

## PA Core Instructional Shifts in ELA/Literacy

1. Balancing informational and literary text
2. Knowledge in the disciplines
3. Staircase of complexity
4. Text based answers
5. Writing from sources
6. Academic vocabulary

## Diagnostic Category Skills List

### Key Ideas and Details—Literature Text

- Cite evidence to support inferences or generalizations.
- Analyze theme.
- Provide a summary.
- Analyze how elements of a story affect characters.

### Key Ideas and Details—Informational Text

- Cite evidence to support inferences or generalizations.
- Analyze how a central idea is developed.
- Provide a summary.
- Analyze how ideas are connected.



Additional Materials and Resources can be found at:

<http://www.pdesas.org/>

or

<https://pa.drctdirect.com/>

## CLASSROOM DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

### ELA: Reading Grade 8 Grade Level Summary and Diagnostic Category Skills List

The English Language Arts summary for grade 8 describes the performance in English Language Arts that students in grade 8 are expected to demonstrate. The PA Core Instructional Shifts in ELA/Literacy represent the most significant shifts for student learning and thinking about assessment found in the PA Core Standards. The Diagnostic Category Skills List provides descriptions of skills that students can be expected to demonstrate within each Diagnostic Category while taking the Classroom Diagnostic Tools for Reading. While this list does not include every possible skill that students may encounter within the CDT, it does provide a representative sample for each diagnostic category.



**SAS** Standards  
Aligned  
System

## **ELA Grade 8 Summary**

In eighth grade, students grapple with high-quality, complex, nonfiction texts and great works of literature. Students know how to cite textual evidence supporting an analysis or critique. Students know how to question an author's assumptions and assess the accuracy of the claims. Eighth grade students read closely and find evidence to use in their own writing; they analyze two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify whether the disagreement is over facts or interpretation. They analyze how point of view can be manipulated to create specific effects such as dramatic irony and investigate how particular passages within a text connect to one another to advance the plot, reveal a character, or highlight an idea. Students have developed a strong vocabulary of academic words which they use to speak and write with more precision. Their writing continues to grow focusing on organizing ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; choosing relevant facts well; and using varied transitions to clarify or show the relationships among elements.

### **Craft and Structure, and Integration of Knowledge and Ideas—Literature Text**

- Analyze how author's use of the differences between the points of view of characters and the reader creates an effect.
- Analyze author's use of forms or structures of two or more texts.
- Determine author's use of word meanings.
- Determine author's use of figurative language.
- Analyze how modern fiction draws on myths and traditional stories.

### **Craft and Structure, and Integration of Knowledge and Ideas—Informational Text**

- Analyze author's point of view or purpose.
- Analyze author's use of text structure.
- Determine author's use of word meanings.
- Determine author's use of figurative language.
- Evaluate arguments or claims.
- Analyze how two or more texts provide conflicting information.

### **Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**

- Determine meaning of words or phrases.
- Interpret figurative language.