



English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8 (ELAR) 8B Syllabus

Course Name

ELAR 8B

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8 – Semester B

Course Information

ELAR 8B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

The main themes of ELAR 8B are about making a difference and engaging others with humor. You'll think a lot about how we reach out and communicate with others through both written and spoken language. Think about how language shapes what you understand about the world around you. How does the speech and writing of others influence you, and how to you influence others?

ELAR 8B uses journaling activities to help you improve your reading skills so you can get more out of your encounters with various texts. These activities also prepare you for bigger assignments where you turn in a chart, an essay plan, or a complete essay.

There are four main writing assignments with two in each unit.

Good luck on your journey through ELAR 8B!

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. ask questions, make predictions, observe genre characteristics and text structures;
2. use textual evidence, use new vocabulary words, reflect on the ideas of others, and make connections among texts, ideas, and experiences;
3. analyze author's craft through a variety of genres and mimic features and styles in their own formal and informal writing;
4. create engaging presentations and speeches using a variety of techniques and methods;
5. demonstrate writing skills and grammar knowledge through various types and lengths of writing.

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 **digital** textbook for this course is:

- *SpringBoard English Language Arts and Language Workshop, Grade 8.* (2021). The College Board. ISBN 9781457311796

Be sure you have access to the Language Workshop as well as the regular textbook.

This digital textbook can only be purchased through the TTU K-12 partner bookstore, MBS (see the [TTU K-12 website](http://www.ttu.edu/k12) for a link to MBS). Once you make your purchase, you will receive your credentials to the online textbook and resources via email, and it may take 1-2 business days.

Materials

You need to rent or borrow **ONE** of the following movies for Unit 3:

- *Life is Beautiful*
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*
- *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Word processing software such as Microsoft Word

- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)
- Digital camera or camera phone

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 is organized into two Units, each with a number of lessons, and a final examination. Each Unit contains the following:

- Introduction with Objectives
- A Getting Started section with information and/or graded activities
- Lesson folders with journaling activities and other graded assignments
- Mid-Unit Check folders
(These appear after you complete certain assignments in the first half of the unit.)
- End-of-Unit Check folders
(These appear after you complete certain assignments in the second half of the unit.)

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.

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
Lesson 3.0	Getting Started with Unit 3	2 days
Lesson 3.1	Making a Difference	1 day

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 3.2	"The Horror of the Holocaust"	1 day
Lesson 3.3	"Night"	1 day
Lesson 3.4	"First They Came for the Communists"	2 days
Lesson 3.5	Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust	2 days
Lesson 3.6	Dangerous Diction - Euphemisms	1 day
Lesson 3.7	Researching the Holocaust - US Holocaust Memorial Museum	3 days
Lesson 3.8	Write a Fictional Personal Narrative	7 days
Lesson 3.9	Analyze a Film	3 days
Lesson 3.10	The Diary of Anne Frank and the Elements of Drama	2 days
Lesson 3.11	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	2 days
Lesson 3.12	excerpt from Diary of a Young Girl and a found poem comparison	2 days
Mid-Unit Check	Turn in your recorded presentation of a prepared passage. <i>(Note that you won't see this folder until you've completed the preparatory essay assignments.)</i>	3 days
Lesson 3.13	Multimedia Presentations	1 day
Lesson 3.14	Slogans and Advertisements	2 days
Lesson 3.15	from The Nobel Acceptance Speech Delivered by Elie Wiesel	2 days
Lesson 3.16	excerpt from Do Something! A Handbook for Young Activists	2 days
Lesson 3.17	Evaluating Campaigns: "Wangari Maathai" from BBC News and "About Freerice.com"	2 days
Lesson 3.18	Public Service Announcements	2 days
Lesson 3.19	"Address by Cesar Chavez," President, United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO	2 days
End-of-Unit Check	Turn in your multimedia presentation. <i>(Note that you won't see this folder until you've completed the preparatory essay assignments.)</i>	3 days
	*Midterm Exam	
Lesson 4.1	Analyzing Humorous Texts - Foundations for Embedded Assessment 1	1 day
Lesson 4.2	"Made You Laugh"	2 days

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 4.3	Low and High Comedy	1 day
Lesson 4.4	Carlos Oscar monologue and excerpt from "Brothers"	2 days
Lesson 4.5	"I've Got a Few Pet Peeves about Sea Creatures"	2 days
Lesson 4.6	"Underfunded Schools Forced to Cut Past Tense from Language Program"	2 days
Lesson 4.7	"The Open Window," a clip from <i>The Simpsons</i> , and Caricature	2 days
Lesson 4.8	"A Day's Work" from <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> and a clip from <i>I Love Lucy</i>	2 days
Lesson 4.9	"Mooses"	1 day
Lesson 4.10	"Is Traffic Jam Delectable?" and Comic Wordplay	1 day
Lesson 4.11	Planning and Prewriting for Analysis Essay	3 days
Mid-Unit Check	Turn in your Analysis Essay <i>(Note that you won't see this folder until you've completed the preparatory essay assignments.)</i>	2 days
Lesson 4.12	from Seedfolks	3 days
Lesson 4.13	Prepare to Read a Play Excerpt - Key Characters and Insulting Language	2 days
Lesson 4.14	excerpt from <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	1 day
Lesson 4.15	Adapted from "Fear Busters—10 Tips to Overcome Stage Fright!"	2 days
Lessons 4.16-4.17	Sonnet 18 and the Mona Lisa; Sonnet 116	1 day
End-of-Unit Check	Turn in your compare/contrast essay. <i>(Note that you won't see this folder until you've completed the preparatory essay assignments.)</i>	2 days
	*Final Exam	

continued →

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
Getting Started with Unit 3 and 3.1-3.3	1	Reader/Writer (R/W) Journal – Getting Started Entry 3.0 Upload a Practice Video Recording 3.1 R/W Journal 3.2 R/W Journal 3.3 R/W Journal 3.3 "Night" Self-Check
3.4-3.6	2	3.4 R/W Journal 3.4 "First They Came for the Communists" Self-Check 3.4 Upload: Correspondence About Literature 3.5 R/W Journal 3.5 Upload: Comparing Theme 3.6 R/W Journal Discussion - The Holocaust
3.7-3.8	3-4	3.7 R/W Journal 3.7 Upload: Short Research Essay Discussion - Holocaust Museum Image 3.8 Upload: People in the Holocaust 3.8 Upload: Multimedia Presentation Product 3.8 Upload: Write a Fictional Personal Narrative
3.9-3.10	5	3.9 R/W Journal 3.9 Upload: Short Essay - Finding Hope 3.10 R/W Journal 3.10 Writer's Craft - Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement and Punctuation 3.10 Diary of Anne Frank Self-Check 3.10 Upload: Effect of Dialogue
3.11-3.14, including Mid-Unit Check	6-7	Discussion - Make a Prediction 3.11 The Boy in the Striped Pajamas Self-Check Discussion - Confirm or Correct Your Prediction 3.12 R/W Journal 3.12 Upload: Short Comparison *Mid-Unit Check: Recorded Presentation of a Prepared Passage Lesson 3.13 R/W Journal

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Discussion - What is Multimedia? 3.14 R/W Journal 3.14 Upload: Create an Advertisement for a Cause
3.15-3.19	8-9	3.15 R/W Journal 3.15 Upload: Argumentative Speech for your Advertisement 3.16 R/W Journal 3.16 Upload: Write a Letter to the Editor 3.17 R/W Journal 3.17 "Wangari Maathai" and "About Freerice.com" Self-Check 3.18 R/W Journal 3.18 Upload: Short Paragraph on PSAs/Campaigns 3.19 R/W Journal 3.19 "Address by Cesar Chavez," Self-Check 3.19 Writer's Craft: Verb Tense
End-of-Unit Check	10	*End-of-Unit Check: Recorded Multimedia Presentation
Midterm	10	*Midterm Exam
Getting Started with Unit 4 and 4.1-4.4	11	4.1 R/W Journal 4.2 R/W Journal 4.2 Upload: Quick Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement Check 4.2 Upload: Your Sense of Humor 4.3 R/W Journal 4.3 Upload: Analyzing Comic Strips and Political Cartoons 4.4 R/W Journal 4.4 Upload: Plan an Anecdote
4.5-4.10	12-13	4.5 R/W Journal 4.5 "I've Got a Few Pet Peeves about Sea Creatures," Self-Check 4.5 Upload: Analyze Humor and How It Conveys Truth 4.6 R/W Journal 4.6 Upload: Analyzing Satirical Humor 4.7 R/W Journal 4.7 "The Open Window" Self-Check Discussion - 3-2-1 Reflection on the Short Story 4.8 R/W Journal 4.8 Writer's Craft - Frequently Confused Words 4.9 R/W Journal 4.9 "Moses" Self-Check Discussion - "Moses"

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		4.10 R/W Journal 4.10 "Is Traffic Jam Delectable?" Self-Check
4.11- Mid-Unit Check	14	4.11 Upload: Text Review - The Elements of Humor 4.11 Upload: Create an Outline *Mid-Unit Check: Write Your Analysis Essay
4.12-4.14	15	4.12 R/W Journal 4.12 from Seedfolks Self-Check Discussion - Point of View 4.12 Upload: Write and Record a Monologue 4.13 R/W Journal 4.13 Upload: Write a Short Scene 4.14 R/W Journal Discussion - How to Stage It
4.15 – End-of-Unit Check	16	4.15 R/W Journal Discussion - Tips for Stage Fright 4.15 Upload: Record Yourself Reading Aloud 4.16 R/W Journal 4.17 R/W Journal *End-of-Unit Check: Write a Compare/Contrast Essay
Final	17	*Final Exam

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)**
 - Unit 1 – Embedded Assessment 1 – Presentation of a Prepared Passage (100 points)
 - Unit 1 – Embedded Assessment 2 – Multimedia Presentation (100 points)
 - Midterm Exam (100 points)
 - Unit 2 – Embedded Assessment 1 – Analysis Essay (100 points)
 - Unit 2 – Embedded Assessment 2 – Compare/Contrast Essay (100 points)
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date.

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 mail or email.

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.