



Common Core State Standards

Grade 8



The Mutt-i-grees[®] Curriculum & Common Core State Standards



The Mutt-i-grees[®] Curriculum is designed for use in various classroom settings and afterschool programs. It can be used on its own or integrated within core academic subject areas. Each lesson includes a selection of activities aligned with the Common Core State Standards Initiative. In the pages that follow, we outline some of the ways in which the Mutt-i-grees[®] Curriculum matches up with the Common Core, especially in the areas of Speaking & Listening, Language, Writing, and Reading of Informational Text. When teachers and students read fiction and informational trade books recommended in the Mutt-i-grees[®] Library, other Common Core State Standards, especially those focused on *close reading* should also be incorporated into those lessons as teachers see fit.

The following document was prepared by a team of teacher advisors including Natalie Horton, Valerie Lawson, and Jim Messina.



Grade Eight: Common Core State Standards Unit 1: Achieving Awareness



Lesson 1.1 *What's In a Name?*

Common Core Standard: **Reading: Informational Text > Craft & Structure**

RI.8.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Lesson 1.2 *The Mutt-i-grees® Files*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. **SL.8.1c.** *Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.*

Lesson 1.3 *Pawsitive Thinking*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. **W.8.3a-e should also be reinforced.**

Lesson 1.4 *Bouncing Back*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
W.8.2a-f should also be reinforced.

Lesson 1.5 *One Day at a Time*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Lesson 1.6 *With A Little Help From . . .*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 1.7 *Mindset*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.



Grade Eight: Common Core State Standards Unit 2: Finding Feelings



Lesson 2.1 *Putting Feelings Into Words*

Common Core Standard: **Language > Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**

L.8.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. **L.8.5b** *Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.*

Lesson 2.2 *What Is Your Body Language Saying?*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.3. Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

Lesson 2.3 *Unspoken Words*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. **SL.8.1d.** *Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.*

Lesson 2.4 *(Emotional) Strength Training*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. **W.8.3a.** *Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.*

Lesson 2.5 *Inner Workings*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Lesson 2.6 *Growling Mad*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 2.7 *Take a Break*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.



Grade Eight: Common Core State Standards

Unit 3: Encouraging Empathy



Lesson 3.1 *Different Points of View*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

Lesson 3.2 *Lend an Ear*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 3.3 *Smile And . . .*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

Lesson 3.4 *Yes, We Care!*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Lesson 3.5 *How Do They Feel?*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

Lesson 3.6 *Little Things*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas**

SL.8.4. Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Lesson 3.7 *A Dog's Point of View*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. **W.8.3a-e should also be integrated.**



Grade Eight: Common Core State Standards Unit 4: Cultivating Cooperation



Lesson 4.1 *We Can Do This!*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Research to Build and Present Knowledge**

W.8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.

Lesson 4.2 *Peak Performance*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Production and Distribution of Writing**

W.8.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Lesson 4.3 *Man's Best Friend*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.

Lesson 4.4 *The Dog Park Bully*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. **W.8.3a-e should be reinforced.**

Lesson 4.5 *The Reason a Dog Has So Many Friends*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 4.6 *Think Big, Start Small*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Lesson 4.7 *Common Goal*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.



Grade Eight: Common Core State Standards

Unit 5: Dealing with Decisions



Lesson 5.1 *Choices and Consequences*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Lesson 5.2 *Making a Difference*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2b. Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

Lesson 5.3 *The Four Paws of Problem-Solving*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Text Types and Purposes**

W.8.2d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

Lesson 5.4 *Taking Charge*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 5.5 *Sixth Sense*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.

Lesson 5.6 *Signs of Progress*

Common Core Standard: **Speaking & Listening > Comprehension and Collaboration**

SL.8.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Lesson 5.7 *Time to Celebrate!*

Common Core Standard: **Writing > Production and Distribution of Writing**

W.8.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.