

BRIX BEYOND BOOKS 5

Compassion & Understanding

Grade 5 elevates both reading and writing through complex texts that challenge students' interpretive and analytical abilities. Through literature, nonfiction, discussion, and advanced writing, students explore nuanced perspectives, strengthen critical thinking, and deepen their ability to understand diverse characters, experiences, and real-world issues.

Literature

Featured Novels: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle; *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

Literary Focus: Author's purpose, point of view, narrative structure, inference, themes, foreshadowing, symbolism, imagery, character development, conflict & resolution, and historical context.

Nonfiction Exploration

The Holocaust

Historical context connected to *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, supported by supplementary readings from HISTORY and Time for Kids.

Social Media & AI

Abridged articles from The New York Times and Forbes introduce contemporary issues, multiple perspectives, and evidence-based discussion.

Reading & Critical Thinking

- Analyze point of view, author's purpose, theme, character development, literary devices, and historical context across complex texts.
- Make predictions and inferences, evaluate textual evidence, and connect literature to historical and contemporary issues.
- Examine nuanced and differing perspectives while developing independent interpretations supported by evidence.

Writing & Idea Development

- Develop thesis-driven ideas and organize analytical writing using clear evidence and reasoning.
- Strengthen character analysis, evidence-based writing, thematic narrative, and literary analysis through revision and discussion.
- Use more sophisticated sentence structure, transitions, imagery, and precise language to communicate ideas effectively.

Writing Forms: Character Analysis • Evidence-Based Writing • Thematic Narrative • Thesis-Driven Essays • Short Story • Poetry

Vocabulary & Grammar

Weekly vocabulary study supports advanced comprehension and academic expression. Grammar and writing instruction includes sentence structure, fragments, pronoun-antecedent agreement, verb tense, transitions, figurative language, and subject-verb agreement.

Class Structure & Assessment

Weekly Class	Vocabulary Quiz • Novel Discussion • Lesson-Focused Writing • Creative/Analysis Writing
Weekly Homework	Vocabulary • Reading • Writing

Assessment & Final Projects: Cumulative assessments in novel comprehension, vocabulary, literary terms, and writing/grammar, with final projects including a short story or poem and an essay. BBB also includes **two SSAT Reading Benchmark Assessments each semester** to monitor comprehension, vocabulary in context, inference, and text analysis.

16-Week Course Outline

WEEK	FOCUS	SKILLS & ACTIVITIES
1	Short Story 1: Point of View & Purpose	Point of view & author's purpose • Engaging openings/hooks • Simple, compound & complex sentences • Short narrative
2	Short Story 2: Developing Themes	Theme analysis • Thematic narrative • Conjunctions & transitions • Narrative revision
3	Introduction to A Wrinkle in Time	Predictions & inferences • Thesis statements • Context clues • Vocabulary development
4	Character Analysis in A Wrinkle in Time	Character traits & motivations • Essay organization (T.E.A.) • Subject-verb agreement
5	Setting & World-Building in A Wrinkle in Time	Descriptive reading & imagery • Descriptive body paragraphs • Adjectives vs. adverbs
6	Conflict & Resolution in A Wrinkle in Time	Conflict analysis • Evidence to support claims • Transition words & phrases • Character analysis revision
7	Theme Analysis in A Wrinkle in Time	Theme analysis • Introduction & conclusion writing • Complex-sentence punctuation
8	A Wrinkle in Time Final	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary & literary terms • Writing/grammar test • Finalize analysis paragraphs
9	Introduction to The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	Historical context & setting • Narrative beginnings • Parts of speech • Narrative planning
10	Character Development	Character growth & relationships • Direct/indirect characterization • Pronoun-antecedent agreement
11	Exploring Literary Devices	Irony • Figurative language • Flashback & foreshadowing • Narrative plot • Verb tense
12	Conflict & Resolution	Types of conflict & impact on characters • Narrative climax/resolution • Dialogue punctuation
13	Symbolism & Imagery	Symbolism & imagery • Narrative enhancement • Conjunctions & transitions review
14	Cumulative Review & Final Narrative Project	Novel comprehension • Vocabulary & literary terms • Writing/grammar test • Final narrative draft
15	Poetry 1: Poetic Structure & Devices	Poetic structure & devices • Identify and use poetic techniques • Original poem
16	Poetry 2: Figurative Language & Tone	Figurative language & tone • Poetry writing • Original poem