

 SCHOLASTIC



NEW  
for  
GRADES 6-9

# Expert 21 and the Common Core State Standards

*Expert 21 is the only new English Language Arts program created from the ground up and based upon the foundational research and working drafts of the* **Common Core State Standards.**

# Introducing EXPERT 21

*Unlike other programs that may be “retrofitted” to meet the standards, Expert 21 is the only new English Language Arts program that was created, from the ground up, using the foundational research and working drafts of the Common Core State Standards.*

*Designed to ensure **all** students are college and career ready, Expert 21 aligns to the substance and spirit of the Common Core State Standards:*

- ✓ Mix of 60% informational texts and 40% literature selections.
- ✓ Instructional design that builds knowledge and understanding through increasingly complex texts, skill development, and assignments.
- ✓ A diverse array of genres including short story, poem, myth, infographic, magazine article, play, and more.
- ✓ Explicit instruction on using data to make an argument, understanding and evaluating persuasive techniques, supporting recommendations with evidence, and more.
- ✓ Daily opportunities for academic discussion in one-on-one, small-group, and whole-class settings.
- ✓ Vocabulary and language development through direct instruction, conversation and writing prompts, and repeated readings of text.
- ✓ The only English Language Arts program with explicit instruction in 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills such as navigating the web, asking good questions, reaching group consensus, and more.
- ✓ Access to web-based technology featuring 125,000+ leveled nonfiction articles, with reader and task scaffolds, to extend learning on every workshop.

# READING

## KEY POINTS

in English Language Arts,  
Common Core State Standards

## expert 21 ALIGNMENT

Through a diverse array of **classic and contemporary literature** as well as **challenging informational texts**, students build knowledge, gain insights, explore possibilities, and broaden their perspective.

- The readings in Expert 21 are 60% informational texts and 40% literature selections.
- Web component provides access to an additional 125,000+ leveled nonfiction articles.
- Readings were selected to provoke critical thinking, discussion, and help students read to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information and data.
- Readings allow students to learn about the world they live in and build understanding of different perspectives, cultures, and global issues.

Student must have access to **critical types of content** including classic myths and stories from around the world, foundational U.S. documents, and seminal works of American literature.

- Each workshop features the most diverse collection of genres including short story, myth, play, magazine article, infographic, interview, and more.
- Sample readings include: *Fa Mulan* (Legend) • *The Boy Who Lived With Bears* (Play: Native American Folktale) • *The Road Not Taken* (Poem) • *Escape From the Land of the Cyclops* (Myth) • *Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together* (Nonfiction Book Adaptation)
- Expert 21's virtual learning environment includes access to a wealth of primary sources, images, and documents.

A “**staircase**” of increasing **complexity** establishes what students must be able to read so that all students are ready for college- and career-level reading.

- The Expert 21 instructional design builds knowledge and understanding through increasingly complex texts, skill development, and assignments.
- Teachers are supported as they model instruction and monitor learning; these scaffolds gradually decrease over time.
- Each workshop exposes students to slightly below, on, and above grade level readings.
- Stretch texts expose students to more complex text in print and online.

## TEXT COMPLEXITY IN EXPERT 21

### Qualitative

Levels of meaning, purpose, knowledge, and more will deepen as students progress across texts, workshops, and courses.

### Quantitative

Expert 21 incorporates the Lexile® framework to ensure that complexity in sentence length, word frequency, and more grows each year.

### Reader and Task

Each workshop features an expert question, anchor video, and “internship” on a page to motivate students with a purpose for reading and to build background and content-area knowledge.

# SPEAKING & LISTENING

## KEY POINTS

in English Language Arts,  
Common Core State Standards



## ALIGNMENT

An important focus is **academic discussion in one-on-one, small group, and whole-class settings**. Formal presentations are one important way, but so is the informal discussion that takes place as students collaborate.

Students should **gain, evaluate and present increasingly complex information, ideas, and evidence** through listening and speaking, as well as through media.

- Expert 21 is the only English Language Arts program that offers daily opportunities for students to listen, reflect, and share ideas with peers.
- The teacher's guide and professional development resources provide structured routines for student collaboration in pairs, small groups, and as a whole class.
- Only Expert 21 embeds explicit instruction in critical thinking skills such as asking good questions, listening effectively, sharing feedback, reaching consensus, and more.
- Expert 21's unique "Arc of Inquiry" model engages students in real-world issues and provides daily opportunities to think, reflect, respond, and react through conversation and in writing.
- The literature, informational texts, anchor videos, and other resources serve as a springboard for building content knowledge, synthesizing information, and communicating understanding.

# LANGUAGE

## KEY POINTS

in English Language Arts,  
Common Core State Standards



## ALIGNMENT

Students will **grow their vocabularies through a mix of conversations, direct instruction, and reading**. Students will learn to determine word meanings, appreciate the nuances of words, and steadily expand their repertoire of words and phrases.

The standards help **prepare students for real life experience at college and in 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers**. Students must be able to use formal English in their writing and speaking and must make informed, skillful choices in the many ways they express themselves.

- Every reading selection in Expert 21 incorporates vocabulary instruction and skill development in: academic language • author's purpose • context clues • multiple-meaning words • roots • suffixes • base words
- Expert 21 builds proficiency of language through repeated readings of texts and daily opportunities for written response and academic discussions in small and whole group.
- Expert 21 is the only program to include an "internship" on a page—introducing students to 24 experts and over 75 careers.
- Explicit instruction, tips for success, and collaborative activities encourage students to apply the processes and dialogues that practitioners do to reinforce learning.
- Within each workshop, students are challenged to think, write, and talk about their futures through real-world assignments such as creating an action plan, writing a college admissions essay, and more.

# WRITING

## KEY POINTS

in English Language Arts,  
Common Core State Standards



## ALIGNMENT

Students must possess the **ability to write logical arguments** based on substantive claims, sound reasoning, and relevant evidence.

- Students receive direct instruction on how to use data to make an argument, understand and evaluate persuasive techniques, support recommendations with evidence, and more. Assignments range from writing a persuasive essay on why donors should support a cause to writing an editorial arguing ways to stop cheating in schools.
- Expert 21 is the only program that offers daily opportunities for students to write to reflect, inform, explain, analyze, persuade, influence, and entertain.
- The Traits of Writing provide a consistent schema to support students as they sharpen their ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, use of conventions, and presentation.
- Expert 21 includes models and rubrics so that students develop the skills and self-monitoring habits of good writers.

Research—both **short, focused projects and longer term in-depth research**—is emphasized since written analysis and presentation of findings are so critical.

- Each course in Expert 21 features eight Expert Projects, performance-based activities that present research, writing, and presentation opportunities.
- Each Expert Project is a real-world activity that requires the analysis and inclusion of data and information. Students may write a memo analyzing what went wrong in a disastrous hike or put together a collection of recommendations for a town's welcome guide.
- Only Expert 21 features a virtual learning environment with 125,000+ leveled nonfiction articles, web links, and more to support research. Students will also find videos that model best practices in evaluating sources, note taking, and other research skills.
- Using the Expert Files, as well as the virtual learning environment, students and teachers will find hundreds of additional projects and activities that vary in format and outcome.

# MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

## KEY POINTS

in English Language Arts,  
Common Core State Standards



## ALIGNMENT

Just as media and technology are integrated in school and life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, **skills related to media** are integrated into the standards.

- Expert 21 is the only English Language Arts program to seamlessly use web-based technology and media to build background knowledge, develop research and writing skills, extend learning, and strengthen key 21<sup>st</sup> Century information literacy skills.
- Only in Expert 21 do students receive direct instruction in essential 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills such as email etiquette, creating a podcast, social networking, writing a resume, and more.

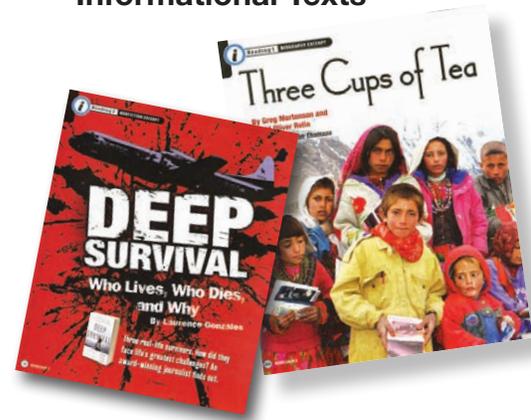
## Classic and Contemporary Literature



## 125,000+ Leveled Nonfiction Articles Online



## Challenging Informational Texts



## Daily Opportunities for Discussion

**21** Expert Knowledge

### Does the thrill of adventure outweigh the risks?

Adventure, beauty, and a desire to test themselves drive explorers on their quests. This workshop celebrates great explorers and the adventures they've taken.

**Anchor Your Knowledge**  
Read the Anchor Video, "Adventures in Expert 21," and read from the text. A paragraph will come to the fore in the process of adventure. Check back to the statements you still agree with.

**Opinionaire**  
Below the workshop, you'll be asked to take the side of each statement in the chart below that you agree with. Then, come back after the workshop. Pick a check next to the statements you still agree with.

| Anchor Workshop | TOPIC: Exploring  | Anchor Workshop |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|                 | You must plan yourself to the limit to survive in the wild.                               |                 |
|                 | The thrill of adventure is worth the risk.  |                 |
|                 | No matter how many times you fail, you should always try again.                           |                 |
|                 | The things you see for yourself are only a part of the story.                             |                 |
|                 | Surviving harsh environments is more of a mental challenge than a physical one.           |                 |
|                 | The most beautiful places in the world are the hardest ones to get to.                    |                 |
|                 | When something goes wrong during an expedition, it's usually because it has been planned. |                 |
|                 | Big questions can be solved with small answers.   |                 |
|                 | There's not much left of "the planet" that really makes a difference.                     |                 |

**WORKSHOP GOALS**  
To gain expert knowledge about explorers, you will:

- study informational texts about the achievements of famous explorers.
- read literature about some great classic adventures.
- learn important skills and strategies to help you understand about the world.
- develop 21st Century Skills to understand how to analyze areas and analyze risk.
- write a compare-and-contrast essay about explorers.
- do an Expert Project to analyze what most means during an expedition.

## Explicit 21st Century Instruction



## Daily Opportunities for Writing and Reflection



## Real World Career Connections

**CAREER CONNECTION** Arts, A/V Technology, and Communication  
[www.careerclusters.org](http://www.careerclusters.org)

Go to **21** Toolkit Expert File 6.18 to learn more about careers in photography.

**RELATED JOBS:** video or photo editor, wilderness guide, environmental scientist, geologist, park ranger

## Anchor Videos for Background Knowledge



## Real World Projects and Assignments

**21** PROJECT RESEARCH

### What's your Carbon Footprint?

**THE EVENTS**  
Imagine you are an adult citizen. You have a budget of \$100. When you visit Earth's National Environmental Science Center, you are asked to calculate your carbon footprint. "Carbon footprint" is a term used to describe the total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that you produce because of your actions. How big is your carbon footprint and what can you do to reduce it?

**YOUR MISSION**  
You will make a plan to reduce your carbon footprint. To do so, you will:

- Examine the data of a carbon footprint.
- Explain the negative impact of a carbon footprint.
- Calculate data about your own energy use.
- Calculate your carbon footprint and decide how to reduce it.
- Write a press release.

**EXPLORE THE CONCEPT**  
Examine the concept. Read the anchor video, "How to Calculate Your Carbon Footprint." In your own words, explain what a carbon footprint is.

**EXPLAIN WHY IT MATTERS**  
Read the anchor video, "How to Calculate Your Carbon Footprint." How do you think your carbon footprint affects the environment? Look again at the data and explain the connection to the anchor video. Check and Sign! Write three effects below.



Ensure your students are college and career ready with Expert 21.

[www.scholastic.com/expert21](http://www.scholastic.com/expert21)