

EL Module Overview & Access

Grade 6

All resources and materials related to the EL curriculum for grades 6-8 can be found at <http://curriculum.eleducation.org/>.

Module 1: Reading Closely and Writing to Learn – Myths: Not Just Long Ago

Anchor Text: *The Lightning Thief*

Module Overview: Students study the purposes and elements of mythology. Students read Rick Riordan’s *The Lightning Thief* with a focus on the archetypal hero’s journey and close reading of the many mythical allusions. They also read complex informational texts about the elements of mythology. As a whole class, students will closely read several complex Greek myths, and then work in small groups to build expertise on an additional myth. Students then develop their narrative writing skills as they create their own hero’s journey narrative.

Online Access: [Module 1](#)

Module 2: Working with Evidence- Rules to Live By

Anchor Text: *Bud, Not Buddy*

Module Overview: How do people formulate and use “rules” to improve their lives and communicate these “rules” to others? Students consider these questions as they read a variety of texts. They begin with *Bud, not Buddy*, analyzing character development and considering how figurative language contributes to tone and meaning. They then read closely Steve Jobs’ speech, (focusing on how Jobs develops his ideas at the paragraph, sentence, and word level) and analyze the poem “If” to compare and contrast how the novel and the poem address a similar theme. In an argument essay, students establish a claim about how Bud uses his rules. Finally, students conduct a short research project related to their own “rules to live by” and then write an essay to inform about one important “rule to live by.”

Online Access: [Module 2](#)

Module 3: Understanding Perspectives- The Land of the Golden Mountain

Anchor Text: *Dragonwings*

Module Overview: Students study how an author develops point of view and how an author’s perspective, based on his or her culture, is evident in the writing. As students read Lawrence Yep’s *Dragonwings*, they analyze how Yep has developed the point of view of the narrator, Moon Shadow. They also read excerpts of Yep’s biography to determine how his culture and experiences have shaped his perspective in the novel. They read accounts by people from the turn of the century in San Francisco, analyzing perspective and comparing the accounts to those in the book. Finally, students write newspaper articles that convey multiple perspectives about life for Chinese immigrants in San Francisco in the early 1900s.

Online Access: [Module 3](#)

Module 4: Research, Decision Making, and Forming Positions- Insecticides: Cost vs. Benefits

Anchor Text: *Frightful’s Mountain* by Jean Craighead George

Module Overview: In this eight-week, research-based module, students explore the benefits and harmful consequences of the use of the controversial pesticide DDT. In Unit 1, students begin the novel *Frightful’s Mountain* (640L) by Jean Craighead George. Students will read closely to practice citing evidence and drawing inferences from this compelling text as they begin to think about the interactions between people and the natural world. In Unit 2, students will read the remainder of the novel, focusing on the how the main character, Frightful, is affected by the actions of other people and her own interactions with the natural world. In Unit 3, students choose the most compelling evidence and write a position paper in which they support the claim they made (at the end of Unit 2). As the final performance task, students share their findings by creating a scientific poster and presenting that poster to peers during a hosted gallery.

Online Access: [Module 4](#)