



Reviewing High-Quality Instructional Materials for ELA

Questions to Ask

The questions below are designed to support a focused, meaningful review of ELA materials. The questions center on research-aligned criteria that matter most for student learning and access to grade-level content.

Knowledge Building Through Coherent Topics

- Are lessons and modules (or units) organized around coherent knowledge-building topics?
- Do texts within and across topics intentionally build and deepen understanding of those topics?
- Is new knowledge made explicit (e.g., through Essential Questions, Knowledge Threads, or Module Tasks)?

Rich Text Experiences

- Are text components (i.e., language, ideas, knowledge, or craft) worthy of sustained study?
- Do students return to texts multiple times for different purposes such as knowledge building, analysis, writing, and discussion?

Skills Built in Service of Meaning-Making

- Are reading, writing, speaking, and listening taught through shared texts and topics?
- Do students regularly write and speak about what they read and learn?
- Are skills sequenced and revisited over time within meaningful contexts?

Teacher Support and Student Engagement

- Does the curriculum provide teachers with clear guidance and instructional routines?
- Are the students—not the teacher or the materials—doing the cognitive work?
- Does the design support joyful, intellectually engaging learning?

→ **See how Great Minds ELA Solutions support the Science of Reading.**