



Content Area: English Language Arts

Grade Level: 4

Course Name: Grade 4 ELA

**Course Description:** Grounded in the science of reading, Amplify CKLA for grades 3–5 integrates foundational skills students have learned in grades K–2 while continuing to build rich content knowledge. Students move fluidly between reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language activities, with increasingly complex texts, close reading, and a greater writing emphasis. In Grades 3–5, lessons combine skills and knowledge with increasingly complex texts, close reading, and a greater emphasis on writing. Students start to use their skills to go on their own independent reading adventures, further opening up their worlds.

Units - # of Lessons	Description
<p><b>Unit 1: Personal Narratives</b> 16 Lessons</p>	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b> This unit examines the genre of personal narratives, which consists of works of nonfiction written by a first-person narrator involved in the events being described. Students read five personal narratives, identifying the elements of the genre and, throughout the unit, using these elements in writing a variety of their own personal narratives. These elements include events proceeding in a logical sequence, dialogue that shows character, vivid descriptive language, characters with defining traits, sensory details, figurative language, and writing strong introductions and conclusions. Examining the genre in this way will help students build their knowledge of descriptive writing.</p>
<p><b>Unit 2, Part 1: Empires in the Middle Ages</b> 15 Lessons</p> <p><b>Unit 2, Part 2: Empires in the Middle Ages</b> 10 Lessons</p>	<p><b>Unit Overview(s):</b> The <i>Empires in the Middle Ages</i> unit covers the history of both the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic Medieval Empires. The <i>Middle Ages in Europe</i> and <i>Islamic Medieval Empires</i> units have always been companions in the Grade 4 sequence because their subjects are highly related. While the Middle Ages deals primarily with the events of western Europe, and the relationship between the Christian Church and the rulers of the region, the concurrent Islamic Empires in the Middle Ages unit looks at events in another part of the world (particularly in what is now called the Middle East). Separated by the Mid-Unit Assessment, the two topics of study are tied by a common past (the decline of the Roman Empire) and intersecting events such as the Crusades and the movement of knowledge, philosophy, and science from Greek into Arabic into Latin. They are also tied by their impact on the present: it is difficult to understand the modern world without knowing about these two regions and their medieval history.</p>

Units - # of Lessons	Description
Unit 3: Poetry 15 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            This unit uses a variety of poems that have been analyzed for complexity and chosen for their diversity and interest. These poems are particularly good preparation for the complex texts, vocabulary, and form students will encounter in Grade 5 and beyond. The poems in this unit represent a wide variety of time periods, from Kshemendra’s twelfth-century treatise on the responsibilities of poets to the work of living writers such as Sherman Alexie and Harryette Mullen. The poets come from many backgrounds and nations; the poets included are European, Asian, African American, Native American, and Hispanic. The poems themselves are similarly diverse; some employ precise meter and rhyme schemes, while others use free verse. Uniting them all is their engagement with language and its potential.</p>
Unit 4: Eureka! Student Inventor 10 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            The <i>Eureka! Student Inventor</i> unit is an immersive Quest. During the Quest, students read informational texts, pulling evidence and details to support arguments. Students will read biographical articles about eight inventors, detailed histories of important inventions, and scientific explanations of simple machines. Throughout the Quest, students consistently practice informative and opinion writing. In addition to working on developing arguments and using support, the writing challenges lend themselves to adaptation and addition. Lastly, students will design their own inventions.</p>
Unit 5: Geology 16 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            The Big Idea of this unit is that the earth is composed of layers that, through heat and pressure, cause movements that result in geological features above and below the earth’s surface. Tectonic plate theory explains how mountains, volcanoes, and trenches are created on land and under the sea. Information about the rock cycle, weathering, and erosion also explains how the earth is continually changing. This unit explores the relationships between these different geological processes and how they affect the landscape and related environments of the earth.</p>
Unit 6: Contemporary Fiction 13 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            Students will read <i>Front Desk</i> by Kelly Yang because it combines rich, lyrical, yet accessible language with narrative and a protagonist with whom students can identify. Students will work to identify the themes in this book. Throughout the unit students will move flexibly between reading and writing. As with poetry, many of the reading activities require short, written answers. In addition, there are many longer activities building student facility with opinion and narrative writing.</p>
Unit 7: American Revolution 17 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            The Big Idea of this unit is that disagreements about principles of government led colonists in North America to seek independence from Great Britain. The causes, major figures, and consequences of the American Revolution provide a framework for understanding what caused the 13 colonies to break away and become an independent nation, and what significant ideas and values were at the heart of the American Revolution.</p>

Units - # of Lessons	Description
Unit 8: Treasure Island 20 Lessons	<p><b>Unit Overview:</b>            This unit examines the fiction genre through a classic novel, <i>Treasure Island</i>. Students will focus on character development, setting, and plot, as well as literary devices, while reading an abridged version of Robert Louis Stevenson’s popular adventure story. It is important for students in the upper elementary grades to read longer works of fiction and trace the development of plot, characters, and literary elements over the course of a novel; this unit will provide students that opportunity. In addition, this text presents an opportunity for students to learn about the adventure story as a unique subgenre of fiction. Students will also be exposed to other relevant aspects of the text, such as geography, pirates, and sailing.</p>

NYS Standard	Links
Grade 4 Next Generation ELA Standards	<p><a href="#">New York State Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards</a></p>