

# Operation Graduation

## Foundational Language Arts Skills for Student Success

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**DIVISION OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT**

# Foundational Language Arts Skills



## [Language Arts K-12 AKS Booklet](#)



**AKS**  
ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS  
GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**LANGUAGE ARTS**  
2021-22 K-12 SUBJECT BOOKLET

Gwinnett's curriculum for grades K-12 is called the Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS). The AKS for each grade level spells out the essential things students are expected to know and be able to do in that grade or subject. The AKS offers a solid base on which teachers build rich learning experiences. Teachers use curriculum guides, technology, and instructional resources to teach the AKS and to make sure every student is learning to his or her potential.

The Academic Knowledge and Skills was developed by our teachers, with input from our parents and community, in response to Gwinnett County Public Schools' mission statement:

*The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*



## Language Arts



Learning to read and write is the basis for all learning. In 8th grade, students work on reading and writing skills that will support them in learning all subjects. Students focus on skills for reading comprehension, including monitoring for comprehension, activating and connecting to prior knowledge, asking questions, inferring and visualizing, determining importance, and summarizing and synthesizing. 8th graders use reading and writing skills throughout the school day as part of activities in all classrooms. The AKS emphasizes literacy skills across content areas, including technical subjects.

By the end of 8th grade, all students are expected to:

- Use words, patterns in words, and word meanings to read fluently and comprehend effectively in all texts and activities;
- Apply grade-appropriate language skills in writing;
- Self-monitor to correct errors when reading and writing, and talk with and listen to peers about one's reading and writing to become lifelong readers and writers; and
- Use reading and writing to communicate through listening, speaking, and viewing.

[6-8 Parent AKS Brochures](#)

# Key Ideas and Details



The most important pieces to know about a character, event, or idea. Together, the key ideas and details work together to develop a theme or central idea. *Think of this important detail like the importance of beams in a building. All of the key ideas and details (beams) put together creates a whole picture for the reader that can lead them to a better understanding of the big picture.* How can I check if the idea or detail is key? Ask yourself, “Does this idea or detail show up in multiple places?” and “If the detail or idea was removed throughout the whole story, would my understanding of the text change?” When asked to provide evidence, we want to refer back to these pieces to support what we think.



# Theme/Central Idea



The message readers receive as they read the story from beginning to end. This message can show up in how character's navigate situations, grow from interactions with others, and relate to life. To uncover this message, readers pay attention to repeated key ideas and details and consider a possible message they could apply to their own lives.





# Questions to Ask Your Student

- What patterns do you notice?
  - Words
  - Conflicts
  - Emotions
- What do the patterns tell you about the larger message?
- Where is there a change or shift in the pattern?
- Which evidence supports your thinking?
- How does the ability to recognize themes in texts relate to your future?



# Point of View/Perspective

The way a character views and responds to the people, places, and events around them. Every character in a story has a unique way of interacting with people, places, events, and ideas in a text. Point of view is like a lens or pair of glasses. It is how the character views every situation around them. Through repeated key ideas and details, readers learn how a character views the world around them. Then, readers begin to understand each character's perspective which reveals how a character then will interact with the world around them— other characters, events, conflicts, settings, etc.

Point of view is the tool we use to understand a character's perspective.





*Thank You!*