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# Table of Contents

## INTRODUCTION

- Background ............................................................................................................................................. 1
- Purpose .................................................................................................................................................. 1

## OVERVIEW: READING ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

- Reading Strategies and Behaviours ........................................................................................................ 7
- Comprehension Responses – Appropriate Achievement ....................................................................... 8
- Comprehension Responses – Strong Achievement ............................................................................... 9
- Text Complexity ...................................................................................................................................... 10
- Robins and Ravens – Text ........................................................................................................................ 11
- Robins and Ravens – Student Exemplars ............................................................................................... 11
- Save the Amazon Rainforest – Text ......................................................................................................... 15
- Save the Amazon Rainforest – Student Exemplars ............................................................................... 15
- Mrs. Buell – Text ................................................................................................................................... 21
- Mrs. Buell – Student Exemplars ............................................................................................................ 21

## OVERVIEW: WRITING ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

- Writing Strategies and Behaviours .......................................................................................................... 26
- Traits of Writing – Appropriate Achievement ....................................................................................... 27
- Traits of Writing – Strong Achievement and Conference Prompts ................................................... 28
- Text Forms .............................................................................................................................................. 29

## STUDENT WRITING EXEMPLARS WITH RATIONALES

- It’s Over – Exemplar for Appropriate Achievement ............................................................................ 31
- It’s Over – Rationale for Appropriate Achievement ............................................................................ 32
- To My Most Treasured Friends – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ................................................... 34
- To My Most Treasured Friends – Rationale for Strong Achievement .................................................. 36
- Keep Your Eyes on the Sun – Exemplar for Appropriate Achievement .............................................. 38
- Keep Your Eyes on the Sun – Rationale for Appropriate Achievement ............................................... 38
- Keep Your Eyes on the Sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways. – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ........................................................................................................................................ 42
- Keep Your Eyes on the Sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways. – Rationale for Strong Achievement ........................................................................................................................................ 44
- Drinking and Driving – Exemplar for Appropriate Achievement ......................................................... 46
- Drinking and Driving – Rationale for Appropriate Achievement ......................................................... 48
- Back in Grade Three, Guests... – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ...................................................... 50
- Back in Grade Three, Guests... – Rationale for Strong Achievement .................................................... 52
- Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game. – Exemplar for Appropriate Achievement ........ 54
- Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game. – Rationale for Appropriate Achievement .......... 56
- I Recycle Every Day. – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ..................................................................... 58
- I Recycle Every Day. – Rationale for Strong Achievement .................................................................... 60
- The Day My Brothers and I Received Our Dog was... – Exemplar for Appropriate Achievement .......... 62
- The Day My Brothers and I Received Our Dog was... – Rationale for Appropriate Achievement ........ 64
- It was the first day of third grade... – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ............................................. 66
- It was the first day of third grade... – Rationale for Strong Achievement ............................................. 68
- My Name is Leo... – Exemplar for Strong Achievement ...................................................................... 70
- My Name is Leo... – Rationale for Strong Achievement ...................................................................... 71

## BIBLIOGRAPHY ........................................................................................................................................ 73

## APPENDIX

- Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment ..................................................................... 77
- Writing Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment ..................................................................... 84

Achievement Standards End of Grade 8
Introduction

Background

The reading and writing achievement standards documents were developed by the Atlantic Provinces under the auspices of the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET). The New Brunswick Department of Education had lead responsibility for the project, with input provided by the other provinces at defined points. The first draft of the achievement standards was developed in consultation with teachers and personnel from school districts/boards. Working groups of educators from various school districts/boards, provincial assessments, and the work of educational researchers documented in professional resources were consulted in ongoing revisions. Final draft versions of the documents were made available for field tests/reviews throughout the Atlantic Provinces. The resulting feedback informed the published versions of the achievement standards.

Purpose

The achievement standards are intended to establish common expectations in reading and writing among Atlantic Canadian educators for students at the end of designated grade levels (entry through grade nine). The standards address the question, "How well should students be able to read and write independently by the end of each grade level?", and are based on both the reading and viewing outcomes and the writing and representing outcomes within the 1998 Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curricula, Entry through Grade Nine. (See Appendix for outcomes alignment.) The project directive focuses only on defining reading and writing achievement standards. However, not to be diminished is classroom instruction in the other language arts outcomes (i.e. those outcomes not addressed from the reading and viewing, the writing and representing, and the speaking and listening strands).

The standards provide reasonable end-of-grade expectations for reading and writing through descriptions of two levels of student achievement:

- The standard for **appropriate achievement** describes what a student who meets intended grade-level expectations of the learning outcomes must know and be able to do.

- The standard for **strong achievement** describes what a student who demonstrates a high level of performance in intended grade-level expectations of the learning outcomes must know and be
Overview: Reading Achievement Standards

The reading achievement standards include **three components** to be considered when assessing students’ independent interactions with text. The three components are identified as:

- **Text Complexity** – characteristics of fiction/nonfiction (information) texts
- **Reading Strategies and Behaviours** – learning behaviours students should exhibit when reading texts independently
- **Comprehension Responses** – literal, inferential/interpretive, and personal/critical/evaluative responses to texts

Exemplars (samples) of comprehension questions and student responses are provided as a guide for teachers to use when formulating questions and promoting discussions with any classroom student texts.

Student responses were collected through fall provincial assessments (October and November) and by classroom teachers at the end of the school year. Students were provided with grade-appropriate reading passages and related open-response questions to complete independent writing tasks. No teacher assistance could be provided with the reading or interpretation of the passages or questions.

Overview: Writing Achievement Standards

The writing achievement standards include **three components**:

- **Text Forms** – characteristics of narrative, poetry and information texts
- **Writing Strategies and Behaviours** – learning behaviours students should exhibit when writing texts independently
- **Writing Traits** – describe what students should be able to demonstrate independently with respect to the six common traits when completing a piece of writing. The six traits are:
  - **Content/Ideas** – overall topic, degree of focus, and related details.
  - **Organization** – structure and form, dependent on purpose and audience
  - **Word Choice** – vocabulary, language, and phrasing
  - **Voice** – evidence of author’s style, personality, and experience
  - **Sentence Structure** – variety and complexity of sentences
  - **Conventions** – spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage (grammar)

The writing achievement standards for each grade level are clarified through student exemplars. The student exemplars, with supporting rationale, represent various forms of both narrative and expository writing. The majority of writing samples were drawn from provincial writing assessments; information is displayed within writing assessment booklets indicating student writing samples at this level may later be used in provincial publications.

Writing tasks included both a topic of student choice and assigned prompts. Students used space provided to plan and draft, revise and edit, before writing their final copy. All assignments were completed independently within a sixty-minute time frame. Students were reminded to use their writing tools (e.g., dictionary and thesaurus).
Guidelines for Copying from the Standards

Educators should note that the published fiction/nonfiction texts within the reading standards have been reprinted by permission of the publisher/owner; a citation appears at the bottom of each page to provide source information. The materials have been secured with an agreement that they will be viewed only within the document and/or in a read-only electronic version; therefore the reading passages may not be reproduced in any form. The student exemplars however, in both the reading and writing sections, can be reproduced but only for use within classrooms.

Application of Standards

When using the achievement standards for either formative or summative purposes, it is important to consider all elements of the standards and to give students multiple opportunities to demonstrate their abilities. For example, when assessing a student’s ability to read, the teacher must consider text complexity, reading strategies the student employs, and various types of responses to text. Similarly, when assessing a student’s ability to write, it is important to consider all traits that contribute to quality writing.

Application of the Reading Standard

Student reading comprehension exemplars reflect responses to grade-appropriate reading texts (i.e., text complexity defined as appropriate for the end of a given grade level). Student responses determined to be at an appropriate level reflect the criteria described for appropriate achievement; and student responses identified as strong achievement reflect the criteria described for the strong level. Comprehension responses are defined as:

- **Literal** – students recall explicitly stated facts and/or ideas. Often the level of achievement is dependent upon the number of questions answered correctly; that is, for appropriate achievement a student responds accurately to most literal questions; for strong achievement a student responds accurately to virtually all literal questions. As the text complexity advances, strong responses may be distinguished by precision and the depth of response.

- **Inferential/Interpretive** – students connect ideas within the text, demonstrating an ability to identify and understand messages that are implied, but not explicitly stated.

- **Personal/Critical/Evaluative** – students make judgments about textual content.

It is expected that students who demonstrate a strong level of achievement will be capable of reading slightly more challenging texts than included within the grade-level documents. With more challenging texts, the student may not consistently demonstrate the criteria for responses defined under strong achievement.

Application of the Writing Standard

To obtain appropriate achievement in writing, student writing must consistently demonstrate the level of development described for each trait within the category of the standard. However, a student whose achievement in writing is identified at an appropriate level may be strong in one or more traits. Equally, to be identified at a strong level of achievement, the student must consistently demonstrate the level of development described within the standard for each trait in the strong category. When assessing a student’s writing achievement for formative purposes, a teacher could focus on the student’s ability with respect to each trait. The information gained could inform instruction to ensure a student achieves the overall level of development identified within
the end of grade level achievement standards. The goal is to develop students’ proficiency in all the traits of writing as each is important and contributes to quality writing.

Planning for Individual Instruction with the Standards

The reading and writing achievement standards and accompanying exemplars may facilitate the design and implementation of individual learning plans for reading and writing outcomes. The descriptors in the standards are designed on a continuum; therefore, any grade level, indicative of a student’s instructional level, may be used to guide planning. This can be achieved by matching the behavior descriptions of appropriate and strong achievement at a grade level reflective of the student’s reading and writing ability. Once this level is determined, goals and specific outcomes may be written to reflect the reading and writing standards. The reading and writing standards provide a tool to focus literacy goals for the instructional level of any student.

Conclusion

The purpose of this CAMET initiative, standards for reading and writing - Entry through Grade 9, is to provide teachers with a tool for assessing student achievement that is consistent with other jurisdictions. The Reading and Writing Achievement Standards define how well a student should be able to read and write at the end of each grade and are intended as supplementary documents to the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum.
Reading Achievement Standards

End of Grade 8

Reading Achievement Standards
Appropriate and Strong

Reading Texts

Student Reading Comprehension Exemplars
# Reading Strategies and Behaviours

## Reading Strategies and Behaviours

### Appropriate Achievement

Students

- check closely for understanding; adjust and use a wide variety of strategies (e.g., generate questions, make connections, organize significant information in notes or with graphic organizers)
- quickly solve unfamiliar words using a variety of cues (e.g. dividing words into syllables, using root words/origins to gain meaning; using background knowledge and context cues) use references to find the meanings of unknown/technical words
- automatically read and understand most words in range of contexts (e.g., subject-specific terminology, vocabulary from oral language)
- read appropriate-level texts with expression and confidence; adjust rates to match form and purpose; use appropriate phrasing, pausing and intonation
- use context clues, prior knowledge/experience, and knowledge of text forms/features to verify and adjust predictions while reading; inquire/conduct research when content exceeds knowledge/experience
- use text features (e.g. table of contents, glossary, captions, headings/subheadings, index, sidebars, charts/diagrams, maps, font) to preview, interpret, and locate information
- reflect on reading processes and strategies to ensure deeper understanding of content

### Strong Achievement

Students demonstrating strong achievement apply strategies and exhibit behaviours described at the appropriate level in an increasingly efficient and deliberate manner, and

- show insight with their questions and predictions, based on interpretations of subtle textual details
- recognize subtle biases
- make sophisticated text-to-text and text-to-world connections based on extensive knowledge gained through broader reading experiences
## Comprehension Responses

**Appropriate Achievement**

Students demonstrating appropriate achievement respond to a variety of comprehension tasks in the manner described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading “the lines”</th>
<th><strong>Literal Response</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>respond accurately to most literal questions; skim large amount of text in search of information, locate literal information from a variety of texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>identify key story elements (setting, characters, events, problem/resolution, theme/lesson) of a narrative text; explain how events are related to the theme; graphic organizers (e.g. timelines, story maps) may be used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>distinguish between main ideas and supporting details; concisely summarize key information; graphic organizers (e.g., timelines, charts, webs) may be used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading “between the lines”</th>
<th><strong>Inferential/Interpretive Response</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>make logical inferences about multiple complex characters (i.e., motivations, traits, feelings, personality) and story events, referring to relevant textual details; describe relationships among characters and effect on plot or overall theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>interpret relationships among ideas to draw conclusions (e.g., plot, sequence, cause/effect, problem/solution) or make comparisons; support responses with relevant details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>use context clues, prior knowledge, and reference tools (e.g., dictionary, glossary) to explain the meaning of new vocabulary/technical terms; interpret subtle shades of meaning, and figurative and descriptive language; interpret symbols (objects, events, motifs) used by author to convey meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>interpret/use text features to understand the text (headings and subheadings, cut aways, legends, diagrams, maps, graphs, glossaries, captions, charts, feature boxes, sidebars); make general inferences using this information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading “beyond the lines”</th>
<th><strong>Personal/Critical/Evaluative Response</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>make personal connections: compare/contrast with personal experiences/relevant prior knowledge; make logical text-to-text, text-to-world comparisons; connect characters within and across texts/genres by circumstances, traits, or actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>make connections between the social/moral issues of the present and those presented in realistic/historical fiction, biographies, and other genres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>express and support personal reactions, preferences for, and opinions about, particular texts, authors, illustrators, and genres using specific details/examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>explain how the different elements of author’s style/technique (e.g., dialect, descriptions, figurative language, flashbacks, foreshadowing, symbolism) creates meaning and reaction; evaluate author’s effectiveness by providing relevant examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>respond critically to texts: recognize language used to manipulate, persuade, or control; detect prejudice, stereotyping and bias; propose alternative perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>evaluate purpose, structure, and characteristics of a variety of text forms (e.g. short story, ballad, report, explanation, persuasive, autobiography, science fiction, fantasy); explain how they contribute to understanding the text</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Comprehension Responses

#### Strong Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Questions/Tasks</th>
<th>Students demonstrating strong achievement respond to questions/tasks described at the appropriate level with overall accuracy and precision. They also...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literal Response</strong></td>
<td>Students demonstrating strong achievement respond to questions/tasks described at the appropriate level with overall accuracy and precision. They also...</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sample Questions/Tasks

The following types of questions/tasks may be used to assess students' comprehension.

**Literal Response**

- What new information did you learn from reading and viewing this selection?
- Summarize what you have found so far. What key words did you note to help you remember?
- Where would you begin to construct a timeline to plot the events in this autobiography?
- Why is ___ (event/action of character) important to the story?
- What were the key ideas in the information you read/viewed? Why did you identify them as important?
- Provide the “gist” of this article in twenty words or less.

**Inferential/Interpretive Response**

- Describe ___ (character) at the beginning of the story and at the end of the story. What caused this change?
- In what ways did the weaknesses/strengths of the character affect the chain of events in the story? How would the story be different if the character had acted differently?
- What is the theme or message of this selection? What do you think the author/poet wants you to think about and remember?
- What does this word mean? What helped you figure that out?
- Explain and give an example of how the author/poet used metaphor/simile/irony/personification/onomatopoeia.
- Show me how you used this key to understand the map.
- Look at this photograph and caption. What information do you learn that adds to the words of the text?
- How do the text features (e.g. headings, charts, questions…) help you understand what you have read?

**Personal/Critical/Evaluative Response**

- Which character is most like you? How?
- How would you have solved the problem?
- Tell me about your favourite genre. What is it about the genre that engages you?
- Does the author keep you interested in this selection? How?
- What does the author do to help you picture this character?
- The problem is described by ____. What do you think ____ would say about it?
- Whose viewpoint is presented? What, if any, opposing viewpoints are presented? Whose viewpoint is missing? Describe the biases and assumptions presented in this selection. Whose interests are served?
- What are some examples of how the author used persuasive language in this piece?
- What are some similarities and differences between one form/genre and another? (e.g. myths and legends)
### Text Complexity

Students select and read independently a variety of literary and information texts. Texts include:

- A wide range of genres; some texts (hybrids) combine genres; longer texts, beyond personal experiences, often requiring cultural, historical or social perspectives
- Multidimensional mature/challenging themes/ideas (e.g. human problems: abuse, war, hardship, poverty, racism) that cultivate social awareness and provide insight into the struggles of humanity; age appropriate characters/information requiring the reader to interpret and connect information/ideas with other texts and subject areas; sometimes themes that evoke alternative interpretations
- Many complex sentence structures (including sentences greater than 30 words); large amounts of description containing information vital to the understanding of the text; more complicated use of dialogue; wide range of declarative, imperative and interrogative sentences; embedded phrases/clauses
- Challenging language (need context, glossary/dictionary); wide range of literary devices (e.g. figurative language, symbolism, flashbacks, flash forward, time lapses, stories within stories); dialects (regional/historical), some words from other languages, archaic words
- Many long multisyllable words (require knowledge of root words/affixes), complex plurals/spelling patterns, many nouns/technical words that are difficult to decode
- Variety of challenging illustrations/photos/complex graphics that match/add meaning/extend text; much literary text with no or few illustrations
- Many lines of print on a page; variation in layout/print styles/font within the same text (some examples of dense print); wide range of punctuation; may feature readers’ tools (e.g. glossary, pronunciation guide)

Note: Text complexity is not defined as appropriate or strong. The wide range of unfamiliar content at this level ensures sufficient challenges for all readers.

### Literary (Realistic/Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Myths, Legends, Poetry, Science Fiction, Mysteries, Satire, Hybrids)

Texts characterized by:

- Varied structures (e.g., short stories, plays) with multiple narrators, some longer books requiring sustained reading and recall of information; some collections with interrelated themes
- Plots with detailed episodes/subplots/multiple story lines; occasional unexpected twists
- Main characters display complexity and unpredictability, i.e. “hero” with shades of good and bad; factors that relate to character development that require inferences; multiple characters revealed through dialogue, actions, thoughts and/or perceptions of others
- Some unassigned dialogue from which story action must be inferred; many lines of descriptive language vital to understanding setting, characters, theme, imagery, symbolism, figurative language

### Information (Content Subject Textbooks, Reports, Directions, Biography, Memoir Autobiography, Ads, Hybrids)

Texts characterized by:

- Heavy content load requiring readers to synthesize information
- Topics/explicit ideas/information linked by categories and presented through clear structures (e.g. description, sequence, compare/contrast, problem/solution, cause/effect- at times combined in same text
- Variety of formats (paragraphs, columns, boxes, legends, question/answer)
- Wide variety of graphics—some dense and challenging—support text; some complicated layouts
- Information conveyed through text features (e.g. table of contents, index, glossary, subheadings, captions, sidebars, cutaways, charts, diagrams, maps, keys/legends, bold type)
Literal Response – Reading “the lines”

1. When did the robins come to the birch tree?

   (This question generates one level of response.)

   **Criteria for Response**
   Students respond accurately to the literal question, stating the time that the robins perched on the tree.

   **Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)**
   - The robins came yesterday morn.
   - Yesterday morn, two robins perched on the branch of a tall birch tree.
   - The robins arrived in the birch tree yesterday morning.

Inferential/Interpretive Response – Reading “between the lines”

2. Tell why the day was gloomy, as stated in line 13.

   (This question generates two levels of response.)

   **Criteria for Appropriate Response**
   Students interpret the relationship between the gloomy day and the raven.

   **Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)**
   - The day was gloomy because the raven was in misery.
   - The day was gloomy because the raven pierced the skies with loud noises.
   - The raven’s angry cries made a dark and gloomy day.

   **Criteria for Strong Response**
   Students interpret the relationship between the gloomy day and the raven and demonstrate an understanding of the poetic symbolism.

   **Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)**
   - The day was gloomy because of the raven was in misery. It’s talking about if you choose to be a robin then you will be a happy person and if you choose to be a raven you will be a sad mean person. It means you can choose your own path if you want to. The ravens angry cries with its woe and misery, shows no one really likes it, it is dull. You can choose to be dull and no one would like you.
3. Explain why the poet chose robins and a raven as her examples in the poem.

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students make connections with prior knowledge/experience (i.e. a robin as a cheerful bird and a raven as the disturber) in order to explain the poet’s choice of birds as her examples.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)
- Everyone knows about those birds and what they are like.
- The poet chose robins because everybody likes robins, and people think ravens are mean.
- She wanted to show that “angry cries” like the cries a raven makes can ruin a good day, but happy people like “cheerful” robins make a “happy and bright” world.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students draw on extensive experience with other texts/prior knowledge to provide more sophisticated reasons underlying the poet’s choice (i.e. the comparison to Robin Redbreast or the cheerfulness of a robin in spring).

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)
- The reason the poet chose the birds is because robins are thought of as cheerful birds like little Robin Redbreast. They welcome spring with their “merry song” while the raven is black and dark to represent gloom and sadness with its “woe and misery”.
- The raven shows how bad habits affect people and can ruin a good day, but if we “face the world with a gladsome heart” like cheerful robins, we leave our mark on the world for good.
- The poet wanted to remind us that we can have a good effect on people or a bad effect so she used the birds as examples. We have to choose how to act but we should make a good choice as we face the world because we leave a mark whatever way we choose.

4. Explain what you think the poet means in line 17 when she writes, “We mortals are much like those morning birds.”

(This question generates two levels of response.)
Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students explain what they think the poet means by making a simple personal connection.

**Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)**
- The poet means we are like the birds because we choose how we act.
- The poet means we make choices about how we act, much like the birds.
- The poet means some people are merry and some people are gloomy.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students make sophisticated text–to-self/ text-to-world connections by identifying key ideas to explain what the poet means. Responses at the strong level include textual references/evidence of mature understanding.

**Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)**
- I think that the poet means that humanity can make the world a better place, but it all depends on our attitudes. We all have an influence on the lives of others just like the morning birds.
- I think the poet is saying that people are like two different birds. A cheerful person is a robin and a grumpy person is a raven. She says, “The choice is ours, which will we be?” I would rather be a robin so “the world will be happy and bright.”
- We all have an influence on the lives of others just like the morning birds. A grumpy person will leave a bad impression while we all can create a happier place if we are always cheerful. You see this influence in “The memory of beauty remained with us.” (Line 7).
SAVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST — Nonfiction text

Literal Response — Reading “the lines”

1. What is the main idea of the opening paragraph?

   (This question generates two levels of response.)

   **Criteria for Appropriate Response**
   Students locate and identify the main idea of the text.

   **Student Exemplars (Appropriate — In students’ words and spelling)**
   - The main idea is that the Amazon rainforest is one of the world’s most fascinating ecosystems.

   **Criteria for Strong Response**
   Students identify the main idea of a text. Responses at the strong level demonstrate precise understanding of the intention of the text.

   **Student Exemplars (Strong — In students’ words and spelling)**
   - The main idea is that the Amazon Rainforest is a great ecosystem for thousands of plants and animals to inhabit.
   - The main idea of the rainforest is that the rainforest has numerous forms of life within it and that it is plentiful in resources.

2. List four relevant details that support this main idea.

   This question generates one level of response.)

   **Criteria for Response**
   Students distinguish between main ideas and supporting details and concisely summarize key information.

   **Student Exemplars (In students’ words and spelling)**
   - It is very thickly wooded, with as many as 200 different tree species in each square kilometre of the rainforest. The second-largest river in the world, the Amazon River, flows through the rainforest. The Amazon River is also home to more than 3,000 species of fish. The plant and animal life in the rainforest is very diverse.
   - There are as many as 200 species of trees in each square kilometre. The Amazon river is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} longest river in the world. The Amazon river is home to “more than 3000” species of fish. Researchers continue to discover new species in addition to the millions that have already been identified.
Inferential/Interpretive Response – Reading “between the lines”

3. How does the information found in the map and in the graph help you to understand the situation in the rainforest?

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students interpret text features (i.e., the map and graph) and explain how they support the reader’s understanding of the selection.

**Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)**

- The map shows the size of the Amazon rainforest. It is large. The graph is good to have to show how much humans have already affected it.
- The map shows that the Amazon Rainforest is a huge rainforest, and if we cut it down, it will have an enormous impact on wildlife and the environment. The graph helps me to understand how desperate humans are to get land for themselves.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students interpret, with overall accuracy and precision, text features (i.e., the map and graph) and explain, citing specific examples, how they support the reader’s understanding of the selection.

**Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)**

- The map helps us understand where the Amazon rainforest is in the world and how far away from Canada it is. The graph helps understand how much rainforest has been cleared in 1970 and 2000 and how much more we cut down in 2000 as opposed to 1970. There was almost a 10% increase in rainforest cleared over a time span of 30 years.
- The graph shows us the increasing percentage of the cleared rainforest. In 1970, that percentage was about 4%, but over the next 30 years, it jumped to 14%! This shows how quickly the devastation is growing. The map shows where the rainforest is found. That region is quickly being cleared for people which is destroying the rainforest.
4. The author tells us that the loss of the rainforest will have serious consequences. Why should Canadians be concerned about this? Give at least 3 reasons.

(This question generates two levels of response.)

**Criteria for Appropriate Response**
Students interpret relationships among ideas to draw conclusions and provide support with at least three relevant details.

**Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)**
- Canadians should be concerned about loss of the rainforest because the Amazon absorbs a lot of carbon dioxide, which produces the “greenhouse effect”, the rainforest absorbs heat that the sun gives off, which, if it was cut down, would make it hotter all over the world, and 25% of medicines that treat cancer come from organisms in the rainforest.
- Canadians should be concerned because this rainforest has an impact on a lot of places. Without this forest, earth’s temperature would rise. Winters would be considerably warmer and summers much hotter and drier. This rainforest absorbs a lot of carbon dioxide — a harmful gas — and it produces lots of oxygen for us.

**Criteria for Strong Response**
Students interpret relationships among ideas to draw conclusions providing thoughtful/well-supported responses using at least three specific examples.

**Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)**
- Canadians should be concerned because all the trees in the rainforest provide oxygen, which is very important, and they also absorb carbon dioxide that creates the “greenhouse effect” which isn’t good for the environment. 25% of our cancer medications come from organisms that can only be found in the rainforest. Also, many species, including the jaguar, are now on the endangered species list and could become extinct.
- Canadians should be greatly concerned for several reasons. One of the benefits of the rainforest is that it absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen so that the people of the world can live and breathe. The darkness of its foliage absorbs the Sun’s heat, keeping summers and winters within their correct temperature ranges. The article also states that out of the cancer medications for the world, about 25% of them are from species that rely on the resources of the Amazon rainforest.
5. What do you think it means to “adopt” a piece of the rainforest?

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students use context clues and prior knowledge to provide obvious interpretations of the word “adopt”.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)
- When you adopt a part of a rainforest, you buy some land within the rainforest, and the land will be protected and not be cleared or destroyed in any way. It becomes a small reserve.
- I think that when you “adopt” a piece of the rainforest that you are responsible for keeping it clean and unpolluted. Perhaps if you “adopt” a piece of rainforest, it means people cannot go onto that piece and clear cut it or hunt endangered animals on it.
- It means to raise enough money to protect a piece of the Amazon. Companies would not be allowed to clear cut over that piece of land. I bet if enough people “adopted” a section of the Amazon, it would eventually be saved.

Criteria for Response: Strong
Students use context and prior knowledge to provide thoughtful interpretations of the word “adopt” with specific and relevant examples.

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)
- I think it means to try and save some of the rainforest with the power you have to save it, such as donating money to a company or group that are working on saving the Amazon rainforest.
- I think to “adopt” a piece of the rainforest means that you raise money and it goes towards a conservation group and helps them try to save the Amazon rainforest.

6. The writer tells us about a problem and makes some suggestions to solve the problem.
(a) What is the problem?

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students interpret relationships to summarize the ideas and articulate the problem.
SAVE THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST
Grade 8

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)
• The problem is that the Amazon Rainforest could be in danger due to human activities, and if humans are not careful, the rainforest could be gone forever.
• The problem that the writer has posed is that the Amazon rainforest is quickly disappearing and must be protected in order to save this precious ecosystem from extinction.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students interpret relationships to summarize the ideas and provide thoughtful inferences supported by specific and relevant examples to articulate the problem.

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)
• The problem is that clearing the rainforest has many damaging effects. Some of the effects are soil erosion, animal extinction, and there wouldn’t be much cancer medication because 25 percent is found only in the rainforest.
• The problem that is being discussed is that the Amazon rainforest is being cut down to make way for other things like ranches and gold mines. These huge chunks of land are being cut down and being taken away from the wildlife which are now becoming extinct, or endangered.

Personal/Critical/Evaluative Response – Reading “beyond the lines”

(b) Do you think that young people can make a difference and help solve this problem? Explain your answer.

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students make personal connections with social issues and provide reasonable suggestions in the response.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)
• I think that young people can make a difference in solving this problem, because if everyone does even a little bit to help, it will add up to a lot to help. There are many conservation groups who aim to help the rainforest, so joining one of them, or even donating to their cause, can be helpful. Even something as simple as recycling can make the world a better place.
• Yes, adolescents can help with this problem. As the article suggests, teens could adopt part of the rainforest, join a conservation group or learn what other people are doing. Closer to home, anybody could recycle old items and make a compost heap for a garden. Instead of buying items covered in plastic and wrappings, only buy things without much wrapping. Students could take a lunch bag instead of taking a paper bag to school every day. There are several ways to protect the rainforest. Every effort helps.
Criteria for Response: Strong
Students make personal connections with social issues and provide insightful suggestions in the response.

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)
- To save the rainforest we could join a conservation group to learn more about it. We could “adopt” a piece of the rainforest. We could search for things we can do to help on the internet. I think that young people can certainly make a difference. Young people are usually keen to save the environment, and we can be very tech-savvy, making it easier to research the Amazon rainforest. If we, as young people, make a difference today, the benefits will continue for our children and grandchildren and for many generations to come.
- Yes I think that young people can help save the rainforest because every little bit helps. If young people started spreading the word and saving a little bit of time and money to send to people who are saving the rainforests the results would be astonishing. Things would really add up fast and the movement might inspire more people to do the same. That is why I believe that young people can help save the rainforest.
MRS. BUll — Nonfiction Text

Litertal Response — Reading “the lines”

1. What is the price for one scoop of ice cream at BUELLS?

(This question generates one level of response.)

Criteria for Response
Students respond accurately to the literal question, giving the price of a scoop of ice cream, as specifically stated in the story.

Student Exemplars (In Students’ words and spelling)
• It was 15¢ a scoop of ice cream.
• The price of one scoop is 15 ¢ (line 5).

2. Line 7 says that Mrs. Buell is “run-down” and “never smiles”. What other clue leads you to believe that Mrs. Buell is “run-down”?

(This question generates one level of response.)

Criteria for Response
Students identify key information about the character.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate — In Students’ words and spelling)
• Another clue is “her hair hung down in wet strings and her clothes looked limp” (lines 34-35) so I think she looked kind of run-down.
• Mrs. Buell “wore the same sweater every day” and it was too big so she must have been too run-down to care what she wore.
• Mrs. Buell would have to be run-down because it says “she never took days off and she was always there.”

Inferential/Interpretive Response — Reading “between the lines”

3. Why is the narrator feeling guilty in line 32?

(This question generates one level of response.)

Criteria for Response
Students make logical inferences about the characters feelings referring to relevant textual details.
Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)

- The narrator is guilty because she never said thank you to Mrs. Buell (lines 27-31).
- The narrator feels bad because Mrs. Buell was really kind to her when she hurt her knee but she didn’t smile back at Mrs. Buell (lines 69-72).
- The narrator realizes maybe Mrs. Buell helped her because they had the same name. Now she feels guilty because she wasn’t nice back to her.

4. Explain how Mrs. Buell and her daughter are different.

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students interpret relationships among ideas, recognizing an inferred difference between Mrs. Buell and her daughter.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)

- Mr Buell was caring but Glo wasn’t.
- Mrs. Buell didn’t clean her store but the daughter would have kept it cleaner.
- Mrs. Buell had no one to love her but her daughter had Harry.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students interpret relationships among ideas, recognizing an inferred difference between Mrs. Buell and her daughter, and supporting the response with a specific textual reference.

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)

- Mrs. Buell was caring but she didn’t show it (lines 26-31). Glo was not caring and she showed it (lines 56-60).
- As her daughter says “How ma stood this cruddy hole I’ll never know!” showing the reader her daughter would’ve kept the store much neater than her mother did, if she’d keep it at all.
- Mrs. Buell was alone (lines 71-72) but her daughter wasn’t. (“Over and over, I told her she could move in with us.”)
5. Explain the expression “nothing was safe” as found in the last paragraph.

(This question generates two levels of response.)

Criteria for Appropriate Response
Students use context clues/prior knowledge to interpret subtle shades of meaning and provide a picture of Kate’s future following the death of Mrs. Buell.

Student Exemplars (Appropriate – In students’ words and spelling)
- It means Kate’s world would change now without Mrs. Buell around.
- Kate is worried that everything will change now without BUELLS on the corner.
- Kate thinks nothing will be the same now without Mrs. Buell and her store so the author said “nothing was safe”.

Criteria for Strong Response
Students provide thoughtful inferences supported by specific and relevant examples as they explain both the significance of Mrs. Buell’s absence, after being such a routine part of Kate’s life, and its impact on Kate’s future.

Student Exemplars (Strong – In students’ words and spelling)
- I think the author is saying that “nothing was safe” because now Mrs. Buell is not there anymore, and it felt not real, as if it was all a dream. Kate couldn’t believe she was really gone and all that was left was short, simple memories so there was a big hole in her life.
- The author says “nothing was safe” because Kate knows now that she will miss Mrs. Buell and her store. Even her feelings weren’t safe because now she realizes that she liked Mrs. Buell and Mrs. Buell must have liked kids to sell candy in her store cheaper than anywhere else.
Writing Achievement Standards

End of Grade Eight

Writing Achievement Standards
Appropriate and Strong

Student Writing Exemplars with Rationales
### Writing Achievement Standards

#### Writing Strategies and Behaviours

**End of Grade 8**

**Students:**
- select and develop a topic; demonstrate awareness of audience and competence crafting a variety of text forms (including hybrids)
- write with purpose and understand the influence of the writer
- gather ideas from a variety of sources and use a framework (e.g., web, graphic organizer) to sort and classify the information/ideas, recognize different perspectives, and make new connections; apply knowledge of copyright/plagiarism
- draft a piece of writing making critical choices about ideas/content based on the purpose and intended audience
- independently re-read to add to, delete from, or reorganize the text to clarify and strengthen content
- request, obtain, and make decisions about, constructive criticism
- refine writing to enhance impact
- select linguistic (e.g., analogy, colloquialism, figurative language, flattery) and print devices (e.g., print size, font, page design) designed to influence audience
- reread writing aloud for fluency; make changes to sentence structures and word choices to provide variety
- use appropriate tools (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, grammar checker, and text models) to edit conventions, and strengthen word choice
- use a variety of publishing formats (e.g., books, pamphlets, posters, web sites) with appropriate text and text features
- use specific devices to achieve purpose (instruct, persuade, entertain)
- explain form choice as it pertains to purpose and intended audience

Students demonstrating **strong achievement** consistently apply the strategies and behaviours listed above. They take more risks and attempt techniques observed during independent reading.
# Traits of Writing

## Appropriate Achievement

### Content

**Overall topic, degree of focus, and related details**

- Students
  - select a specific topic with a main idea that supports the purpose and audience
  - include thoughtful ideas/events relevant to the topic
  - include relevant/well-researched details to enhance the ideas

### Organization

**Structure and form, dependent on purpose and audience**

- select an appropriate form and clearly establish the purpose in the introduction
- use an underlying structure to present information (e.g., temporal sequence, cause and effect, compare and contrast)
- use transitions between and within paragraphs to show sequencing and connections
- provide an adequate conclusion

See **Text Forms** for elements of narrative and information texts.

### Word Choice

**Vocabulary, language, and phrasing**

- include interesting words and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning (strong nouns and verbs, colourful adjectives and adverbs)
- use figurative language (e.g., metaphor, analogy, symbolism)

### Voice

**Evidence of author’s style, personality, and experience**

- skillfully connect the audience to the topic
- show care and commitment to the topic
- generate strong feeling, energy, and individuality

### Sentence Structure

**Variety and complexity of sentences**

- include different kinds of sentences, with a variety of complex structures
- include a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity

### Conventions

**Spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage (grammar)**

- include internal punctuation (e.g., commas, semi-colons, colons, dash, hyphen, parentheses, apostrophes) and paragraphing of dialogue
- correctly spell almost all words; use spelling support (e.g., dictionary, spell checker); correctly use homophones
- use standard grammatical structures (subject/verb agreement, verb tense, all parts of speech, numbers, contractions, plurals)
- use a range of print characteristics and layout to enhance the meaning (e.g., headings, visuals, white space, italics, bold, font size, and style)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Achievement</th>
<th>Conference Prompts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• introduce a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purpose and engages the audience</td>
<td>What specific details do you think would enhance this part for your audience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• include original and thoughtful ideas</td>
<td>Do you need to do more research/ further explore?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• support the strong main idea with relevant details and examples</td>
<td>What can be accomplished through this piece of writing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traits of Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• begin with an engaging lead that establishes the purpose and form</td>
<td>What did you do to help you organize your writing before you began?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• vary the organizational structures to enhance interest (e.g., hybrids, flashback, story within a story)</td>
<td>How did you get your reader’s attention?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use a variety of ways to focus the topic (e.g., time structures, theme)</td>
<td>Does your ending pull your ideas together?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• provide an effective/creative conclusion</td>
<td>Here’s where I got confused _______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See <strong>Text Forms</strong> for elements of narrative and information texts.</td>
<td>How can you show that this part connects to the part you wrote here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• effectively include vivid descriptive vocabulary/precise technical words (strong nouns and verbs, colourful modifiers)</td>
<td>What text features or illustrations could be used to make this part clearer to the reader?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use figurative language effectively</td>
<td>Find a place in your writing where you wrote so the reader could visualize.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• skilfully connect with the audience by sharing thoughts, feelings, inner conflict, and convictions</td>
<td>What did you do to make that part work so well?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• demonstrate a strong commitment to the topic</td>
<td>Show me the thesaurus words that you used to replace some of your ordinary words?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• develop ideas in a unique or unusual way, revealing the writer’s perspective</td>
<td>What are some words we’ve been learning in (subject area) that would help you tell about this topic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use a striking variety of complex sentence structures and types</td>
<td>Where did you really try to make the reader agree with you? What devices did you use?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• connect ideas with smooth transitions to add flair</td>
<td>Will your reader be able to tell that you know a lot about _____?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use conventions skilfully to enhance meaning and voice</td>
<td>This part made me feel _____.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• make informed decisions about text layout and print characteristics to enhance meaning (e.g. headings, visuals, white space, italics, bold, font size, and style)</td>
<td>What is the strongest sentence in your piece and what makes it strong?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Use conventions skilfully to enhance meaning and voice</td>
<td>How can we make this sentence _____ (longer, shorter, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• make informed decisions about text layout and print characteristics to enhance meaning (e.g. headings, visuals, white space, italics, bold, font size, and style)</td>
<td>Reread this part and see if it is easy to read aloud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Conference Prompts</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did you decide to revise after you shared your draft with a peer?</td>
<td>Let’s look at the spell and grammar checker suggestions. Did you use a mentor text to help you with text layout?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On what would you like to work to improve in your next piece?</td>
<td><strong>General Conference Prompts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the best way to publish this writing?</td>
<td>What did you decide to revise after you shared your draft with a peer?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What form of writing would you like to work on next? What are you reading right now that could be a mentor text for your writing?</td>
<td>On what would you like to work to improve in your next piece?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Text Forms

The following describe the specific elements of common text forms explored in grade six, seven, and eight. Refer to the Organization Trait to distinguish between appropriate and strong achievement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Persuasive</th>
<th>Form: Descriptive Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to discuss and/or debate ideas developing an argument to convince the reader to agree with the writer’s premise</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to describe a topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opening Statement:</strong> provides an overview of the topic and states the writer’s position (e.g., Racial slurs are damaging and should not be permitted.)</td>
<td><strong>Introduction:</strong> introduces a manageable topic with a definition or a classification (Three types of soil are)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arguments and Reasons:</strong> provides three or more arguments or assertions that have supporting statements (I believe... because...) drawn from facts or personal experience; begins to identify other points of view and counter-arguments</td>
<td><strong>Description of Topic:</strong> includes factual details, from a variety of sources (books, photographs, websites), to support sub-topics (e.g., attributes, weather systems) sequenced in a specific way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong> includes a statement to reinforce or summarize position</td>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong> summarizes, or restates, key ideas; may include an impersonal evaluative comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- persuasive devices (quotes from experts, examples, anecdotes, flattery, authorial intrusion, irony, wit, humour)</td>
<td>- includes a title, headings, illustrations, maps, or photographs with labels or captions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- linking words/phrases (because, however, also)</td>
<td>- connecting words and phrases (also, many other, has a variety of)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- present tense</td>
<td>- present tense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- first person singular or plural (I, we)</td>
<td>- language to show comparisons/contrasts (as hard as), definitions (are called), classification (belong to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- persuasive adjectives/adverbs (most, most strongly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- technical terms which are often verbs changed into nouns (e.g. new comers becomes immigrants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Explanatory Report</th>
<th>Form: Instructions/Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to tell how/why something came to be or to explain how something works</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to tell how to do something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statement or definition:</strong> identifies topic with a statement, question or definition</td>
<td><strong>Goal or aim:</strong> identifies topic by title or opening statement(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation or how or why:</strong> to analyze a process (movements in the earth’s crust) showing the relationship among the parts including cause and effect connections</td>
<td><strong>Materials/Ingredients:</strong> lists materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> can state unusual features of the phenomenon and/or reiterate the main points</td>
<td><strong>Method/process:</strong> includes key steps in correct order with adequate details focusing on how/when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conclusion or Evaluation:</strong> includes a closing statement or an evaluation which may be a photograph or drawing of the completed item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- may include a title, illustrations or diagrams</td>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- connecting words to signal cause-effect (if, because, then) and/or sequence (next, then, when)</td>
<td>- may include headings, illustrations, diagrams or labels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- present tense with some passive verbs (e.g. are folding/faulting)</td>
<td>- point form or full sentences starting with sequence words or verbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- technical, subject-specific vocabulary</td>
<td>- present tense often written as commands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- technical language- verbs, adverbs and adjectives (e.g., whip the cooled creme vigorously)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Memoir</th>
<th>Form: Narrative (short story)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to capture a defining personal memory</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to entertain with an imaginative experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orientation:</strong> begins with a purposeful lead, identifies the personal event and may give the reason for selecting the topic</td>
<td><strong>Orientation (time, place and characters):</strong> attempts to establish an emotional response through the development of character, setting, and plot and setting the mood or tone (e.g. humor, personalization, sarcasm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key Events:</strong> has key events in logical order (e.g. single day, flashback) with sufficient relevant details including the subjects feelings revealed through actions or using quotes</td>
<td><strong>Events:</strong> involve the main character development, including insights into their actions and feelings, and building the tension that leads to the climax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong> communicate the larger meaning or reason for the writing</td>
<td><strong>Resolution:</strong> the complication is generally resolved and the loose ends are tied up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- literary language (powerful nouns and verbs, figurative language)</td>
<td>- use of literary devices to create imagery (metaphor, personification, idiom, hyperbole)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- linking words and phrases (later that afternoon, as I walked out)</td>
<td>- connecting words related to time (later on, after that,)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- past tense</td>
<td>- action verbs and verbs related to character’s thoughts and feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- include dialogue (with change in tense from past to present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- pronouns refer to specific characters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Biography and Autobiography</th>
<th>Form: Poetry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to give a true or fictionalized account of a person’s life</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> to entertain, communicate deep meaning or create a new perspective on a subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orientation:</strong> identifies the subject, the important events in the subject’s life, and the reason for the selections</td>
<td><strong>Organization:</strong> a variety of forms with specific structures (e.g. ballad, Haiku, Cinquain, sonnet, diamantes) as well as free verse which has no set structure or conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Events:</strong> important events are described in a logical order (e.g., chronological, categories); provides reasons for omitting significant parts of the subject’s life (e.g., only focusing on the childhood or adult years)</td>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion:</strong> includes a personal response, evaluative statement, or a comment on the significance of the subject</td>
<td>- title communicates the meaning of the poem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Features</strong></td>
<td>- lines of text usually short and concise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- subjects feelings may be revealed in quotes</td>
<td>- words evoke strong images, moods, and/or emotions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- supplemental texts (e.g., interviews, awards, newspaper clippings, foreword, afterword)</td>
<td>- poetic devices (e.g., repetition, refrain, rhyme, rhythm, sensory images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dialogue</td>
<td>- literary devices are used (e.g. alliteration, assonance, onomatopoeia, symbolism, personification, rhetorical question)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the line breaks and white space on the page can have meaning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Hybrid Texts (multigenre texts)</th>
<th>Important Note: In all forms of writing, where appropriate, all research references are cited.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>As writers become familiar with certain writing forms and as they read mentor texts that mix two or more genres, they begin to produce hybrid texts to communicate information in different ways (e.g. procedures and explanation, narrative and letters). The different forms to be combined are chosen with a clear purpose and integrated into one harmonious text that communicates a message.</strong></td>
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Student Writing Exemplars with Rationales

Grade 8

Writing exemplars are listed by title or by the first line of the writing piece. The pieces written to a prompt are indicated above the title.
poem titled “It’s Over”

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>“It’s Over”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>“Take a breath.” he said</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>She pulled herself together</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>There is a suitcase packed at the foot of the bed</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>“We’ll find a way to make this right.”</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>She doesn’t want to go,</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>But she can’t take another fight</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>“You always say that,” she told him,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>With tears rolling down her face,</td>
</tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>She goes to grab the suitcase,</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>He tries to hold her back,</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>She closes her eyes and thinks to herself,</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>When will this be over?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>She lets go and heads for the door,</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>He can’t take it anymore</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>“This is heading in the wrong direction!”</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>“At least the hurt is some connection.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>He never saw her again after that day,</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>He only wishes she would have stayed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>But now it’s too late to make it right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>If only they wouldn’t of had that fight.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The writing sample poem titled “It’s Over”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that supports the purpose and audience being to explore feelings of a relationship ending
  line(s) 18 “He never saw her again after that day,”
  line(s) 11 “She lets go and heads for the door,”

- includes straightforward and predictable ideas
  line(s) 13 “When will this be over?”
  line(s) 15 “He can’t take it anymore.”

- supports the ideas with relevant details
  line(s) 9 “With tears rolling down her face,”
  line(s) 4 “There is a suitcase packed at the foot of the bed”

Organization
- gives an introduction to establish the purpose and selects an appropriate form title “It’s Over”

- uses transitions within the stanza to show sequencing and connections
  line(s) 20 “But now its too late…”
  line(s) 6-7 “She doesn’t want to go, But she can’t take another fight”
- provides an adequate conclusion
  line(s) 20-21 reflecting on the event

Word Choice
- includes interesting words to enhance meaning
  line(s) 16-17 “wrong direction- some connection”

- uses figurative language
  line(s) 3 “She pulled herself together”
  line(s) 14 …”heads for the door”
The writing sample poem titled “It’s Over”

Voice
- includes glimpses of personal feeling, energy and individuality
  line(s) 13 “…I realized that things positively had to change”

Sentence Structure
- includes different kinds of sentences, with a variety of complex structures effectively
  begins as free verse with last eight lines as couplets

- includes a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity
  introducing the rhyming at the climax of the tension-when the girl decides to leave.

Conventions
The student demonstrates skill in the conventions of good writing, with occasional errors.

- includes internal punctuation (commas/quotation marks/apostrophes) and paragraphing
  of dialogue
  line(s) 2, 5, 8, 16, 17  line separations for dialogue
- spells almost all words correctly
  line(s) 20 “its” incorrect contraction

- uses standard grammatical structures
  line(s) 21 incorrect but colloquial use of “of” instead of “have”
“To my most treasured friends,.”

1. To my most treasured friends,

2. On December 4th, as you know, I will turn 15.

3. In honour of this important day, I have been planning a spectacular party. You, my best friends, are all invited.

4. The party will have an outer-space theme. It will feature a clown that juggles plastic UFOs, a cake shaped like a space shuttle, a demonstration from a man pretending to be a Jedi Master, and a game of musical craters. It’s going to be a blast!

5. On the 4th of December, all six of you will meet by the football field. As a group you will advance to my house.

6. To get to my house you must first descend Main Street for 5 blocks, then turn right on Melba Street. Continue down Melba street past the ESSO station until you reach the University. Turn left down University Avenue and you will see my house on the corner of University and
Prompt provided.

"To my most treasured friends,"

Alexandra Street. It is a large, black house with white shutters.

Upon your arrival at my house you will be greeted by my mother. She will help you fabricate your party hats. Once you have finished your hats, I will descend the stairs. I will be dressed as an astronaut. We will play musical craters and I will open my presents. At that point the juggling and the Jedi will arrive. When they have performed their tricks we will all devour the cake together.

I simply cannot wait until the 4th! It will be such fun! I hope all of you can make it. Please RSVP by this number: 561-2113. I'll see you all then!

P.S. If you want you can dress up like your favourite Star Wars character!
Rationale for Strong Achievement

This writing sample begins with “To my most treasured friends,”.

Content/Ideas
- introduces a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purpose and engages the audience
  line(s) 2 “On December 4th, as you know, I will turn 15.”
  line(s) 3-4 “In honour of this important day, I have been planning a spectacular party.”
- includes original and thoughtful ideas
  line(s) 8 “a cake shaped like a space shuttle”
  line(s) 11 “It’s going to be a blast!”
- includes a strong main idea that is well supported with details and examples
  line(s) 2-4 “On December 4th,...15.  In honour of this important day, I have been planning a spectacular party.”
  line(s) 6 “The party will have an outer-space theme.”

Organization
- begins with a purposeful lead that engages the audience
  line(s) 4-5 “You, my best friends, are all invited.”
- controls the sequence of ideas
  line(s) 25-26 “Upon your arrival at my house you will be greeted by my mother.”
  line(s) 31-32 “At that point the juggler and the jedi will arrive.”
- varies the organizational structure to enhance interest
  line(s) 12-13 “On the 4th of December, all six of you will meet by the football field.”
  line(s) 16-18 “To get to my house you must...Melba Street.”
  This text is a hybrid combining invitation, description, and instructions.
- provides an effective/creative ending
  line(s) 38-39 “P.S.  If you want you can dress up like your favourite Star Wars character!”

Word Choice
- effectively provides vivid descriptive vocabulary/precise/technical words
  line(s) 26-27 “She will help you fabricate your party hats.”
  line(s) 29-30 “We will play musical craters and I will open my presents.”
  line(s) 28 “I will descend the stairs.”
This writing sample begins with “To my most treasured friends,”.

Voice
- skillfully connects with the audience
  line(s) 1 “To my most treasured friends,”
  line(s) 34-35 “It will be such fun!”

- demonstrates strong commitment to the topic
  line(s) 3-4 “In honour of this important day, I have been planning a spectacular party.”
  line(s) 6 “The party will have an outer-space theme.”
  line(s) 11 “It’s going to be a blast!”

Sentence Structure
- uses a striking variety of sentence structures, logically connecting ideas with smooth transitions to add flair
  line(s) 6-11 “It will feature a clown that juggles plastic UFO’s, a cake shaped like a space shuttle, a demonstration...musical craters.”

- is a smooth and natural easy-to-read piece of writing
  line(s) 23-24 “It is a large, black house with white shutters.”
  line(s) 28-29 “I will be dressed as an astronaut.”

Conventions
- uses effective sentences that maintain precise punctuation
  line(s) 1, 3-4, 11, 18-20, 36-37

- uses correct internal punctuation (dash, ellipsis, colon, semi-colon, parentheses, etc.)
  line(s) 2, 6, 27-28, 36, 38-39

- enhances message and creates interest with dialogue
  The writer uses third-person to speak to the audience.
  line(s) 18-20, 38-39

- uses correct grammatical structures (parentheses, parallelism, interjections)
  line(s) 1, 4-5, 12-13, 13-14, 29-30, 34-35

- includes informed decisions about text layout when publishing
  line(s) 38 “P.S.....”
Prompt provided.

"A great person once said..."

Keep Your Eyes on the Sun.

A great person once said, "Keep your eyes on the sun and you won't see the shadows." To do this you must set goals for the future, focus on the good in life, and never give up.

Set goals for yourself in life. After you set your goals strive to achieve them, make a plan for your life. Setting goals for your life will help you in the future, like after you graduate and are looking for a college or university. You accomplish more in life when you have goals in which you have set.

Focus on the good things in life. Do not let the bad or negative things interfere with what you are doing. Remember, bad things happen to both good and bad people. So when bad things happen do not dwell on them, look for the positive in the situation. Be a positive thinker!

Another great person once said, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." So in other words, never give up. Life isn't always going to be easy. So when bad things happen, "focus on
“A great person once said…”

the sun or look at the good things, or your
plans and try again.

A great person once said, “Keep your
eyes on the sun and you won’t see the
shadows.” In life you should set goals, focus
on the good and never give up. If you
apply these things to your life you will
make it further in life.
The writing sample titled “Keep Your Eyes on the Sun.” begins with “A great person once said, ‘Keep your...sun...won’t see...shadows.’”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that supports the purpose and audience using the metaphor provided
  line(s) 3-5 “To do this you must set goals for the future, focus on...never give up.”

- includes ideas relevant to the topic
  line(s) 2-3 “A great person once said, ‘Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows.’”

- includes relevant/well-researched details to enhance the ideas
  line(s) 6 “Set goals for yourself in life.”
  line(s) 13 “Focus on the good things in life.”
  line(s) 20-21 “So in other words, never give up.”

Organization
- gives a thoughtful introduction, establishing purpose
  line(s) 3-5 “To do this you must...and never give up.”

- uses transitions between and within paragraphs to show sequencing and connections
  line(s) 15 “Remember, bad things”
  line(s) 22 “So when bad things happen”

- has clearly developed paragraphs
  line(s) 2-5 Paragraph # 1 – Introduction
  line(s) 6-12 Paragraph # 2 – Set goals
  line(s) 13-18 Paragraph # 3 – Focus on good
  line(s) 19-24 Paragraph # 4 – Try again
  line(s) 25-30 Paragraph # 5 – Conclusion

- provides an adequate conclusion
  line(s) 28-30 “If you apply these things to your life you will make it further in life.”

Word Choice
- uses interesting words and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning
  line(s) 7 “strive to achieve them”
  line(s) 14 “negative things interfere”

- uses figurative language
  line(s) 16 “things happen…do not dwell on them,”
The writing sample titled "Keep Your Eyes on the Sun." begins with “A great person once said, ‘Keep your...sun...won’t see...shadows.’”

Voice
- skillfully connects the audience to the subject
  line(s) 15-16 “Remember, bad things happen to both good and bad people.”
  line(s) 21-22 “Life isn’t always going to be easy.”
- generates strong feeling, energy, and individuality
  line(s) 6-8 “After you set your goals...plan for your life.”
  line(s) 17-18 “Be a positive thinker!”

Sentence Structure
- includes different kinds of sentences with a variety of complex structures
  line(s) 6 “Set goals for yourself in life.”
  line(s) 7 “After you set your goals strive to…”
- includes a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity
  line(s) 10-12 “You accomplish more...set.”

Conventions

The student demonstrates skill in this area with occasional errors.
- makes use of internal punctuation (apostrophe, dash, comma, etc.) to create fluency in the writing
  line(s) 3-5, 15-16, 22-24
- spells almost all words correctly
  line(s) 19 “r” missing in “Anothe”
- uses correct grammatical structures (numbers, contractions, plurals, all parts of speech, verb tense, subject/verb agreement,)
  line(s) 13, 19-20, 21-22, 26
Prompt provided.

“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways.”

1. The quote, "Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows" can be interpreted in many different ways. It could mean to focus on your goals in life, or it could mean to ignore minor setbacks and to concentrate on the big picture. However, in my personal opinion, I believe it means to be optimistic.

2. Although this interpretation is rather obvious, I believe it has a strong message. Many people say to stay positive, but when the going gets tough, it’s incredibly hard to do so. At times of depression and peril, we tend to wallow in our own self-pity, forgetting that a new day will come and that we have to continue living our lives. To be optimistic is to look past all the sadness and to be strong and carry on with our lives. However, this is just one of many different interpretations.

3. The quote could also depict how, in a bad situation, there is always something good that comes out of it. Whether you made a mistake, or you’re just having a lot of bad luck, if you have a positive attitude, you can almost always see the silver lining on the cloud. In almost any situation, there is something good that comes with it; it just takes an optimistic outlook on life to see it. As my father says, "What doesn’t kill you, makes you stronger."

4. In fact, this interpretation reminds me of my own outlook on life. I believe that everything happens for a reason, whether it be good or bad. We make millions of decisions everyday, and every single one has an effect on our lives. One bad decision may cause a lot of heartache, but it also enables
“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways.”

just to learn and grow from our mistakes. For example, this year I hurt my knee
just before our last, and most important, soccer game. I couldn’t play the game,
which hurt a lot more than my knee, but the experience wasn’t all bad. I learned
that sports aren’t everything, and as a “jock” I had a hard time understanding
that. In the end though, I learned a valuable lesson.

“Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows” is a
strong and inspirational quote. It may mean many different things for
many different people, however, for me it means to be optimistic. It means
that some good can always come from some bad luck, and that you need
to find the strength within yourself to see it.
This writing sample begins with “The quote, ‘Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways.”

Content/Ideas
- introduces a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purpose and engages the audience in determining the meaning of the quote
  line(s) 4-5 “...in my personal opinion, I believe it means to be optimistic.”

- includes original and thoughtful ideas
  line(s) 7-8 “Stay positive”
  line(s) 16 “see the silver lining”

- supports the strong main idea with relevant details and examples
  line(s) 3 “focus on your goals in life,...ignore minor set backs”
  line(s) 4 “to concentrate on the big picture.”
  line(s) 5 “means to be optimistic.”

Organization
- begins with an engaging lead that indicates purpose
  line(s) 1-2 “The quote, ‘Keep your eyes...shadows’ can be interpreted in many different ways.”
  line(s) 30-32 “It means that some good...to see it.”

- connects sentences and ideas through smooth transitions
  line(s) 6 “Although this interpretation”
  line(s) 13 “This quote could also depict”
  line(s) 19 “In fact, this interpretation reminds me of”

- develops sentences and ideas into cohesive paragraphs
  line(s) 7 “strong message”
  line(s) 17 “optimistic outlook on life to see it.”

- provides an effective/creative conclusion
  line(s) 27 “In the end though, I learned a valuable lesson.”
  line(s) 30-32 “It means that some good can always come...find the strength...to see it.”

Word Choice
- effectively provides vivid vocabulary/precise technical words
  line(s) 8 “depression and peril”
  line(s) 29 “strong and inspirational quote”
  line(3) 30 “means to be optimistic”
This writing sample begins with “The quote, ‘Keep your eyes on the sun and you won’t see the shadows’...different ways.”

Voice
- skillfully connects with the audience by sharing feelings, inner conflict, and convictions through inner dialogue
  line(s) 4 “my personal opinion”
  line(s) 6 “I believe”
  line(s) 27 “I learned a valuable lesson.”

- demonstrates strong commitment to the topic
  line(s) 8 “it’s incredibly hard to do”
  line(s) 11 “to be strong and carry on”

Sentence Structure
- uses a striking variety of complex sentence structures and types
  line(s) 6-7 “Although this interpretation is rather obvious, I believe it has a strong message.”
  line(s) 14-16 “Whether you made a mistake,...see the silver lining on the cloud.”

- connects ideas with smooth transitions to add flair
  Throughout this piece of writing, the writer presents a fluid and compelling message.
  line(s) 13-14 “The quote could also depict how, in a bad situation, there is always something good that comes out of it.”
  line(s) 19 “In fact, this interpretation reminds me of my own outlook on life.”
  line(s) 29-30 “It may mean many different things for many different people, however, for me it means to be optimistic.”

Conventions
- uses effective sentences that maintain precise punctuation
  line(s) 6-7, 11-12, 14-16, 28-29

- uses correct internal punctuation (dash, ellipsis, colon, semi-colon, parentheses, etc.)
  line(s) 1-2, 2-4, 6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 20, 23-24, 30-32

- uses correct grammatical structures (parentheses, parallelism, interjections)
  line(s) 6-7, 19, 20-23

- makes informed decisions about text layout when publishing
  line(s) 16, 18, 26, including other quotes that are similar to the prompt
"We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving."

**Drinking and Driving**

We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving. It's a very stupid mistake to go behind the wheel while you're intoxicated, and it only takes that one time to make the biggest mistake of your life.

When someone dies from drinking and driving, it hurts the family and friends. It hurts the whole community. I never got to see my grandparents because they were killed by a drunk driver.

There was a boy on our reserve that made the biggest mistake one night. If only he was in the right state of mind he could of still been here with us today. He got into a vehicle of a drunk driver and before they knew it they were mangled to a telephone pole. The girl is still alive today but suffers from brain damage which causes her not to be the same as she was before the accident. But the boy died instantly. He was only 16 years old. He left behind a big family, 4 brothers and one sister, also a lot of hurting friends. I still remember that day, everyone looked depressed. It hurted the
“We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”

whole community.

Yet people still dare to hold danger into their own hands. When will they learn that it is NOT ok to drink under the influence. I have a cousin that drinks all the time which means he does alot of drinking and driving. I kept telling him not to drive while he is drunk. I also told him “When are you going to stop when you kill someone?” but he didn’t listen to me. And just a few weeks ago he was with a friend and they were both intoxicated. He lost control of the wheel and hit a telephone post. The driver walked away with only cuts and bruises but the passenger is now deaf for the rest of his life.

So think about it…. is it worth it?
The writing sample titled “Drinking and Driving” begins with “We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that shows awareness of purpose and audience on the consequences of driving while intoxicated
  line(s) 1-2 “We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”

- includes thoughtful ideas/events
  line(s) 2-5 “It’s a very stupid mistake to go behind the wheel while your intoxicated,...”
  line(s) 6-7 “When someone dies from drinking and driving...friends.”
  line(s) 10-11 “There was a boy on our reserve that made the biggest mistake one night.”

- Includes relevant/well-researched details to enhance the
  line(s) 8-9 “I never got to see my grandparents because they were killed by a drunk driver.”
  line(s) 18-19 “But the boy died instantly.”

Organization
- gives a thoughtful introduction, establishing purpose
  line(s) 1-2 “We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”

- uses transitions between and within paragraphs to show sequencing and connections
  line(s) 11-13 “If only he was...with us today.”
  line(s) 24-25 “Yet some people still...there own hands.”
  line(s) 32-33 “And just a few weeks ago...”

- has clearly developed paragraphs
  line(s) 1-2 “We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”
  line(s) 10-11 “There was a boy on our reserve that made the biggest mistake one night.”
  line(s) 24-25 “Yet people still dare to hold danger into there own hands.”

- provides an adequate conclusion
  line(s) 38 “So think about it...is it worth it?”

Word Choice
- uses interesting and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning
  line(s) 13 “vehicle”
  line(s) 24-25 “hold danger into there own hands”
  line(s) 26 “under the influence.”
  line(s) 35-36 “The driver walked away...but the passenger...”

- uses figurative language
  line(s) 38 rhetorical question
The writing sample titled “Drinking and Driving” begins with “We all have lost someone very close to us from drinking and driving.”

Voice
- skillfully connects the audience to the subject
  line(s) 8-9 “I never got to see my grandparents...killed by a drunk driver.”
  line(s) 26-27 “I have a cousin that drinks all the time”

- provides evidence of strong feeling, energy, and individuality throughout
  line(s) 21-22 “I still remember that day”
  line(s) 28-29 “I kept telling him not to drive”

Sentence Structure
- includes different kinds of sentences with a variety of complex structures
  line(s) 2-5 “It’s a very stupid mistake...of your life.”
  line(s) 29-31 “I also told him.....but”

- includes a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity
  line(s) 15-18 “The girl is still alive...before the accident.” This sentence is a bit awkward.
  line(s) 26-28 “I have a cousin that drinks all the time...”
  line(s) 19 “He was only 16 years old.”

Conventions
The student demonstrates skill in this area with occasional errors.
- shows well-developed sentences beginning and ending with correct punctuation
  line(s) 1-2, 2-5, 7-8 35-37

- makes use of internal punctuation (apostrophe, dash, comma, etc.) to create fluency in the writing
  line(s) 2, 26, 29-31, 38

- spells almost all words correctly
  line(s) 33-34 “control”

- standard grammatical structures (numbers, contractions, plurals, subject-verb agreement, verb tense, all parts of speech, etc.)
  line(s) 19, 20-21, 35-37
  line(s) 1, 2, 3, 16, 24, 26, 35, 36, 38
Prompt provided.

"Back in grade three, guests...."

Back in grade three, guests came into our classes to talk about recycling and its importance in the community. They would repeat over and over again the significance of the three R's until they were drilled into our brains. At fourteen years old, you should understand the global situation well enough to understand that this is not just for little kids. It saves trees, money, and gives a person the satisfaction of doing the right thing.

Recycling’s main point is obvious: to conserve trees and the environment. As one of the world’s main suppliers of oxygen, we should keep as many trees intact as possible. With the world’s trees being felled all the time, we are beginning to see the proof that we need to save them, in the form of global warming. That alone should make people willing to recycle.

Not only does the globe’s health improve, but humans benefit directly. Recycled paper is cheaper than newer material. Many books are printed with one hundred percent recycled paper, and gain from it. More practical people would recycle just by looking at the issue economically.

If none of this interests a person, they should try to recycle anyway, because it will give them a sense of satisfaction. Just doing what they should be doing can be...
“Back in grade three, guests....”

23 rewarding on its own. By giving a bag of plastic bottles to
24 a bottle drive fundraiser, a person will gain a certain feeling of
25 accomplishment.
26 For environmental, economical and personal benefit, more
27 people around the globe should recycle. At home, at school,
28 at work, anyone can make a difference. Recycling is easy,
29 rewarding and does not cost a penny. Everyone should
30 make an effort
This writing sample begins with “Back in grade three, guests....”

Content/Ideas
- introduces a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purposes and engages the audience in the importance and benefits of recycling.
  line(s) 4-6 “At fourteen years old, you should understand the global situation...”
- includes original and thoughtful ideas.
  line(s) 9-10 “conserve trees and the environment.”
  line(s) 13-14 “proof...we need to save them, in the form of global warming.”
- supports a strong main idea with relevant details and examples.
  line(s) 2 “recycling and its importance in the community.”
  line(s) 3-4 “the significance of the three R’s”
  line(s) 10 “suppliers of oxygen,”

Organization
- begins with an engaging statement that indicates purpose.
  line(s) 1-2 “Back in grade three, guests came into our classes to talk about recycling and its importance in the community.”
  line(s) 28-29 “Recycling is easy, rewarding, and does not cost a penny.”
- connects sentences and ideas through smooth transitions.
  line(s) 15 “Not only does”
  line(s) 20 “If none of this interests a person,”
  line(s) 26 “For environmental, economical and personal benefit,”
- develops sentences and ideas into cohesive paragraphs.
  line(s) 9 “conserve trees”
  line(s) 15-16 “humans benefit directly.”
  line(s) 21-22 “it will give them a sense of satisfaction.”
  line(s) 26-27 “For environmental, economical and personal benefit,...”
- provides an effective ending.
  line(s) 27-28 “At home, at school, at work, anyone can make a difference.”
  line(s) 29-30 “Everyone should make an effort.”

Word Choice
- effectively provides vivid descriptive vocabulary/precise technical words.
  line(s) 3 “significance”
  line(s) 9 “conserve”
  line(s) 11 “intact”
  line(s) 18 “practical”
  line(s) 25 “accomplishment”
- uses figurative language.
  line(s) 15 “globe’s health improve”
Rationale for Strong Achievement

This writing sample begins with “Back in grade three, guests....”

Voice
- skillfully connects with the audience by sharing thoughts, inner conflict, and convictions through inner dialogue
  line(s) 9 “Recycling’s main point is obvious:"
  line(s) 11 “we should keep"
- demonstrates strong commitment to the topic
  line(s) 13 “we need to save them"
  line(s) 14 “That alone should make people willing to recycle.”
  line(s) 21-22 “give them a sense of satisfaction.”

Sentence Structure
- uses a striking variety of complex sentence structures and types
  line(s) 9-10 “Recycling’s main point is obvious: to conserve trees and the environment.”
  line(s) 23 “By giving a bag of plastic bottles to a bottle drive fundraiser, a person will gain a certain feeling of accomplishment.”
- connects ideas with smooth transitions to add flair
  line(s) 7-8 “It saves trees, money, and gives...satisfaction doing the right thing.”
  line(s) 18-19 “More practical people would recycle just by looking at the issue economically.”

Conventions
- uses effective sentences that maintain precise punctuation
  line(s) 1-2, 3-4, 4-6, 7-8, 22-23
- uses correct internal punctuation (dash, ellipsis, colon, semi-colon, parentheses, etc.)
  line(s) 4, 9-10, 11-14, 20-22
- uses correct grammatical structures (parentheses, parallelism, interjections)
  line(s) 4-6, 15-16, 28-29
- make informed decisions about text layout when publishing
  five paragraph exposition form followed
“Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game.”

Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game. It is played on ice with equipment, stick, and skates. The object of the game is to score on the other teams net while defending your own. There are six players on the ice for each team including the goalie. There are three forwards, two defense, and a goalie on the ice. The forwards job is to put the puck in the other teams net, the defenses job is to stop the other team from scoring while helping the forwards score, and the goalies job is stop the other teams attempts to score.

People think that the goalies have the easiest job on the ice. They think this because the net is small and you have lots of equipment on, but it’s harder than it looks. You have to have good hand-eye coordination because pucks can be shot up to 100 miles per hour depending on rules shooting it, and you need to watch for deflections, deflections, and bounces because they usually beat the goalie.

There are many rules in the game of hockey, and if you don’t go by them you get
“Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game.”

23 a penalty disadvantage to your team because
24 you are short a player. In higher leagues of hockey
25 you can cheat but not in lower levels. In any
26 league of hockey you can’t trip, slash, block, open,
27 or fight a you will get a penalty automatically
28 if it’s serious then you will be thrown out
29 or the game
30 Hockey is a very exciting game and is
31 enjoyed by many youth and elders. Even if you
32 don’t like to play hockey watch a game on TV
33 and you will fall in love with the game.
This writing sample begins with “Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game.”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that shows awareness of purpose and audience about hockey
  line(s) 1-2 “Hockey is a very challenging and past-paced game.”
  line(s) 3-5 “The object of the game is to score on the other teams net while defending your own.”

- includes thoughtful ideas/events relevant to the topic
  line(s) 2-3 “It is played on ice with equipment, stick, and skates.”
  line(s) 16-20 “You have to have good hand-eye coordination”

- includes relevant/well researched details to enhance the ideas maintaining focus (may have a few distractions)
  line(s) 7-8 “There are three forwards, two defence, and a goalie on the ice.”
  line(s) 21-24 “There are many rules in the game of hockey”

Organization
- gives a thoughtful introduction, establishing purpose
  line(s) 1-2 “Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game.”

- uses transitions in sequencing, to make connections
  line(s) 8-9 “The forwards job..., the defences job”
  line(s) 13-14 “the goalies have the easiest job”
  line(s) 21 “There are many rules”
  line(s) 33 “You will fall in love with the game.”

- has clearly developed paragraphs
  line(s) 8-12 “The forwards job is to put the puck in the other teams net,...to score.”
  line(s) 13-14 “People think that the goalies have the easiest job on the ice.”
  line(s) 16-20 “You have to have good hand-eye coordination...beat the goalie.”

- provides an adequate conclusion
  line(s) 30-31 “Hockey is a very exciting game and is enjoyed by many youth and elders.”

Word Choice
- includes interesting and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning
  line(s) 19-20 “watch deflections, deeks, and passes”
  line(s) 30-31 “you can’t trip, slash, hook, spear or fight”

- uses figurative language
  line(s) 28 “…thrown out of…”
  line(s) 20 “beat the goalie”
This writing sample begins with "Hockey is a very challenging and fast-paced game."

Voice
- skillfully connects the audience to the topic
  line(s) 13-14 “People think that the goalies have the easiest job on the ice.”
  line(s) 32-33 “…watch a game on T.V. and you will fall in love with the game.”
- generates strong feeling, energy and individuality
  line(s) 16 “its harder then it looks.”
  line(s) 33 “you will fall in love with the game.”

Sentence Structure
- includes different kinds of sentences with a variety of complex structures
  line(s) 21-24 “There are…short a player.”
  line(s) 8-12 “The forwards job is...and the goalies job is to stop the other teams attempts to score.”
- is generally fluid and easy to read (may have some choppy sentences)
  line(s) 25-29 “In any league...then you will be thrown out of the game.”
  line(s) 31-33 “Even if you don’t like to play hockey watch a game on T.V. and you will fall in love with the game.”

Conventions
The student demonstrates skill in this area with occasional errors.
- shows well-developed sentences beginning and ending with correct punctuation
  line(s) 1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 30-31
- makes use of internal punctuation (apostrophe, dash, comma, etc.) to create fluency in the writing
  line(s) 2-3, 7-8, 16-20, 21-24
  some possessive errors line(s) 8,9, “forwards”, “teams”,
- standard grammatical structures that make the text readable (numbers, contractions, plurals, subject-verb agreement, verb tense, all parts of speech, etc.)
  line(s) 16-20, 25-29, 31-33
  some contraction errors line(s) 18 “whos”
- spells almost all words correctly and uses correct homophones
  line(s) 16 “then” should be than
Prompt provided.

"I recycle every day."

1. I recycle every day. It is of high importance to me. But although I strongly encourage recycling, it is an act that globally is not of high importance. This is wrong, and needs to change. In order to maintain and sustain a healthy environment, the world needs to grasp the initiative of recycling.

2. Recycling is the act of recirculating used materials. Rather than throwing bottles, plastic, and paper products in the garbage, one may place these articles in a recycling container. It may appear to make such a miniscule difference that has no effect on society. However, on a global scale if everyone recycled, the difference would be substantially great. Let’s take a look at the effects of recycling.

3. In global economy, recycling has a very positive effect. It creates thousands of jobs around the world and saves people a lot of time and money producing more products. Consequently, this reduces pollution, and ensures the protection of our valuable natural resources. This is of high importance when ensuring a better future for future generations. We must leave behind and bequeath upon our future citizens a healthy environment in which they can live. We must respect their right to live in a clean, prosperous, and resourceful environment, as past generations have done so to us.
At the end of the day, the world is a better place due to the efforts of those who recycle. The world is clean and uniform, and its natural beauty shines. I strongly encourage every citizen to recycle and to contribute to this global effort. We must all cohesively work together to maintain and sustain a healthy, beautiful environment.

"I recycle every day."
This writing sample begins with “I recycle every day.”

Content/Ideas
- introduces a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purpose and engages the audience encouraging all to recycle for the benefit of our environment
  line(s) 3-5 “In order to maintain and sustain a healthy environment, the world needs…recycling.”
- includes original and thoughtful ideas
  line(s) 10-11 “However on the global scale if everyone recycled, the difference would…great.”
  line(s) 16 “Consequently this reduces pollution”
- supports the strong main idea details and examples
  line(s) 1 “I recycle every day. It is of high importance to me.”
  line(s) 3-4 “In order to maintain and sustain a healthy environment,“

Organization
- begins with an engaging statement that indicates purpose
  line(s) 3-5 “In order to maintain…grasp the initiative of recycling.”
- connects sentences and ideas through smooth transitions
  line(s) 10 “However,”
  line(s) 16 “Consequently”
  line(s) 23 “At the end of the day”
- develops sentences and ideas into cohesive paragraphs
  line(s) 6 “Recycling is the act of recirculating used materials.”
  line(s) 13 “On a global economy, recycling has a very positive effect.”
  line(s) 23-24 “At the end of the day, the world is a better place...”
- provides an effective ending
  line(s) 23-24 “At the end of the day, the world is a better place due to the efforts of those who recycle.”
  line(s) 27-28 “We must all cohesively work together to maintain and sustain a healthy, beautiful environment.”

Word Choice
- effectively includes vivid descriptive vocabulary/ precise technical language
  line(s) 5 “grasp”, “initiative”
  line(s) 6 “recirculating”
  line(s) 9 “miniscule”
  line(s) 19 “bestow upon our future citizens”
  line(s) 27 “cohesively work together”
This writing sample begins with “I recycle every day.”

Voice
- skillfully connects with the audience by sharing thoughts, inner conflict and convictions through inner dialogue
  line(s) 1 “I recycle every day.”
  line(s) 3 “This is wrong.”
- demonstrates strong commitment to the topic
  line(s) 2 “I strongly encourage”

Sentence Structure
- uses a striking variety of complex sentence structures and types
  line(s) 1 “It is of high importance to me.”
  line(s) 6-8 “Rather than placing bottles, plastic, and paper products in the garbage, one may place these articles in a recycling container.”
- connects ideas with smooth transitions to add flair
  line(s) 1 “I recycle every day. It is of high importance to me.”
  line(s) 23-24 “At the end of the day, the world is a better place due to the efforts of those who recycle.”

Conventions
- uses effective sentences that maintain precise punctuation
  line(s) 3-5, 6-8, 18-20, 24-25
- is easily read because of internal punctuation (dash, ellipsis, colon, semi-colon, parentheses, etc.)
  line(s) 1-3, 3, 3-5, 11-12, 24-25
- correctly spells virtually all words
  error line(s) 11 “sustemically”
- uses correct grammatical structures (parentheses, parallelism, interjections)
  line(s) 3-5, 6-8, 14-15, 20-22, 24-25
- makes informed decisions about text layout when publishing
  four paragraph exposition with one point of view
The day my brothers and I received our dog was....

The day my brothers and I received our dog was one of the most wonderful days of our lives. I can still remember how excited we were and the look on my younger brother's face as my dad walked in the door with the puppy in his arms, his eyes were sparkling with joy and excitement. We let my other brother Jamie pick her name, he picked Daisie.

Her soft golden fur was so beautiful, and it felt so good to hold her in my arms. My oldest dog Emma was treating Daisie like her own child and would follow her everywhere, it was adorable.

The first few nights we had her were terrible. She would cry all night, and I mean cry. Her bed was in my room, so I was the one who had to get up and put her back to sleep. She was like a real baby! It was getting very frustrating, but eventually, she became a lot better and would sleep all night.

As time went by, my family and I were trying to train her so she would stop using the bathroom on the floor. It was disgusting when she would pee on the floor and we would have to clean it. It was very hard to get up early in the morning to take her outside before she did anything on the floor.
“The day my brothers and I received our dog was....”

But I had no choice my parents said she was my responsibility to take care of her. After all these though, mornings, she is finally trained and can wait until someone wakes up before going outside.

Now its been a few months since we’ve had her, she is almost perfect, she goes to the door and barks when she wants to go outside, she sleeps all night and she is very friendly with everyone. I enjoy her company very much. Even after all the trouble she gave me by keeping me up all night and cleaning her mess, I still care about her very much. She will always be my little baby.
This writing sample begins with “The day my brothers and I received our dog was....”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that supports the purpose and audience about the addition of a puppy in our family
  line(s) 1 “The day my brothers received our dog was...wonderful....”
  line(s) 4 “…my dad walked in the door with the puppy...”
- includes thoughtful ideas/events relevant to the topic
  line(s) 5-6 “We let my other brother Jamie pick her name,”
  line(s) 8 “Her soft golden fur was so beautiful,”
- includes relevant/well researched details to enhance ideas
  line(s) 2 “I can still remember how excited we were...”
  line(s) 4-5 “…his eyes were sparkling with joy and excitement.”

Organization
- gives a thoughtful introduction, establishing purpose
  line(s) 1-2 “The day my brothers and I received our dog was one of the most wonderful days of our lives.”
  line(s) 31 “I enjoy her company very much.”
- uses transitions between and within paragraphs to show sequencing and connections
  line(s) 12 “The first few nights...”
  line(s) 18 “As time went by...”
  line(s) 28 “Now it’s been a few months...”
- has clearly developed paragraphs
  line(s) 1-6 Paragraph # 1 – obvious introduction with clearly stated main idea
  line(s) 8-10 Paragraph # 2 – describes the dog
  line(s) 12-16 Paragraph # 3 – dog’s arrival at home
  line(s) 18-26 Paragraph # 4 – Training Puppy
  line(s) 28-35 Paragraph # 5 – The joy of having the dog
- provides an adequate conclusion
  line(s) 34-35 “She will always be my little baby.”

Word Choice
- includes interesting words and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning
  line(s) 5 “sparkling with joy”
  line(s) 9 “…treating her like her own child”
  line(s) 15 “…getting very frustrating”
- uses figurative language
  line(s) 5 “…like a real baby!”
This writing sample begins with “The day my brothers and I received our dog was....”

Voice

- skillfully connects the audience to the topic
  line(s) 8 “Her soft golden fur was so beautiful...”
  line(s) 14 “She was like a real baby.”

- generates strong feeling, energy and individuality
  line(s) 13 “...and I mean cry.”
  line(s) 12 “The first few nights...were terrible...”

Sentence Structure

- includes different kinds of sentences with a variety of complex structures
  line(s) 29-31 “She is almost perfect,...with everyone.”
  line(s) 32-34 “Even after all...care about her very much.”

- includes a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity
  line(s) 14-15 “She was like a real baby!”

Conventions

The student demonstrates skill in this area with occasional errors.

- makes use of internal punctuation (apostrophe, dash, comma, etc.) to create fluency in the writing
  line(s) 8-9, 15-16, 28
  missing some plural apostrophes :line(s) “brothers”

- uses correct grammatical structures (numbers, contractions, plurals, subject-verb agreement, verb tense, all parts of speech, etc.)
  line(s) 15-16, 18-19, 28, 32-34

- spells almost all words correctly and uses the correct homophones
  line(s) 20 “discusting”
  line(s) 24 “thoes”, “though”
Prompt provided.

"It was the first day of third grade..."

1. It was the first day of third grade, and I was having a great day.
2. I had a large classroom, a couple of friends as classmates, a friendly teacher,
3. and best of all, I was going to take the bus home for the first time.
4. I was waiting anxiously as the seconds ticked by on the clock, until
5. eventually, the last bell rang. I strutted out of the classroom, walked
6. up a set of stairs, and stood in my bus line. I was a bus student
7. now, not a walker, and my new journey was about to begin.
8. After standing in the line for what seemed like hours, I heard
9. the sound of something large, pulling up to the school, and the
10. squeaking of brakes. My time has come. Quickly, I ran down the
11. stairs, out the door, and climbed into the large, yellow automobile.
12. I stood near the bus driver, looking at the crowd of unfamiliar
13. faces, until I seen a seat near the back that looked inviting
14. and sat in it. I was seated on the bus. I couldn't believe it.
15. I watched as my peers filed into the seats around me. How
16. can they treat such an exciting experience with little to
17. no enthusiasm?
18. At last, after a couple of minutes of sitting there, jumpily
19. up and down from the bumps the bus drove over, my
20. exciting adventure was about to end. I stood up as the
21. driver neared my stop, and to my surprise, he just kept
22. going. He missed my stop! What was I going to do? 

"It was the first day of third grade..."

Set back down, with tears in my eyes, I was miserable. How could someone do that to a poor little eight year old? I stared out the window and watched the kids climb out of the bus with jealousy in my eyes, as they stepped home happily to tell their parents about their first day back in school. Why couldn’t I be the lucky one who was able to get off the bus? What if I was going to be on this bus forever?

After a couple more stops, a girl that looked a bit older than me said, "Hey! There’s a crying kid back there!" I was offended by her rudeness, but it was the least of my worries. The bus driver seemed quite surprised, and he asked me to come up front to talk to him. Apparently, the stop where I wanted to stop wasn’t in his route. Then how come they told me to go on this bus? He did say that he could drop me off here everyday, and I thought that would be great.

As I was getting a bus driver home, I was glad that things were resolved. When I look back at it, it doesn’t seem that bad of an expense. At least I got a tour of the bus route!"
This writing sample begins with “It was the first day of third grade…”

Content/Ideas
- introduces a specific topic with a main idea that clearly defines the purpose and engages the audience in the bus drive home on the first day of the third grade line(s) 3 “and best of all, I was going to take the bus home”
- includes original and thoughtful ideas line(s) 29 “What if I was going to be on the bus forever?”
- includes a strong main idea that is well supported with details and examples line(s) 3 “take the bus for the first time…” line(s) 4 “…waiting anxiously…” line(s) 8 “…in the line for what seemed like hours…”

Organization
- begins with a purposeful lead that engages the audience line(s) 3 “I was going to take the bus home for the first time.” line(s) 4 “…waiting anxiously as the seconds ticked by…”
- uses a variety of ways to focus the topic (time structures, theme) line(s) 4 “until eventually” line(s) 8 “after standing” line(s) 18 “At last” line(s) 31 “After a couple more stops…” line(s) 36 “Apparently,”
- thoughtfully develop characters showing how they change and create tension line(s) 1 “first day of third grade” line(s) 3 “take the bus home for the first time” line(s) 41 “When I look back…”
- provides an effective ending that communicates the larger meaning of the piece line(s) 40 -43 “I was glad that things were resolved….bus route.”

Word Choice
- effectively includes vivid descriptive vocabulary line(s) 4 “I was waiting anxiously” line(s) 10 “My time has come.” line(s) 12-13 “unfamiliar faces” line(s) 20 “exciting adventure” line(s) 23 “I was miserable” line(s) 26 “with jealousy in my eyes”
- uses figurative language five rhetorical questions
END OF GRADE 8 – SAMPLE X

Rationale for Strong Achievement

This writing sample begins with “It was the first day of third grade...”

Voice

- skillfully connects with the audience by sharing thoughts, feelings, inner conflict, convictions through inner dialogue
  - line(s) 6-7 “I was a bus student now, not a walker, and my new journey was about to begin.”
  - line(s) 23 “How could someone do that to a poor little eight year old?”

- demonstrates strong commitment to the topic
  - line(s) 22 “He missed my stop! What was I going to do?”
  - line(s) 33 “Hey! There’s a crying kid back her! I was offended by her rudeness,...”

Sentence Structure

- uses a striking variety of complex sentence structures and types
  - line(s) 2-3 “I had a large classroom, a couple of friends as classmates, a friendly teacher”
  - line(s) 16-17 “How can they….enthusiasm?”

- connects ideas with smooth transitions to add flair
  - line(s) 8 “After standing in line for what seemed like hours,”
  - line(s) 23-24 “How could someone do that to a poor little eight year old?”

Conventions

- uses effective sentences that maintain precise punctuation
  - Exclamatory and interrogative sentences are used effectively to capture a heightened emotional appeal.
  - line(s) 14, 15-17, 23-24, 33, 37-38

- uses correct internal punctuation (dash, ellipsis, colon, semi-colon, parentheses, etc.)
  - line(s) 2-3, 8-10, 10-11, 20-22, 22, 25-28

- uses correct grammatical structures
  - line(s) 6-7, 18-20, 28-29, 33

- make informed decisions about text layout when publishing
  - (it would be interesting to see page break- illustration connections)
"My name is Leo…"

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>My name is Leo, or my name was Leo. Nobody has names here. I am known to the Ring as 206385R and to my friends as Red, the colour of the shirt I was wearing when I was brought in. I live in Barrack R, hence the suffix at the end of my number. I am 13 years old and ready for active service in the army of the emperor. My barrack leader, a member of the ring, says I should do well in the service of the emperor. I hope so, as I have been training for 10 years, longer than anyone else in Barrack R. I don’t remember much about my life before training, just my name and a voice. I know my name because I asked my barrack leader, and I know the voice because I have dreamed of it. I told my barrack leader this and he said keep that to yourself, 206385, and would speak no more of it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>One morning, at 0500 hours, I was woken up by a huge shake. Knowing this could be important, I leaped out of bed and was met by a ring member I had never seen before. He said, “Get dressed quickly.” And handed me a sword. This was no practice blade but a real weapon expertly ground to the sharpest of edges. I followed the man out of the barrack and down the main street. I was surprised when he turned left towards the gate instead of towards the palace. He held his finger to his mouth. “Shhh,” he whispered and then we were through the gate and running towards a tree behind which two horses were tied. He jumped on one and I got on the other. He said, “Follow me.” And we galloped down the road away from the emperor’s city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>By the end of the day we had reached the foothills of the Boelsbon Mountains. He said, “Quick follow me.” and he jumped off his horse and jogged towards the base of the cliff. Me, still believing him to be one of the emperor’s men, a member of the ring, quickly followed. He pushed hard against a small lump in the cliff face and a small door slid open. We lead our horses inside and the door slid shut. “Welcome to the base of the rebellion, Leo,” he said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Unknown to me, the emperor was my father and he had put me into basic training to hide me from his enemies. But now they had found me and I wondered what would happen to me. “We are not going to kill you,” said the man, “but you will be staying with us for a long, long time.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The writing sample begins “My name is Leo…”

Content/Ideas
- selects a specific topic with a main idea that supports the purpose and audience to entertain with imaginative fiction
  line(s) 1 “Nobody has names here.”
- includes ideas relevant to the topic
  line(s) 5-6 “My barrack leader, a member of the ring, says I should do well in the service of the emperor.”
- includes relevant/well-researched details to enhance the ideas
  line(s) 3-4 “I live in Barrack R, hence the suffix at the end of my number.”
  line(s) 23 “…still believing him to be one of the emperor’s men,…”
  line(s) 27-28 “…he had put me into basic training to hide me from his enemies.”

Organization
- gives a thoughtful introduction, establishing purpose
  line(s) 1 “My name is Leo, or my name was Leo. Nobody has names here.”
- uses transitions between and within paragraphs to show sequencing and connections
  line(s) 21 “By the end of the day….”
  line(s) 12 “Knowing this could be important….”
- has clearly developed paragraphs
  line(s) 1-10 Paragraph # 1 – Introduces the military type setting and characters
  line(s) 11-20 Paragraph # 2 – events leading to the complication being led away from the emperor’s city
  line(s) 21-26 Paragraph # 3 – events leading to and the complication taken to the enemy’s base
  line(s) 27-30 Paragraph # 4 – Conclusion capture and uncertain future

Word Choice
- interesting words and/or technical/subject-specific language to enhance meaning
  line(s) 14 “…a real weapon expertly ground to the sharpest of edges.”
  line(s) 3-4 “…Barrack R, hence the suffix at the end of my number.”
- uses figurative language
  line(s)9-10 “…keep that to yourself….”
The writing sample begins “My name is Leo…”

Voice
- skilfully connects the audience to the subject
  line(s) 4 “I am 13 years old and ready for active service in the army of the emperor.”
  line(s) 8-9 “...and I know the voice because I have dreamed of it.”
- generates strong feeling, energy, and individuality
  line(s) 7 “I don’t remember much about my life before training,...”
  line(s) 28-29 “But now they had found me and I wondered what would happen to me.”

Sentence Structure
- includes different kinds of sentences with a variety of complex structures
  line(s) 2-4 “…and to my friends as Red, the colour of the shirt I was wearing when I
  was brought in.”
  line(s) 27-28 “Unknown to me, the emperor was my father and he had put me into
  basic training to hide me from his enemies.”
- includes a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings to create fluidity
  line(s) 6-7 “I hope so, as I have been training for 10 years, longer than anyone else
  in Barrack R.”

Conventions
The student demonstrates skill in this area with occasional errors.
- makes use of internal punctuation (apostrophe, dash, comma, etc.) to create fluency
  in the writing
  line(s) 5-6, 10, 20
- spells almost all words correctly
  line(s) 11 “morning”
- uses correct grammatical structures (numbers, contractions, plurals, all parts of
  speech, verb tense, subject/verb agreement,)
  line(s) 1, 7, 18,
Bibliography


Appendix
### Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Curriculum Outcome # 4 – Students will be expected to select, read, and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media, and visual texts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 24 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 24 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Text Complexity**

Students select, read independently and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that include

- a range of genres that encompasses increasingly complex themes, ideas, topics and content
- language that becomes progressively elaborate and complex, incorporating challenging vocabulary and varied sentence structure

**Fiction (prose and poetry)**

- Texts may be in media, web-based, and/or visual form: genres may include short stories, poems, novels (including graphic novels), diaries, journals, magazines, and plays.
- Plots generally follow chronological order and may include subplots.

**Non-fiction (report, biography, procedures, explanations, speeches, essays, news articles)**

- Texts may contain a table of contents, glossary, unit summary, and index
- Information or non-continuous texts may include charts, graphs, maps timelines, and diagrams.

**Reading Strategies**

- Construct meaning using context clues, word/language structure, phonics, and/or references (e.g., dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, computer) to decode unknown and unfamiliar words.
### General Curriculum Outcomes # 4 – Students will be expected to select, read, and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media, and visual texts.

## Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 24 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)

### Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8

#### Comprehension Responses
- Students
  - Simplify, clarify, and categorize information using graphic organizers (e.g., webs, charts, KWL and Venn diagrams, etc.)

#### Reading Strategies
- Students
  - Monitor their reading and self-correct when reading does not make sense, sound right, or look right
  - Construct meaning using context clues, word/language structure, phonics, and/or references (e.g., dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, computer) to decode unknown and unfamiliar words
  - Generate questions to verify and adjust predictions
  - Make connections with text, self, and surroundings

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#### Comprehension Responses
- Students
  - Identify the main ideas and summarize content
  - Respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions
  - Understand information by connecting text to personal experiences
  - Form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s)
# Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

**General Curriculum Outcome # 5** – Students will be expected to interpret, select, and combine information, using a variety of strategies, resources, and technologies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 25 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</th>
<th>Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| access appropriate print and non-print sources with increasing independence and select information to meet specific needs with increasing speed, accuracy, and confidence | **Text Complexity**  
Students select, read independently and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that include  
- a range of genres that encompasses increasingly complex themes, ideas, topics and content  
- language that becomes progressively elaborate and complex, incorporating challenging vocabulary and varied sentence structure  
**Fiction (prose and poetry)**  
- Texts may be in media, web-based, and/or visual form: genres may include short stories, poems, novels (including graphic novels), diaries, journals, magazines, and plays.  
**Reading Strategies**  
Students  
- monitor their reading and self-correct when reading does not make sense, sound right, or look right  
- skim/scan text for format and information  
- reread when comprehension is lost  
**Comprehension Responses**  
- respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions |

| experiment with and rely upon a range of print and non-print (e-mail, CD-ROMs) sources for accessing and selecting information | **Text Complexity**  
Students select, read independently and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that include  
- a range of genres that encompasses increasingly complex themes, ideas, topics and content  
- language that becomes progressively elaborate and complex, incorporating challenging vocabulary and varied sentence structure  
**Fiction (prose and poetry)**  
- Texts may be in media, web-based, and/or visual form: genres may include short stories, poems, novels (including graphic novels), diaries, journals, magazines, and plays.  
**Non-fiction (report, biography, procedures, explanations, speeches, essays, news articles)**  
- Information or non-continuous texts may include charts, graphs, maps, timelines, and diagrams. |
## Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

| General Curriculum Outcome # 5 – Students will be expected to interpret, select, and combine information, using a variety of strategies, resources, and technologies. |
| Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 26 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML) | Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8 |

### Reading Strategies

**Students**
- construct meaning using context clues, word/language structure, phonics, and/or references (e.g., dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, computer) to decode unknown and unfamiliar words
- use note-taking techniques to organize significant information

### Comprehension Responses

**Students**
- simplify, clarify, and categorize information using graphic organizers (e.g., webs, charts, KWL, Venn diagrams, etc.)

### Reading Strategies

**Students**
- generate questions to verify and adjust predictions

### Comprehension Responses

**Students**
- respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions
- form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s)

employ various relevant research strategies such as generating questions, drafting an outline, or interviewing peers to determine what questions they would like answered by their research
### Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Curriculum Outcome # 6 – Students will be expected to respond personally to a range of texts.</th>
<th>Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 8</strong>&lt;br&gt;Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 26 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
<td><strong>Text Complexity</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students select, read independently and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Reading Strategies</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students&lt;br&gt;• generate questions to verify and adjust predictions&lt;br&gt;• make connections with text, self, and surroundings&lt;br&gt;<strong>Comprehension Responses</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students&lt;br&gt;• respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions&lt;br&gt;• understand information by connecting text to personal experiences&lt;br&gt;• form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elaborate personal reactions to what is read and viewed by providing some extended explanations, examples, and supporting arguments</td>
<td><strong>State personal points of view about what is read and viewed and justify views with increasing regularity</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Reading Strategies</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students&lt;br&gt;• generate questions to verify and adjust predictions&lt;br&gt;• make connections with text, self, and surroundings&lt;br&gt;<strong>Comprehension Responses</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students&lt;br&gt;• respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions&lt;br&gt;• understand information by connecting text to personal experiences&lt;br&gt;• form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with increasing confidence and flexibility, find evidence in texts to support personal claims and viewpoints about issues, themes, and situations</td>
<td><strong>Fiction (prose and poetry)</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Multiple-event plots may have vague resolutions.&lt;br&gt;- Conflicts may explore relationships through personal experiences.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Comprehension Responses</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students&lt;br&gt;• respond to literal, vocabulary-related, and most inferential questions&lt;br&gt;• understand information by connecting text to personal experiences&lt;br&gt;• form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Reading Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Curriculum Outcome # 7 – Students will be expected to respond critically to a range of texts, applying their understanding of language, form, and genre.</th>
<th>Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 27 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
<td>Text Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recognize that texts are to be assessed for bias and are to broaden their understanding and awareness of the ways in which print and media texts can be biased; begin to question and think critically about the relevance and reliability of information when answering questions and inquiries</td>
<td>Students select, read independently and understand a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that include</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• a range of genres that encompasses increasingly complex themes, ideas, topics and content</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• language that becomes progressively elaborate and complex, incorporating challenging vocabulary and varied sentence structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction (prose and poetry)</td>
<td>Fiction (prose and poetry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Figurative/Imaginative language contributes to setting, mood, atmosphere and tone.</td>
<td>-Texts may be in media, web-based, and/or visual form: genres may include short stories, poems, novels (including graphic novels), diaries, journals, magazines, and plays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Poetry includes literary devices that add imagery and voice to text, creating imaginative details and encouraging critical reading.</td>
<td>-Plots generally follow chronological order and may include subplots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-fiction (report, biography, procedures, explanations, speeches, essays, news articles)</td>
<td>-Conflicts may explore relationships through personal experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Texts may include transitional expressions (e.g., on the other hand, otherwise, thus, for instance) to connect ideas.</td>
<td>Non-fiction (report, biography, procedures, explanations, speeches, essays, news articles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehension Responses</td>
<td>-Texts may contain a table of contents, glossary, unit summary, and index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>-Information or non-continuous texts may include charts, graphs, maps timelines, and diagrams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• simplify, clarify, and categorize information using graphic organizers (e.g., webs, charts, KWL, Venn diagrams, etc.)</td>
<td>identify the various features and elements writers use when writing for specific readers for specific purposes; describe how texts are organized to accommodate particular readers’ needs and to contribute to meaning and effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### General Curriculum Outcome # 7 – Students will be expected to respond critically to a range of texts, applying their understanding of language, form, and genre.

### Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 27 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• construct meaning using context clues,</td>
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<tr>
<td>word/language structure, phonics, and/or</td>
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<tr>
<td>references (e.g., dictionary, glossary,</td>
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<tr>
<td>thesaurus, computer) to decode unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>and unfamiliar words</td>
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<tr>
<td>• skim/scan text for format and information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• use note-taking techniques to organize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>significant information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expand on earlier abilities to respond critically to a range of texts in various ways:
- Understand how personal knowledge, ideas, values, perceptions, and points of view influence how writers create texts.
- Recognize how and when personal background influences meaning construction, understanding, and textual response.
- Describe how cultures and reality are portrayed in media texts.

### Reading Strategies

#### Fiction (prose and poetry)
- Texts may be in media, web-based, and/or visual form: genres may include short stories, poems, novels (including graphic novels), diaries, journals, magazines, and plays.
- Conflicts may explore relationships through personal experiences.
- Characters portray complex personalities, human qualities, and emotions.
- Figurative/Imaginative language contributes to setting, mood, atmosphere and tone.
- Poetry includes literary devices that add imagery and voice to text, creating imaginative details and encouraging critical reading.

#### Non-fiction (report, biography, procedures, explanations, speeches, essays, news articles)
- Texts may contain a table of contents, glossary, unit summary, and index.
- Texts may include transitional expressions (e.g., on the other hand, otherwise, thus, for instance) to connect ideas.
- Paragraphs increase in length and detail.

#### Reading Strategies

#### Students
- Make connections with text, self, and surroundings.
- Skim/scan text for format and information.

#### Comprehension Responses

#### Students
- Identify the main ideas and summarize content.
- Understand information by connecting to personal experiences.
- Form logical opinions/reactions and support these ideas with general textual reference(s).
### Writing Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

**General Curriculum Outcomes # 8** Students will be expected to use writing and other ways of representing to explore, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and learnings; and to use their imagination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 28 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</th>
<th>Writing Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| demonstrate competence in the frequent use of writing and representing strategies to extend learning; to explore their own thoughts and consider others’ ideas; to reflect on their feelings, values, and attitudes; and to identify problems and describe logical solutions | **Writing Strategies and Behaviours**
- gather ideas from a variety of sources and use a framework (e.g. web, graphic organizer) to sort and classify the information/ideas, recognize different perspectives, and make new connections; apply knowledge of copyright/plagiarism |
| identify and reflect upon strategies that are effective in helping them to learn; describe their personal growth as language learners and language users | **Writing Strategies and Behaviours**
- request, obtain, and make decisions about, constructive criticism
- use appropriate tools (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, grammar checker, and text models) to edit conventions, and strengthen word choice |
### General Curriculum Outcomes # 8

Students will be expected to use writing and other ways of representing to explore, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and learnings; and to use their imagination.

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<th>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 28 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</th>
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<tr>
<td>begin to use various forms of note making appropriate to various purposes and situations</td>
<td>Writing Strategies and Behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>demonstrate an awareness of how and when to integrate interesting effects in imaginative writing and other ways of representing; include thoughts and feelings in addition to external descriptions and activities; integrate detail that adds richness and density; identify and correct inconsistencies and avoid extraneous detail; make effective language choices relevant to style and purpose, and, when appropriate, select more elaborate and sophisticated vocabulary and phrasing</td>
<td>Text Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing Strategies and Behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• refine writing to enhance impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• select linguistic (e.g., analogy, colloquialism, figurative language, flattery) and print devices (e.g., print size, font, page design) designed to influence audience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• reread writing aloud for fluency; make changes to sentence structures and word choices to provide variety</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Curriculum Outcomes # 9</td>
<td>Students will be expected to create texts collaboratively and independently, using a variety of forms for a range of audiences and purposes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Writing Achievement Standard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specific Curriculum Outcomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>End of Grade 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(from p. 29 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
<td>Text Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continue to develop writing forms previously introduced and expand this range to produce, for example, autobiographies, drama, surveys, graphs, literary responses, biographies, illustrations, and reviews</td>
<td>Writing Strategies and Behaviours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consider and choose writing forms that match both the writing purpose (to define, report, persuade, compare) and the reader for whom the text is intended (understand why language choice, organization, and voice used in an essay differ from that used in a media advertisement)</td>
<td>• select and develop a topic; demonstrate awareness of audience and competence crafting a variety of text forms (including hybrids)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• write with purpose and understand the influence of the writer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• use specific devices to achieve purpose (instruct, persuade, entertain)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• explain form choice as it pertains to purpose and intended audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traits of Writing</td>
<td>Text Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization: structure and form, dependent on purpose and audience</td>
<td>• understand that ideas can be represented in more than one way and used with other forms of representing (speeches, demonstrations, plays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice: evidence of author’s style, personality, and experience select an appropriate form and clearly establish the purpose in the introduction</td>
<td>• skillfully connect the audience to the topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Writing Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Curriculum Outcomes # 9</th>
<th>Students will be expected to create texts collaboratively and independently, using a variety of forms for a range of audiences and purposes.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes</strong>&lt;br&gt; (from p. 29 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
<td><strong>Writing Achievement Standard</strong>&lt;br&gt; <strong>End of Grade 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep the reader and purpose for writing in mind when choosing content, writing style, tone of voice, language choice, and text organization</td>
<td><strong>Text Forms</strong>&lt;br&gt; <strong>Traits of Writing</strong>&lt;br&gt; <strong>Writing Strategies and Behaviours</strong>&lt;br&gt; - select and develop a topic; demonstrate awareness of audience and competence crafting a variety of text forms (including hybrids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know how and when to ask for reader feedback while writing and incorporate appropriate suggestions when revising subsequent drafts; assess self-generated drafts from a reader's/viewer's/listener's perspective</td>
<td><strong>Writing Strategies and Behaviours</strong>&lt;br&gt; - independently re-read to add to, delete from, or reorganize the text to clarify and strengthen content&lt;br&gt; - request, obtain, and make decisions about, constructive criticism&lt;br&gt; - refine writing to enhance impact&lt;br&gt; - select linguistic (e.g., analogy, colloquialism, figurative language, flattery) and print devices (e.g., print size, font, page design) designed to influence audience&lt;br&gt; - reread writing aloud for fluency; make changes to sentence structures and word choices to provide variety</td>
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**Writing Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Curriculum Outcomes # 10</th>
<th>Students will be expected to use a range of strategies to develop effective writing and other ways of representing, and to enhance clarity, precision, and effectiveness.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Writing Achievement Standard</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specific Curriculum Outcomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>End of Grade 8</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(from p. 30 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| build and rely upon a broad knowledge base of how words are spelled and formed; use such knowledge to spell unfamiliar words and expand vocabulary; regularly use resource texts to verify spelling; use punctuation and grammatical structures capably and accurately; use a variety of sentence patterns, vocabulary choices, and paragraphing with flexibility and creativity to engage readers | Writing Strategies and Behaviours  
- reread writing aloud for fluency; make changes to sentence structures and word choices to provide variety  
- use appropriate tools (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, grammar checker, and text models) to edit conventions, and strengthen word choice  
- select linguistic (e.g., analogy, colloquialism, figurative language, flattery) and print devices (e.g., print size, font, page design) designed to influence audience |
| choose, with increasing regularity, the prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and presentation strategies to aid in producing various texts | Writing Strategies and Behaviours  
Traits of Writing  
Word Choice  
Sentence Structure  
Conventions  

**Traits of Writing**  
**Word Choice**  
**Sentence Structure**  
**Conventions**: spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage (grammar)  
- use a range of print characteristics and layout to enhance the meaning (e.g., headings, visuals, white space, italics, bold, font size, and style)
## Writing Curriculum Outcomes and Standards Alignment

**General Curriculum Outcomes # 10** Students will be expected to use a range of strategies to develop effective writing and other ways of representing, and to enhance clarity, precision, and effectiveness.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade 8 Specific Curriculum Outcomes (from p. 30 Atlantic Canada ELA curriculum: ML)</th>
<th>Writing Achievement Standard End of Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| attempt to use various technologies for communicating to a variety of audiences for a range of purposes | Writing Strategies and Behaviours
- use a variety of publishing formats (e.g., books, pamphlets, posters, web sites) with appropriate text and text features

Text Forms |
| demonstrate a commitment to crafting pieces of writing and other representations | Writing Strategies and Behaviours
- all |
| gather information from a variety of sources (interviews, film, CD-ROMs, texts) and integrate ideas in communication | Writing Strategies and Behaviours
- gather ideas from a variety of sources and use a framework (e.g. web, graphic organizer) to sort and classify the information/ideas, recognize different perspectives, and make new connections; apply knowledge of copyright/plagiarism
- draft a piece of writing making critical choices about ideas/content based on the purpose and intended audience |