The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

Overview
These standards describe what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready in the 21st century. Students who master the standards will be fluent readers, critical thinkers, informative writers, effective speakers, and engaged listeners. They will effectively comprehend complex informational and literary texts and respond, as warranted by the task, using technology as a source of information and a means of communication.

The standards are divided into four strands: reading, (including literature and informational text and foundational skills), writing, speaking and listening, and language. The standards are organized by grade level for kindergarten through grade eight and by two grade spans for high school.

For grades six through twelve, the standards are covered in two sections, one for English language arts and the other for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. The intention of these two sections is to promote an interdisciplinary approach to literacy. In K-5, these two sections are integrated into the four strands of the standards.

As Washington State moves to the Common Core State Standards eleventh and twelfth grades will be included for first time. This snapshot features some of these new standards.

Reading
• Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant, e.g., through the use of satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement. (RL.11-12.2)*
• Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the test, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text. (RI.11-12.2)

Writing
• Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. (W.11-12.2)

Speaking and Listening
• Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data. (SL.11-12.2)

Language
• Interpret figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyze their role in the text. (L.11-12.5a)

Specific information on the CCSS can be found at: http://www.corestandards.org

*Individual grade-specific standards can be identified by their strand, grade, and standard number.
For example, RL.11-12.2 stands for Reading Literature Text, grades 11-12, standard 2.