**Common Core State Standards for 8th Grade Reading (Learning Goals) for Literature and Informational Texts**

**Topic (Learning Goal): Summarizing;**

The student will:

* + - Determine a central idea (main idea) of a text and break down its development over the course of the text including its relationship to supporting ideas
    - Create an objective summary of the text

**Topic (Learning Goal): Literary Elements**

The student will:

* Examine how dialogue or events in a story propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision
* Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of a text, inspecting its relationship to characters, setting, and plot

**Topic (Learning Goal): Inferring**

The student will:

* Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text

**Topic (Learning Goal): Text Features and Structures**

The student will:

* Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and inspect how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style
* Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept

**Topic (Learning Goal): Point of View and Author’s Purpose**

The student will:

* Break down how differences in complexities of points of view of the characters and audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor
* Determine an author’s point of view and purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints

**Topic (Learning Goal): Compare and Contrast**

The student will:

* Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (through comparisons, analogies, or categories)
* Dissect the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating choices made by the director or actors
* Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (print, or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea
* Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including describing how the material is different
* Inspect a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation

**Topic (Learning Goal): Analysis**

The student will:

* Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced

**Topic (Learning Goal): Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**

The student will:

* Use various strategies to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on grade 8 reading and content
  + Use context as a clue to determine the meaning of a word or phrase
  + Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word
  + Consult general and specialized reference materials, both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech
* Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression

**Topic (Learning Goal): Language Analysis in Reading and Writing (Context Clues and Literary Techniques)**

The student will:

* + - Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationship, and nuances in word meanings
      * Interpret figures of speech in context
      * Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words
      * Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions)
* Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings
  + - Analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other text