

hello!

START HERE

1. Check your order

We've made every effort to pack your collection carefully.
Please take a moment to make sure you've received everything you ordered.

CONTACT US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IF ANYTHING IS MISSING OR INCORRECT.

2. Get to know your collection

The following unboxing sheets will give you a brief introduction
to each component of your collection.

IMPORTANT: Carefully read the teacher and student
information in the front of each guide.

3. Browse the schedules

The *Suggested Yearly Schedule* is just that, a suggestion. Our materials are designed
to adapt to your schedule, your teaching style, and your student's learning style.

The *Weekly Literature Schedule* is also a suggestion, but over many years,
this approach has proven to be a great tool in helping students succeed and flourish.

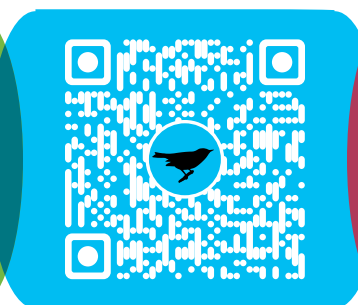
4. Explore our support resources:

Parent/Teacher Info



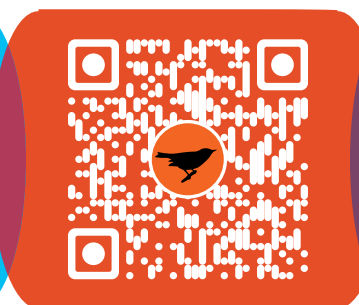
[blackbirdandcompany.com/
information-for-parents-and-teachers](https://blackbirdandcompany.com/information-for-parents-and-teachers)

Answer Keys



[blackbirdandcompany.com/
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Free Resources



[blackbirdandcompany.com/
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Videos



[blackbirdandcompany.com/
video-collection/](https://blackbirdandcompany.com/video-collection/)

Thank you for choosing a Grade Level Collection!

We've made every effort to pack your collection carefully. Please take a moment to make sure you have received everything included in your order.

Your 8th Grade Collection contains the following items:

LITERATURE/WRITING • Level 3 – Year Pack E

6 Workbooks & Novels:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>The Cay</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>A Million Shades of Gray</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>Teacher Helps</i> |
| <input type="radio"/> <i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>Milkweed</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> | |

GRAMMAR • One True Sentence C: Tools of Style 4

- ☐ *Student Workbook*

VOCABULARY • Operation Lexicon: The Inklings

- ☐ *Student Workbook*

COMPOSITION • The Essay – Volume 3

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> <i>Student Workbook</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>Grandfather's Journey</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>Train to Somewhere</i> |
| <input type="radio"/> <i>The Tin Forest</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>The Story of Ferdinand</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>Letting swift River Go</i> |

RESEARCH WRITING • Elemental Journal

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> <i>Student Workbook</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>The Complete Periodic Table: More Elements with Style</i> | <input type="radio"/> <i>The Elements: The Building Blocks of the Universe</i> |
|---|--|--|

PLEASE CONTACT US WITHIN 2 WEEKS IF ANY OF YOUR ITEMS ARE MISSING OR INCORRECT.

Now that you've checked your package, let's learn about each item...



blackbird & company

READ WELL • WRITE WELL • THINK WELL

The following information will help you become familiar with each piece of your collection.

Literature Discovery Guides: Level 3 – Year Pack E

1. In addition to the blue student guides and accompanying books, you will have received a thin “Teacher Helps” volume. Taking time to read carefully to understand what is expected of your student along the way, you will discover strategies that will enable you to support and inspire learning.
2. Answer keys are found at:

***blackbirdandcompany.com* » Parents/Teachers » Answer Keys**

3. Additionally, inside each student workbook is a **How-to** guide, as well as instructional prompts along the way—please read this information carefully. These components act as a built in “Teacher/Mentor” to support each step of the student’s journey.

Ultimately, when it comes to language arts learning, much of the exceptional work that students accomplish will be subjective in nature, and tied to their ideas. As we value the ideas of the student—their discoveries from reading, their observations—and challenge them to write these ideas well, the outcome, over time, is that literacy skills soar.



One True Sentence C: Tools of Style 4

Take it from Hemingway:

“All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence you know.”

Rhetoric is the art of writing effectively. It is the study of how writers use language effectively. The best way to learn rhetorical tools is to use rhetorical tools.

The goal is to produce well-formed, exceptional sentences. A singular sentence is simply a collection of words that conveys an idea. When well-crafted sentences are connected wisely, one after another, meaning flows, carrying that idea forward in a clear and concise manner. Over the course of 20 weeks, students will be introduced to twenty tools that will help them construct their ideas effectively. Following are some strategies that will help you begin:

1. Begin by reading the introductory material in the student guide, focusing especially on the two pages dedicated to you, the teacher (***For the Teacher***).
2. Flip to the student pages for Week 1 and read the directives to familiarize yourself with the layout. Each week will be formatted similarly. On Day 1 the student will be presented with a new concept to discover and will be prompted through a constructive activity. The student is then prompted to craft 5 more sentences utilizing the tool that is introduced. The exercises take about 45 minutes to an hour per week.



Operation Lexicon: The Inklings

A lexicon is the collected vocabulary utilized by a writer. Over the course of 26 weeks, students will explore a cluster of words from the lexicon of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Using these words in an original way, with inspiration from her many short stories and letters, will help the budding wordsmith recognize the plasticity of language and delight in its beauty.

1. Everything for the teacher is included in the front of the student guide. Begin by reading the **Introduction** followed by the **How to use this Guide** —3 short pages! Encourage your student to read along.
2. Read, together with your student the information about Ted Hughes.
3. With your student, look through the **Story Starters** and the **Day 3 micro-story example** before beginning the work.
4. Each week contains three days of lessons. These lessons are guided by a built-in-mentor for your student to be guided in the work. Familiarizing yourself with one week will help you to better support your student. Day 1 and 2 will take about 15 minutes each, while Day 3 may take a bit longer, 30 minutes to an hour, because it involves application of the words and a bit of creativity.



Finally, here is an encouragement from Tolkien (letter to his son Christopher, January 30, 1945):

“A story must be told or there’ll be no story, yet it is the untold stories that are the most moving.”

Intro to Composition: The Essay – Volume 3

The Literary Essay

Your student will be guided on an exploration of literary essay form. Utilizing picture books with sophisticated themes, and a 30-sentence form, they craft their ideas into a tightly knit essay. They will learn how to cite examples from stories using the MLA format in the process.

How to get started:

1. Begin by reading through the **Table of Contents** and the **For the Teacher** pages in the student guide. These few pages will help you prepare your student to become self-directed along the way. This volume includes 5 lessons that will be completed over 10 weeks. In each lesson, the first week, students will be directed to complete all of the preparatory writing that will enable them to complete all the pre-writing for the essay at hand. The second week of each lesson, students will craft the literary essay, Student Self-Evaluation, and the polished draft.
2. Next, sit down with your student to introduce the **For the Student** pages. These pages provide information that can be referenced as needed. During this sit down, study together the one-page **The Blueprint – Literary Essay** and read the **The Model – Literary Essay** to see the blueprint in action.

Over the course of 10-weeks your student will compose 5 singularly original literary essays. Great essays have the power to encourage, empower, and enlighten both the writer and the reader.



Research Writing: Elemental Journal

Elemental Journal is an interesting and broad introduction into the fascinating realm of chemistry. This discovery journal guides students on a wonderful voyage through the mysteries of the periodic table. Over the course of a year, students will research and catalog their findings of 42 of the 144 known elements. Divided into elemental groups (alkali, alkaline, transition, boron, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, halogens, noble gases, lanthanides, actinides, and superheavies), each group begins with a reading assignment that gives general information about that group. Students are then prompted to independently research the resources and write a brief paragraph about their discoveries. Space is provided to catalog the element's characteristic data. Each week, as a culminating activity, students visit the University of Nottingham Periodic Table of Videos on the internet, click on the particular element, and, in a few sentences, summarize the information they find intriguing.

How to get started:

1. At the front of the student journal is a blank map that can be completed by the student as element research is completed.
2. Read closely the **Table of Contents** and the introductory material in the student guide: **What you Will Need, How this Guide is Organized** and **How to Use this Guide**. These few pages will enable you to support your student along the way.
3. Flip through the first few sections of the student guide to familiarize yourself with what is expected of the student.

Everything you can imagine is made of the elements! This guide will provide your student with a broad introduction to the foundation of chemistry.



Grade Level Collection | **Suggested Yearly Schedule**

The following is a suggested outline showing how the pieces of your Grade Level Collection can be puzzled together over the course of the school year. Any of the elements can be staggered and/or spread out in order to meet your particular needs, creating a varied and comprehensive learning experience.

☐ = No Assignment

Use 4 weeks to complete the story activities. Use week 5 for project build. Use week 6 for project presentation and review.

Begin on week 5.

[illegible]

Begin on week 6.

[illegible]

5 lessons, 2 weeks each.

[illegible][illegible]

This 5 week schedule is a suggested daily approach to the literature component of your Grade Level Collection.

Following a schedule similar to this will help students stay on track with weekly assignments while allowing relaxed time for reading, as well as concentrated time for thinking, writing, and editing.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 Preliminary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Section 1 reading before beginning Week 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 due Begin reading for Section 2
WEEK 1 Begin Section 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2 due Begin reading for Section 3 Brainstorm ideas for Section 5
WEEK 2 Begin Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 1 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 3 due Begin reading for Section 4 Develop your idea and plan Section 5
WEEK 3 Begin Section 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 2 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 4 due Continue developing and planning Section 5
WEEK 4 Begin Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion questions from Section 1 Complete vocabulary Begin notes (Character/Setting/Plot) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notes (Character/Setting/Plot) Begin comprehension questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write rough draft Complete notes & comprehension questions if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit rough draft and conference with an adult Write final draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 due Begin reading for next guide
WEEK 5 Begin Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute Section 5 >> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5 due Begin reading for next guide