



# **English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8 (ELAR) 8A Syllabus**

## **Course Name**

ELAR 8A

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8 – Semester A

## **Course Information**

ELAR 8A is the first semester of this two-semester course.

Welcome to English Language Arts and Reading 8A! ELAR 8 is designed to provide a bridge from the lower grades to the high school-level work you will encounter in the 9th grade. Eighth-grade English will serve a twofold purpose: to review concepts you previously learned and to introduce concepts you must be familiar with in high school classes. The course covers several areas: reading strategies; literature studies; vocabulary development; spelling review; writing for a variety of purposes and modes; editing and proofreading skills; speaking and listening skills; research skills; visual and media representations; and principles of grammar and punctuation as they relate to writing.

## **Course Delivery Method**

Online

## **Contacting Your Instructor**

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [www.k12.ttu.edu](http://www.k12.ttu.edu).

## **Course Objectives**

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. recognize literary devices in works of fiction and nonfiction;
2. read with comprehension;

3. recognize the author's purpose;
4. recognize the use of literary devices;
5. analyze reading selections;
6. write for a variety of audiences and purposes;
7. demonstrate appropriate grammar, spelling, punctuation, and usage in writing;
8. improve your speaking and listening skills; and
9. expand your vocabulary.

ELAR 8 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

## Textbook and Materials

### ***Textbook(s)***

The required books for this course are:

- Wilhelm, J. D. (2011). *Literature: Texas Treasures, Course 3*. Columbus, OH: Glencoe Publishing Co. ISBN: 978-0-07-892776-8.
- *Grammar and Composition Handbook, Grade 8*. (2002). Columbus, OH: Glencoe Publishing Co. ISBN: 978-0-07-825115-3.
- Richter, Conrad. (1953). *The Light in the Forest* (Unabridged). Vintage Books. ISBN: 978-1-4000-7788-5. (Any unabridged edition will do.)
- London, Jack. (1990). *The Call of the Wild* (Unabridged). Dover Publications, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-486-26472-1. (Any unabridged edition will do.)

## Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Microsoft Word for written assignments to be uploaded (You may also upload PDF documents created from other word processing programs.)
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

This course fulfills Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and some of the skills required include competencies in speaking and listening, research and writing, and media literacy. To complete some of the assignments associated with these TEKS, you will need access to the following technology. Please ask an adult for help operating these devices and software.

- Microsoft PowerPoint for a multimedia slide presentation
- Scanner to submit documents with editing marks, etc., in JPEG (.jpg) or PDF format

- Possibly a small digital camera to take pictures of artwork where scanning is not possible

Local schools or libraries may be able to provide access to some or all of these technology requirements.

Some assignments will require you to upload a file, and it will be these assignments that will require the software or hardware listed above. It may be helpful to plan ahead by previewing these assignments to determine the type of device or software required.

## Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page)

## Course Organization

This course consists of eight lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Each lesson consists of several topics followed by a lesson assignment. Lesson assignments will contain objective, short answer, and essay questions and can only be completed once.

Practice exercises are also provided within the lessons. Practice exercises **are not** a part of your final grade and can be repeated as many times as you like. For your convenience, the practice exercises have also been grouped in the “Resources” section should you wish to review them in preparation for the test.

I recommend that you use a spiral notebook for the literary terms and vocabulary words. The information you record in the spiral will provide an excellent study guide for the final exam.

## Submission Procedures

All of your lesson assignments and practice exercises will be completed online. There are two types of assignments: objective (e.g., multiple choice) and uploaded documents.

### **Objective Assignments**

Some exercises and assignments have multiple choice, matching, or fill-in-the-blank questions. You will need to read the instructions and choose your answer for these types of questions.

Some questions will require you to type longer answers into a text box. For these questions, you should type your answers into a word processing document with the lesson number and assignment name at the top. Save the document with your name and the name of the assignment. Then enter your answers online by copying and pasting into the text box provided. This will help prevent the loss of work should your browser or computer have problems.

### **Uploaded Assignments**

Other assignments will require that you upload one or more documents. When you save your document to your own computer, please include your name and the name of the assignment in the file name. (e.g., JohnSmith\_ENG8A\_Lesson1\_Interviewing, *without any spaces*). After you have saved your document, you can upload it by following the instructions on the assignment page. Please note that the assignments ask you to create specific kinds of documents that include illustrations, scans of the signatures of adults, etc. It is very important that you read and follow all instructions for the submission of these documents.

## Student Information Essay

Please take some time to write a short essay about yourself. Include any pertinent information that will help me to assist you, such as why you are taking the course, what special problems you might have, when you plan to complete the course, etc.

Go to the assignment **Checkpoint 1** in Lesson One to input your essay. Remember that it is best to type your response in a word processing document first, save it, and then submit it. Be sure to save any changes you make.

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## Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
<b>Lesson 1</b>	Memories and Treasures	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 2</b>	First Impressions	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 3</b>	Looking Inside	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 4</b>	Facing Change	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 5</b>	Challenges	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 6</b>	Family Ties	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 7</b>	Choices	Two weeks
<b>Lesson 8</b>	Examining Life Through Nonfiction	Two weeks
<b>Final Exam</b>		

## Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (\*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
<b>1</b>	1-2	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Lesson 1 Assignment: "Clean Sweep" Lesson 1 Assignment: "The Medicine Bag" Lesson 1 Assignment: "The Treasure of Lemon Brown" Lesson 1 Assignment: "Homeless" *Lesson 1 Assignment: Interviewing and Writing Lesson 1 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 1 Assignment: Kinds of Sentences Lesson 1 Assignment: Subjects and Predicates, Part I Lesson 1 Assignment: Subjects and Predicates, Part II Lesson 1 Assignment: Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates
<b>2</b>	3-4	Lesson 2 Assignment: "Abuela Invents the Zero" Lesson 2 Assignment: "Gentleman of Rio en Medio" Lesson 2 Assignment: "Checkouts" Lesson 2 Assignment: "Waters of Gold"

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Lesson 2 Assignment: "Being Japanese American" Lesson 2 Assignment: "The Question of Popularity" *Lesson 2 Assignment: Interviewing and Writing Lesson 2 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 2 Assignment: Compound Sentences Lesson 2 Assignment: Fragments and Run-on Sentences, Part I Lesson 2 Assignment: Fragments and Run-on Sentences, Part II Lesson 2 Assignment: Speaking and Listening
<b>3</b>	5-6	Lesson 3 Assignment: "The Tell-Tale Heart" Lesson 3 Assignment: "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh" Lesson 3 Assignment: "Raymond's Run," Part I Lesson 3 Assignment: "Raymond's Run," Part II Lesson 3 Assignment: "Born Worker" *Lesson 3 Assignment: Writing *Lesson 3 Assignment: Submitting Your Visual Representation Lesson 3 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 3 Assignment: Parallel Structure Lesson 3 Assignment: Combining Sentences Lesson 3 Assignment: Appositives Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
<b>4</b>	7-8	Lesson 4 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 1 Lesson 4 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 2 Lesson 4 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 3 *Lesson 4 Assignment: Writing Lesson 4 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 4 Assignment: Recognizing Plurals, Possessives, and Contractions
<b>5</b>	9-10	Lesson 5 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 4 Lesson 5 Assignment: Analogies Lesson 5 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 5 Lesson 5 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 6 Lesson 5 Assignment: Vocabulary for <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 7 Lesson 5 Assignment: Word Origins—Latin Lesson 5 Assignment: <i>The Call of the Wild</i> , Chapter 7 *Lesson 5 Assignment: Writing Lesson 5 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 5 Assignment: Colons and Semicolons Lesson 5 Assignment: Hyphens, Dashes, and Parentheses

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Lesson 5 Assignment: Abbreviations Lesson 5 Assignment: Writing Numbers
6	11-12	Lesson 6 Assignment: Reading Comprehension and Discussion Lesson 6 Assignment: <i>The Light in the Forest</i> , Chapters 1-6 *Lesson 6 Assignment: Writing Lesson 6 Assignment: Visual Techniques Lesson 6 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 6 Assignment: Commas Lesson 6 Assignment: Quotation Marks, Italics, and Underlining
7	13-14	Lesson 7 Assignment: Verification of Reading Discussion Lesson 7 Assignment: <i>The Light in the Forest</i> , Chapters 7-15 Lesson 7 Assignment: "Racing the Great Bear" Lesson 7 Assignment: Reviewing Fiction Writing *Lesson 7 Assignment: Writing Your Own Story Lesson 7 Assignment: Spelling Lesson 7 Assignment: Capitalization Lesson 7 Assignment: Prepositional Phrases Lesson 7 Assignment: Pronouns as Objects of Prepositions Lesson 7 Assignment: Prepositional Phrases as Adjectives or Adverbs
8	15-16	Lesson 8 Assignment: "Night Ghost" Lesson 8 Assignment: "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" Lesson 8 Assignment: "Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad" Lesson 8 Assignment: "Lincoln: A Photobiography" Lesson 8 Assignment: "The Gettysburg Address" Lesson 8 Assignment: "Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?" Lesson 8 Assignment: The Speech "And Ain't I a Woman?" *Lesson 8 Assignment: Multimedia Presentation Lesson 8 Assignment: Vocabulary Review Lesson 8 Assignment: Literary Terms Review Lesson 8 Assignment: Review of Sentence Construction and Punctuation Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		<b>Final Exam</b>

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## Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

## Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

## Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
  - Lesson One Assignment: Interviewing and Writing (40 points)
  - Lesson Two Assignment: Interviewing and Writing (40 points)
  - Lesson Three Assignment: Writing (50 points)
  - Lesson Three Assignment: Submitting Your Visual Representation (30 points)
  - Lesson Four Assignment: Writing (40 points)
  - Lesson Five Assignment: Writing (50 points)
  - Lesson Six Assignment: Writing (50 points)
  - Lesson Seven Assignment: Writing Your Own Story (50 points)
  - Lesson Eight Assignment: Multimedia Presentation (70 points)
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**



## Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date. Student may purchase a single three-month extension for a fee.
- Extensions are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

## Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

## Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

## Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

## Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName\_firstName\_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.)”.

## Technical Difficulties

### ***Getting Help***

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

### ***Computer Problems***

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

### ***Server Problems***

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

### ***Lost or Corrupted Files***

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.