill, and interim assessments.

Materials offer teachers resources and tools to collect ongoing data about student progress on the standards.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

This curriculum addresses both formative and summative assessments that measure and support personalized instruction in language, reading and writing. Teachers are provided with a snapshot of student performance on reading comprehension and writing assignments. To assist the teacher, the curriculum incorporates a reporting program devised to track student work and make recommendations on support; however, since there is no student data inputted for review we cannot affirm the validity of this program. A variety of assessments are provided within the units such as formative assessments, exit tickets and summative assessments including unit essays, unit reading assessments, and interim assessments. Embedded assessments measure and support personalized instruction in language, reading and writing.

Materials support effective use of technology to enhance student learning.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials provide a variety of opportunities for students to work with technology. Within each unit students access technology to identify highlighted vocabulary, complete close passages, and take assessments. In the units: Liberty and Equality and Holocaust: Memory and Meaning there are technology-based research projects. In the Poetry unit there are several embedded videos and interactive illustrations. The materials also provide an online Vocabulary app and the Dictionary app.

Materials can be easily customized for individual learners.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The curriculum provides an opportunity for teachers to assign students to the correct level of differentiation for their individual needs within each lesson. Each lesson provides alternative activities for ELL and special needs students as well as challenge activities for advanced students. Lessons support students with the opportunity to have text read aloud with an eReader.

Materials give all students extensive opportunities and support to explore key concepts.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The curriculum gives all students support in key concept areas, such as grammar where a focus on pronoun usage, verb tense, sentence structure and punctuation. To support the struggling student, the online assessment report tool makes suggestions for Flex-day remediation. A rich range of literary genres guide students to an understanding and comprehension of key literary concepts.

Materials take into account cultural perspectives.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

The materials provide several sources that expanded upon cultural perspectives' such as the Liberty and Equality and Holocaust: Memory and Meaning, and Poetry in America. These units also exposed students to societal issues during specific time periods.

Materials include a culturally responsive lens.

Statements of appraisal and supporting evidence:

This curriculum affords students the opportunity to delve deeper into societal issues at major turning points in several cultural histories and reflect what they have learned back to their own lives as well as express their own opinions. The materials require students to research societal issues in a variety of cultures and time periods. With that information students make a claim and argue or debate their point of view and how our society as a whole has contributed to these social issues.

Reviewers' Professional Summation - These materials are reviewed by Level II and Level III educators from across New Mexico. The reviewers have brought their knowledge, experience and expertise into the review of these materials. They offer here their individual summary of the material as a whole.

Reviewer #: 7

Background and experience:

Reviewer is a Level III Master's Degree teacher with a National Board Certification with 21 years of experience in both Middle and High School English Language Arts, History, and Special Education.

Professional summary of material:

This is a blended curriculum suitable for online, hybrid, and in-person learning. Teachers are well supported through the ELA program guide, Grade Overviews, and individual Lesson Guides in planning and preparation for lessons. This includes a rich range of strategies for differentiated support for ELL, special needs, and advanced student groups. Each unit is focused on a theme and progresses through sub units and lessons to build on and support that theme through informative and literary texts, activities, and assessments. Additional resources enhance student learning through vocabulary, grammar, mastering conventions, and multi-language glossaries. The curriculum expands the full breadth of genres including fiction and non-fiction, drama, and poetry offering a diverse and rich literary study from the lower 750 lexile up to a challenging 1620 level. This program will require training for teachers to master and be ready to use with ease before implementing.

Reviewer #: 8

Background and experience:

The review is a level 3 Masters Degree teacher with National Board Certification and 27 years of experience.

Professional summary of material:

This curriculum integrates digital media with traditional teaching materials. The students have the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of texts and genres including historical documents, articles, songs, video clips and poetry. The lessons provide students with many opportunities for paired and collaborative learning. Teachers are given options to differentiate these activities for struggling readers and ELL students, including PDF materials that are written in Spanish and English. The texts reviewed are embedded with graphs, photographs, illustrations, charts and diagrams, all designed to maximize student comprehension of the material. The topics are compelling, mature and appropriate for students in the 8th grade. While this is a blended program, it lacks a search option. Teachers either print the teacher resources or toggle back and forth between tabs. This can be time consuming and difficult to navigate given the amount of material within the curriculum.

Reviewer #: 9

Background and experience:

Reviewer is a level 2 with a Bachelor's Degree with an endorsement in Bilingual Education and 23 years experience. Taught 2nd grade 2 years, preschool 1 year and 6th grade ESL 20 years.

Professional summary of material:

This curriculum is an online based program that offers a variety of text based genres, the lexile range for text is from 750 to 1650. Although the curriculum is based online, there are several opportunities to print material for the student and the teacher. Materials for differentiation and ELL support are also provided with suggestions allowing the teacher to choose the best level for the students. The lessons are laid out in a manner that once a teacher has been trained to use the program, should not be difficult to maneuver through. The students are given writing workshops that assists them with the writing process. The students are provided with opportunities to use apps within the curriculum to gain a deeper understanding of words and their meaning. As an ELA/ESL teacher, this curriculum offers many opportunities for students to be interested in the world of Language Arts. The types of collaborative projects that are embedded will grab the attention of students in 8th grade. Further, the text choice is a bonus for student interest.