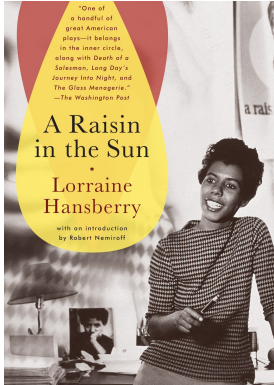


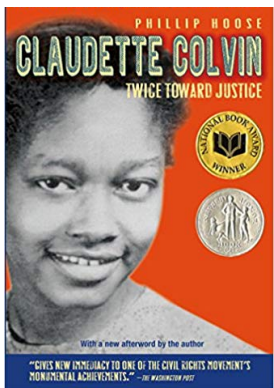
# FirstLine Schools 8th Grade ELA

## What will my student learn this year?



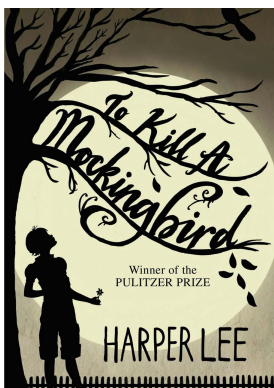
### Module 1: The Spirit of Chicago

To build a deep store of knowledge about the United States, students explore the experience of life in a quintessentially American city. This module explores the city of Chicago through the lenses of literature and history, focusing on the myths and stories that have arisen about the city.



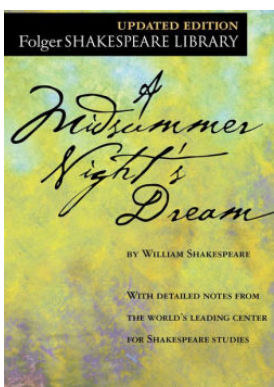
### Module 2:

Teenagers can take a stand and make change! In this compelling, highly relevant module, students learn about activism for social justice. Reading informational texts, students encounter teenage (and adult) activists from around the world, and zoom in on the American civil rights movement.



### Module 3:

To Kill a Mockingbird is the one of the most frequently read novels in American literature. One reason this is true is that themes of racism, equality, and the fight for social justice sadly remain as relevant today as they were when the novel was published. These themes connect through several texts of module three, and are explored through the novel, selected poems, historical accounts of the Jim Crow era, and contemporary news stories about the U.S. justice system.



### Module 4

Module 4 immerses students in Shakespeare through his comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream (AMND.) As he is arguably the most influential writer in the English language, studying Shakespeare connects students to shared cultural and literary foundations, while providing a seminal opportunity to closely read a complex text. A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of Shakespeare's most accessible comedies, with themes of love, magic, illusion, and play.

# Supporting your student in their English Language Arts Class

Beyond ensuring your student completes any assigned ELA homework, the best way to support your student in ELA is to **discuss the books they are reading in school and at home!**

Wondering where to start? Try some of these question stems!

## Helping students support their ideas with evidence

- Why did the author write this? What evidence supports your idea?
- What quote from the text is the best evidence to show \_\_\_\_\_?
- What specific details from the text tell you where and when the story takes place?

## Learning to summarize what they have read and determine central ideas

- What happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the story?
- What is a summary of this story?
- What is the theme of the story? What helped you decide that this is the theme?
- Why does \_\_\_\_\_ feel (sad, angry, elated, etc.) What text clues let you know they are feeling this way?

## Understanding the impact of character and setting

- How does (character) react when \_\_\_\_\_? Why do they act this way? How is this reaction different from (different character)?
- Why does (character) react differently from (character 2)? How is their perspective different?
- How does the setting impact the story? What are characters able to do because of the setting they are in?
- How would the story change if the setting were different? Can you reimagine the story in a different setting?

### **Supporting Vocabulary & Making meaning of words and phrases**

- What does this word mean? How do you know?
- What words in the text tell how (character) feels?
- What does (phrase) mean? Does it mean exactly what it says (e.g. hit the road) or does it mean something else (e.g. get going)?
- Can you think of another word to use instead of \_\_\_\_\_?
- Why did the author choose this word?

### **Learning the structures of stories and non-fiction texts**

- How are the parts of the story connected? How does this section/chapter help the reader understand the setting?
- How does this scene build suspense?
- How would you retell this story, including important parts from the beginning, middle, and end?
- In poetry what stanza is the most interesting to you? Why?
- Why did the author organize the story like this? How would it be different if the order were changed?

### **Describing point of view**

- Who is telling this story? How do you know?
- Are the narrator and the author the same person? How do you know?
- What point of view is this written from?
- What does (character/narrator) think of (event/action)? What do you think? What would you have done differently?
- How would the story be different if it was told from (character's) point of view?
- Would you have preferred the story from (third-person / first person) point of view? Why?