



Literature and Language Arts

Resource List for Grades 9 through 12

The Resources in this document can be used with the Literature and Language Arts Curriculum Packet for grades 9 through 12.

Books

Non-fiction and Biography

- The Brontë Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne, 2015 by Catherine Reef (Author).
The Brontë sisters are among the most beloved writers of all time, best known for their classic nineteenth-century novels *Jane Eyre* (Charlotte), *Wuthering Heights* (Emily), and *Agnes Grey* (Anne). In this sometimes heartbreaking young adult biography, the author explores the turbulent lives of these literary siblings and the oppressive times in which they lived.
- Dickens: His Work and His World, 2005 by Michael Rosen (Author), Robert Ingpen (Illustrator).
This book is a tour of the life and work of one of our greatest novelists. This accessible, book vividly re-creates the world of Charles Dickens, from the author's childhood in London to his early career, his performances, and, of course, the great social and political upheavals of the time, which inspired so much of his work.
- Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation, 2006 by Lynne Truss (Author).
In this book, the author who is, gravely concerned about our current grammatical state boldly defends proper punctuation. She proclaims in her witty, and very English way, that it is time to look at our commas and semicolons and see them as the wonderful and necessary things they are. Using examples from literature, history, neighborhood signage, and her own imagination, she, shows how commas and apostrophes, and the hilarious consequences of punctuation gone awry shape meaning.
- The Elements of Style, 1999 by William Strunk Jr. (Author), E. B. White (Author), Test Editor (Editor), Roger Angell (Foreword).
The advice of Strunk & White is as valuable today as when it was first offered. This book's unique tone, wit and charm have conveyed the principles of English style to millions of readers. Use the fourth edition of "the little book" to make a big impact with writing.
- The Emily Sonnets: The Life of Emily Dickinson, 2012 by Jane Yolen (Author), Gary Kelley (Illustrator).
She was quiet and fiercely private. She was bold and fiercely creative. And it wasn't until after her death that the world came to know her genius. In this book, beautiful sonnets and insightful biographical notes spotlight Emily Dickinson's schooling, seclusion, and the slant rhymes for which she became famous, while the artwork portrays the poet's 19th-century Massachusetts world, including her family, faith, and fears.

- Get Lit Rising: Words Ignite. Claim Your Poem. Claim Your Life, 2016 by Diane Luby Lane (Author), the Get Lit Players (Author).
Get Lit Rising brings to life the true story of nineteen teen poets (the Get Lit Players) who are inspiring thousands of teens across the country through their award-winning performances of classic and spoken word poems. This book takes readers inside the private lives of these teen poets as they try to transform the lives of inner city teens in some of the toughest life circumstances.
- Grammar Girl Presents the Ultimate Writing Guide for Students (Quick & Dirty Tips), 2011 by Mignon Fogarty (Author), Erwin Haya (Illustrator).
This clear and accessible guide to a wide range of writing and grammar topics will be useful to student writers. A variety of examples and tips combined with clear organization will help them find answers to specific questions and apply what they've learned to their own writing.
- Just Write: Here's How!, 2012 by Walter Dean Myers (Author).
No sentimentalist, Myers advises young writers on how to get started and—even more difficult, how to keep going and finish. His approach is practical, encouraging extensive outlining and, for a novel, a “six-box model for fiction.” Autobiographical anecdotes make the advice concrete.
- Muckrakers: How Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens Helped Expose Scandal, Inspire Reform, and Invent Investigative Journalism (World History Biographies), 2007 by Ann Bausum (Author).
Here's the story of the birth of investigative journalism in America. At the turn of the 20th century, news reporters and monthly magazines collaborate to create a new kind of journalism—in-depth, serialized *exposés* of corporate, labor, and political corruption.
- A Practical Guide to Becoming a Playwright: Real World Knowledge, Experience and Insight, 2018 by Andrew Biss (Author).
Examining everything from structure, dialogue, subtext, and creating well-rounded characters, to formatting, writing synopses and preparing your plays for submission, this title offers a comprehensive explanation of the often challenging process of writing plays and getting them into the hands of producers.
- The Shakespeare Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained, 2015 by DK (Author).
This book brings the work of William Shakespeare to life with full-color photography, images, idea webs, timelines, and quotes that help you understand the context of Shakespeare's plays and poems. From Shakespeare's most-famous plays, such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Julius Caesar*, to less-frequently performed works such as *King John* and *Henry VIII*, every play of the Shakespearean canon is collected in this comprehensive guide, along with his major poems and best-loved sonnets.
- Show, Don't Tell: How To Write Vivid Descriptions, Handle Backstory, And Describe Your Characters' Emotions, 2018 by Sandra Gerth (Author).
Show, don't tell' is probably the single most-important piece of advice given to writers. But many writers struggle to understand this powerful principle or have difficulty applying it to their own work. Even experienced authors sometimes don't grasp the finer nuances of showing and telling. In this book, each chapter includes concrete examples and exercises that will hone your writing skills.

- Ten Days in A Mad-House: Illustrated and Annotated: A First-Hand Account of Life At Bellevue Hospital on Blackwell's Island in 1887, 2017 by Nellie Bly (Author).
Ten Days in A Mad-House, Was Written By Nellie Bly in 1887, after she lived, undercover, at a women's insane asylum at Blackwell's Island in 1887 for ten days. This was an assignment given to her by Joseph Pulitzer. The living conditions and treatment of the Patients were Horrible.
- Thesaurus of the Senses, 2015 by Linda Hart (Author).
The difference between the almost right word and the right word is the difference between a lightning bug and lightning, Mark Twain once wrote. Throughout history, the timely use of the apt word has held enormous sway, in literature, speeches, and texts. This book collects some of the best English sensory words in one place to enliven your writing and help you build persuasive description. It's an indispensable tool for writers, poets, bloggers, editors, storytellers, students, teachers, communicators, and word lovers alike
- On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft, 2010 by Stephen King (Author).
Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have.
- Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly, 2014 by Gail Carson Levine (Author).
In Writing Magic, the author shares her tricks of the trade. She shows how you can get terrific ideas for stories, invent great beginnings and endings, write sparkling dialogue, develop memorable character, and much, much more. She advises you about what to do when you feel stuck, and how to use helpful criticism. Best of all, she offers writing exercises that will set your imagination on fire.

Fiction

- Dead Poets Society, 2006 by N. H. Kleinbaum (Author).
The boys at Welton Academy can hardly believe how different life is since their new English professor, the flamboyant John Keating, has challenged them to "make your lives extraordinary! Inspired by Keating, the boys resurrect the Dead Poets Society, a secret club where, free from the constraints and expectations of school and parents, they let their passions run wild. As Keating turns the boys on to the great words of Byron, Shelley, and Keats, they discover not only the beauty of language, but also the importance of making each moment count.
- Fake ID, 2015 by Lamar Giles (Author).
Nick Pearson is pounding the pavement like any investigative reporter worth his salt. Though Nick's circumstances are slightly different than most reporters: he and his family are in the witness protection program, thanks to his father's previous occupation as bookkeeper to a mobster.
- Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation, 2015 by Brett Fletcher Lauer (Author), Lynn Melnick (Author), Carolyn Forché (Introduction).
One hundred poems. One hundred voices. One hundred different points of view. This book features one hundred acclaimed younger poets from truly diverse backgrounds and points of view, whose work has appeared everywhere from The New Yorker to Twitter, tackling a startling range of subjects in a startling range of poetic forms.

- These Shallow Graves, 2016 by Jennifer Donnelly (Author).
Jo Montfort is beautiful and rich, and soon, like all the girls in her class, she'll graduate from finishing school and be married off to a wealthy bachelor. Which is the last thing she wants. Jo dreams of becoming a writer, a newspaper reporter.
- The Year of the Gadfly, 2013 by Jennifer Miller (Author).
Iris Dupont, a budding journalist whose only confidant is the chain-smoking specter of Edward R. Murrow, feels sure she can break into the ranks of The Devil's Advocate, the Party's underground newspaper, and there uncover the source of its blackmail schemes and vilifying rumors.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Half Way Down the Stairs: A literary magazine for families to share... free!
<http://www.halfwaydownthestairs.net/>
- Polyphony H.S. : A student-run, international literary magazine for high school writers and editors.
<https://www.polyphonymag.org/>
- Stone Soup: the literary magazine and website written and illustrated by kids through age 13.
<https://stonesoup.com>
- Vademecum: dedicated to publishing the best in high school prose, poetry and photography.
<http://www.vademecummag.com/>

Online Links

- The Federation of Children's Books Group: Websites by Children's Authors and Illustrators
<http://www.fcbg.org.uk/childrens-authors-and-illustrators>
- Figment: Teen writers express themselves on supportive social site.
<http://www.figment.com>
- Power Poetry: Online community empowers teen poets; use privacy settings.
<http://www.powerpoetry.org>
- SMITHTeens: Site challenges teens to summarize their lives in six words.
<http://smithteens.com>
- Teen Ink: Creative, supportive forum for teens to share their work.
<http://www.teenink.com>

Background information for the Educator

- Literature Teaching Guides by Teacher Vision
<https://www.teachervision.com/lesson-planning/literature-guide>
- Teaching Books: Literacy Connections
Manage the demands of implementing literacy instruction with materials that deepen the conversation and understanding of the books read in your classes.
<https://www.teachingbooks.net/>