

Intro to ELA Middle School Maps

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The middle school language arts curriculum maps, which serve as a companion to South Carolina's 2008 language arts standards, have been developed to support students' conceptual/thematic thinking. Grade 6 students will focus on change; grade 7, on choices; and grade 8, on challenges. The maps have been designed to support differentiation between college preparatory and gifted/talented/preAP coursework. Teachers should recommend changes in the maps and/or additional resources and strategies as appropriate. Teachers should use the maps with the following ideas in mind:

- ◆ It is the indicators that are the focus of instruction. Selections are the vehicle to understanding the indicators. In the case of short stories and poems, the selections themselves may vary based on availability of selections. And, when appropriate, choices should be provided for students.
- ◆ The use of the William and Mary Curriculum in the preAP coursework is a non-negotiable. Teachers are to follow the William and Mary curriculum as embedded in the maps for preAP differentiation.
- ◆ Word study will focus on stems. In addition to the stems list that accompanies the ELA state standards, teachers will incorporate stems from Thompson's Word within a Word. Based on input from teachers, the following are the minimum expectations for Word within a Word. Since the units build on each other, this component cannot be fully implemented until middle schools have worked through a three-year cycle with the program:
 - Grade 6 preAP—Units 1-7
 - Grade 6 College Prep—Units 1-3
 - Grade 7 preAP—Units 8-14
 - Grade 7 College Prep—Units 4-6
 - Grade 8 preAP—Units 15-21
 - Grade 8 College Prep—Units 7-9

Special thanks goes to the committee who worked to draft and revise the maps.