# Grade Eight Curriculum Picks

Many of these curriculum picks can be **borrowed for preview purposes** through the **Learning Commons Search Portal** or accessed through our **Sora** virtual library at no cost. If you are ready to purchase, **some** recommended curriculum may be available through our **Used Bookstore**, or resources can be purchased from one of our **comprehensive vendors**.

**Vendor websites are pick-and-choose and some optional or alternate suggestions may be listed, so select your items with care.**

## Overview Of Grade 8 Curriculum Picks

Here is an overview of the curriculum picks that we suggest for Grade 8. Please note that some subjects provide more than one option. For more information about the curriculum, please refer to the information under **Detailed Information for Grade 8 Curriculum Picks.**

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|---|---|
| **English Language Arts** | • Option A (integrated literature focus with composition): Lightning Literature Level Storm Student Workbooks and Teacher's Guide with The Rainy Day Reader, Elijah of Buxton, Prairie Lotus, All Creatures Great and Small, The Hobbit, A Day of Pleasure, and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.<br><br>OR<br><br>• Option B: Essentials in Writing 8 with novels studies (as follows or alternate novels/stories): Crispin: The Cross of Lead with Classroom Complete Press Literature Kit, Progeny Press Study, or Total Language Plus Focus Guide; Trumpeter of Krakow with Total Language Plus Study Guide; The Door in the Wall with Progeny Press Study Guide or Total Language Plus Focus Guide.<br><br>OR<br><br>• Option C (lighter option): Writing Strands by Master Books Intermediate 2 (or level as per placement test results); novels: Trumpeter of Krakow; Crispin: The Cross of Lead; Door in the Wall; Anna of Byzantium and/or other novels or stories as assigned by parent/teacher. |
| **Mathematics** | • Dynamic Classroom BC Grade 8<br><br>OR<br><br>• Theory and Problems for Mathematics 8 - Third Edition by Crescent Beach Publishing<br><br>OR<br><br>• Singapore Dimensions Math 7A and 7B Textbooks and Teacher's Guides |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Science** | • **BC Science Connections 8 textbook and workbook** (biology, chemistry, physics, and earth/space combined in one resource)<br><br>**OR ALL of the following:**<br><br>Biology<br>• Apologia Exploring Creation with General Science (Modules 10, 11)<br>• The Genesis of Germs (Master Books) by Allen L Gillen<br><br>Chemistry<br>• Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science (Module 3)<br><br>Physics<br>• Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science (Module 10)<br><br>Earth Science<br>• Apologia Exploring Creation with General Science (Module 6) OR Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science (Module 12) Both cover the same content in regard to Earth's crust.<br>• What Is the Theory of Plate Tectonics? by Craig Saunders |
| **Social Studies** | • Romans, Reformers, Revolutionaries Essentials Pack by Diana Waring |
| **Bible/Christian Studies** | • Foundations in Faith (Set by MasterBooks) |
| **Optional Resources**<br>(not detailed below) | • Hydraulics STEM Starters by Teacher Created Resources (ADST)<br>• Find Your Fit Book, and Find Your Fit Discovery Workbook 2018 Edition by Kevin Johnson (Career Education)<br>• Making Smart Financial Choices by Diane Dakers (Mathematics)<br>• ACSI's Total Health: Talking About Life's Changes by Susan Boe Student Textbook and Workbook (Health) |

# Detailed Information for Grade 8 Curriculum Picks

# English Language Arts

## Option A: Lightning Literature Level Storm Student Workbooks and Teacher's Guide With Readers

**Type of Resource:** Home Education Curriculum
**Description:** Rooted in our commitment to excellence, this revamped edition harmonizes with the design and approach of our elementary levels, ensuring a consistent and progressive learning experience for your young literary enthusiasts. Dive deep into a curriculum meticulously designed to span 36 weeks. Our comprehensive Teacher's Guide covers the entire academic year, ensuring a seamless teaching experience. For students, we've made the learning journey more digestible by splitting the workbook into two separate books, each tailored for an 18-week semester.
**Readers:** The Rainy Day Reader, Elijah of  Buxton, Prairie Lotus, All Creatures Great and Small, The Hobbit, A Day of Pleasure, and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.
**Teacher's Guide:** Navigate Level Storm of Lightning Literature with ease using our comprehensive Teacher's Guide. Expertly designed to cover a full 36-week academic year, this guide offers instructors clear, step-by-step instructions and insights to enrich the teaching experience. Seamlessly bridging classic literature with contemporary learning techniques, it's the indispensable companion for educators seeking to provide students with a transformative literary journey. Equip yourself with the best to unlock your student's potential.
**Student Guides:** Each of these two guides is carefully tailored for an 18-week journey; this workbook dives into a diverse selection of literature and enhances students' comprehension, critical thinking, and writing skills.

Website

Samples: Teacher' Guide, Student Workbook 1 Sample, Student Workbook 2 Sample

## Option B: Essentials in Writing 8 with novels studies

(as follows or alternates): Trumpeter of Krakow with Total Language Plus Study Guide; Crispin: The Cross of Lead with Progeny Press Study Guide or Total Language Plus Focus Guide; Door in the Wall with Progeny Press Study Guide or Total Language Plus Focus Guide; another novel and novel study as per interests/goals of the student

**Type of Resource:** Homes education curriculum

**Description:** EIW Level 8 is a homeschool writing curriculum that teaches middle school students ages 13 to 14 how to write meaningful sentences, proper grammar, and sentence mechanics as well as the writing process for narrative/descriptive/expository/ persuasive writing. Instruction on effective writing techniques and much more are included as well. The step-by-step approach allows students to focus on small, daily assignments, so they don't feel overwhelmed. Level 8 includes a textbook/workbook and contains a video lesson component.
Lesson-by-lesson video instruction is provided via streaming or DVD. These lessons are essential to the program and must be used in conjunction with the textbook/workbook combo book. Note that additional workbooks may be purchased if there are additional students in the family taking the course.

**Website**

**Placement Test (Level Wizard)**

**Review**

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

- 34-week plan

**Sample Video Lesson**

**Table of Contents and PDF Sample**

**Free Trial**

## Option C: Writing Strands by Master Books Intermediate 2 (or level as per placement test results)

Novels: Trumpeter of Krakow; Crispin: The Cross of Lead; Door in the Wall; Anna of Byzantium and/or other novels or stories assigned by parent/teacher.

**Type of Resource:** Home education workbook
**Description:** *Writing Strands Intermediate 2* will help your junior high student study writing string arguments, dialogue, papers, and letters, as well as literary elements like theme, genre, point of view, and tone. This language arts curriculum is ideal for a 6-9 grade level. In this comprehensive course, students will discover how narrative voice and attitude influence the reader, the elements of an effective written argument, explore character voice and dialogue, and so much more!
This resource takes a comprehensive approach to language arts, teaching students how to construct effective paragraphs, write persuasively and explore narrative voice while also developing the student's reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will learn how to read and evaluate literature, practice spelling, analyze worldview, and write a story.
Students will rotate writing and reading assignments each week—thus also learning to write through literature because good readers make good writers! Additionally, the Bible is used as the literature base for teaching how narrative voice and attitude can be used to form captivating pieces of literature.

> **Note from Curriculum Consultant:** This resource alternates weekly between writing assignments and reading assignments. The teacher/parent is asked to assign a different book for every other week's reading lesson.

Website

Writing Strands Overview Video

Placement Tests

Review

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

- Writing Strands: Teaching Companion

Table of Contents and PDF Sample Pages

Scope and Sequence

# Novels

> **Note from Curriculum Consultant:** Alternate novels can be chosen. The ones below are cross-curricular historical fiction selections set in the Middle Ages (a period of study in Social Studies for grade 8 students). Alternate options can be found at Progeny Press, Total Language Plus, or Classroom Complete Press.

## Novel #1: Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi and Novel Study Guide by Classroom Complete Press

> **Note from Curriculum Consultant**: Progeny Press and Total Language Plus also have guides for this novel as alternatives.

**Type of Resource:** novel and workbook
**Description:** This all-in-one resource provides everything needed for student comprehension, including vocabulary and writing prompts with each chapter. Determine whether Crispin would support the viewpoint, "cruelty is contagious in uncivilized communities". Brainstorm possible inscriptions on Crispin's cross that would cause Bear's reaction. Investigate the trade of a tinker as it would appear during the time of the novel. Consider the battle between Bear and John Aycliffe from a different perspective, then complete a chart. Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom's Taxonomy, additional crossword, word search, comprehension quiz and answer key are also included.

About the Novel: Crispin: The Cross of Lead is the Newbery Medal-winning story of a young boy hiding from the law. Set in 14th Century England, a young boy—only known as Crispin—finds himself on the run from Lord Furnival and his evil steward, John Aycliffe. When Crispin overhears the private conversation of Aycliffe and another man in the forest, he becomes the object of a massive hunt. Crispin then flees from the area after his only allies—his mother and Father Quinel—are dead. Crispin soon meets up with Bear—a travelling entertainer—who trains him in the arts of the mummer. However, Bear is not what he seems, and Crispin is thrown into a life full of dangerous adventures that lead to a dramatic ending, where the secret of Crispin's heritage is revealed.

**Website**

**Video Overview**

**Reviews** (scroll down on left side)

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

**PDF Samples** (select sample page images on the left side)

## Novel #2 Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly and Total Language Plus Study Guide

**Type of Resource:** novel with optional Total Language Plus Study Guide
**About the Novel:** Joseph and his family gave their word to protect the Great Tarnov Crystal, but can they survive the violent, superstitious inhabitants of the city of Krakow?

**Website**

**Video Overview**

**Teacher's Manual**

**How Novel Studies Work**

## Novel #3 The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli and Total Language Plus Focus Guide

**About the Novel:** Now that Robin's legs are useless, he will never serve the king as a knight like his father planned. But Brother Luke says, "Thou hast only to follow the wall far enough, and there will be a door in it." Will Robin be a disappointment to his father, or can he find his "door"?
**Type of Resource:** novel with optional Total Language Plus Focus Guide
**Description:** Focus Guides center on specific character traits and/or writing skills. Some use extensive scripture. All take approximately three weeks to complete. The lessons do not include vocabulary or spelling worksheets; neither do they list optional activities such as field trips or hands-on suggestions found in our regular study guides. The listed titles are not available as study guides; these are Focus Guides only. An * by the writing description indicates the guide includes detailed writing instruction.

**Website**

**Instructional Video for Focus Guides**

# Math

> Select one of the following math programs (A or B or C) below

## Option A: Dynamic Classroom BC Grade 8

**Type of Resource:** Workbook
**Description:** aligned to BC's curriculum

- Detailed explanations of every topic with step-by-step guided examples with solutions.
- A series of problems for the student to practice the concept they just learned. Questions start out easy and gradually increase in difficulty. Challenging questions are provided for those students that really want to push themselves.
- Practice tests for each chapter/unit in the book.
- An answer key for all questions in the book.
- Students can get extra support through the website that provides additional worksheets and a limited selection of video lessons when you create an online account.
- A complete set of video lessons (a paid service) where you can watch a math teacher while they explain a concept and then walk you through some examples.

**Website**
**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

- Extra Worksheets and Resources
- Math Videos (monthly paid subscription, about $11/month)

**Table of Contents and PDF Sample Pages**

## Option B: Crescent Beach Publishing Theory and Problems for Mathematics 8 - Third Edition

**Description:** aligned to BC's curriculum

- Written to be used as a primary teaching resource
- Contains a comprehensive explanation of the subject for each section
- 364 detailed example questions
- Hundreds of practice problems with answers and step by step solutions where necessary
- Space is given for each practice question to complete the problem, and keep the work organized all in one place

**Website**

**Table of Contents**

**PDF Sample Pages**

> **Note:** this resource may not be available from vendors other than Crescent Beach Publishing; see our **Resource Vendor Directory** for ordering details.

## Option C: Singapore Dimensions Math 7A and 7B Textbooks and Teaching Notes/Solutions

**Type of Resource:** Home education/classroom curriculum
**Description:** The program emphasizes problem-solving and empowers students to think mathematically, both inside and outside the classroom. Pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, data analysis, probability, and some advanced math topics are included in this rigorous series. The series follows the principles outlined in the Singapore mathematics framework, including the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) Approach, bar modelling, and more. In the Dimensions Math program, concepts are introduced and explained in a new format with vibrant imagery, all with the progression and scope that has defined Singapore math.
**Components**

- Textbooks build on prior knowledge and develop familiar concepts in an accessible way.
- Workbooks offer independent practise while maintaining the careful progression of exercise variation.
- Teaching Notes and Solutions provide teaching suggestions and important information for educators to help students achieve math mastery.
- Workbook Solutions contain fully worked solutions for problems in workbooks.

**Components Samples**

- 7A Textbook
- 7A Workbook
- 7A Teaching Notes and Solutions
- 7B Textbook
- 7B Workbook

> **Note from Curriculum Consultant:** This US-based resource is advanced for BC standards, and books 6 - 8A align reasonably well (although not entirely) with BC's curriculum for grades 7 - 9. There are sufficient exercises in the textbook for many students, and so the workbook may not be necessary (and may even be frustrating) for students who learn quickly. For students who require repetition and extra practice, the workbook (and workbook solutions) are recommended. Even though this resource does not completely align with BC's curriculum, it was chosen for its proven approach which has been a favourite with home educators for many years. It is a rigorous program that generally works best for students who have demonstrated an aptitude for math. Those looking towards using this program to prepare for the BC grad course, *Foundations and Math and Pre-Calculus 10* should be aware that levels 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B and 8A should be sufficient preparation. That is 5 books over 3 years, and so in terms of pacing, one would be looking at completing approximately 1 and 2/3 books per year, allowing for a slightly less rigorous pace than the standard 2 books per year.

**Website**

**Review**

**Scope and Sequence**

**Brochure**

# Science

> Some science standards for Grades 7 - 9 are addressed when both Apologia's Exploring Creation with General Science and Exploring Creation with Physical Science are used in Grades 7 - 9. See this spreadsheet for correlations.

## BC Science Connections 8 Textbook and Workbook

**Description:** The BC Science Connections program is 100% Curriculum-aligned and supports inquiry-based learning. It leverages students' natural sense of curiosity and wonders so they learn by actively engaging in activities while having access to clear, concise, and highly visual curriculum-specific content to support knowing, doing and understanding.

- Inquire - new activities and labs offer a wide variety of problem-based and inquiry options from directed, guided and open to meet student needs.
- Connect - written by a trusted team of BC educators with years of classroom experience who have actively worked on implementing the new curriculum.

**Key Features:**
- Supports place-based learning and integrates First Peoples' ways of knowing into your science classroom.
- Builds students' confidence with solid science content that is easy to understand and provides the background necessary to personalized inquiry.
- Engages students with relevant science content, dynamic visuals and intriguing labs.
- Develops and supports scientific literacy, engages students with dynamic content, lab experiences and a rich array of resources to ensure students understand the big idea.

Website

The textbook is available for extended loan through the Learning Commons Search Portal. If you would like to write in the workbook, it can be purchased from Anchor Academic.

Only HCOS teachers can access the Teacher Guide.

The science resources below this callout must all be used together to address BC's Curriculum standards.

# Biology

## Apologia Exploring Creation with General Science Textbook, Solutions and Test Manual, and Student Notebook (Modules 10,11) *

**Type of Resource:** Home Education Curriculum
**Description**: This resource was created to give middle school students an understanding of the basic world that surrounds them each day so that they can appreciate the real-world relevance of scientific inquiry and the beauty of creation. This course covers a wide range of branches of science while making the connections between each. A large component of Earth Science (modules include astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, earth study, geology, paleontology, and environmental science) gives students a great foundation for that broad field of study. Students will learn what science is and, in a detailed and engaging way, how to utilize the proper scientific method. This course has many hands-on science experiments that can be completed with household materials.

Website

Review

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

- Streaming Instructional Video OR Video Instruction Thumb Drive
- MP3 Download/Audiobook

Table of Contents and PDF Sample Pages

## The Genesis of Germs Revised Edition by Allen L Gillen (Master Books)

**Type of Resource:** Homeschool Curriculum
**Description:** Learn how constantly mutating diseases are proof of devolution rather than evolution and how these germs fit into a biblical worldview. Dr. Gillen shows how germs are symptomatic of the fall and curse of creation due to man's sin and our hope in the coming of Jesus Christ.

Website

Sample and Table of Contents

> Note from Curriculum Consultant: This resource is aimed at a high school audience. Students may need support working through the content.

# Chemistry

## Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science Textbook, Solutions and Test Manual, and Student Notebook (Module 3)

**Type of Resource:** Home education curriculum
**Description:** Middle school students are taught the methods they will need to succeed in high school science courses. Using a conversational tone, we present challenging science concepts and thought-provoking experiments in an easily navigated, personalized format to help students methodically learn, self-check, and master difficult concepts before moving on. We also keep science relevant. Additional online materials are available through a book extras portal so that students can see science in action. This course covers:

- The basics of science including the scientific process, scientific theories and laws, inferences and models, and measurement and units
- Chemistry including properties and states of matter, atomic structure and the periodic table, chemical bonds and reactions and energy
- Physics including motion, forces, energy, waves and sound, light and electricity and magnetism
- Earth Science including the Earth's structure and processes and our atmosphere and beyond
- Chemistry and Physics in the life sciences
- Physical Science research

Website

Review

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resource:**

MP3 Audio CD

> "Note from Curriculum Consultant: Although this resource is lengthy, it is conversational in its approach and makes science concepts interesting and accessible for students. Supplementation will be necessary to address all the standards of BC's curriculum. Please converse with your teacher regarding the best course of action to ensure standards are appropriately addressed.

# Physics

**Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science Textbook, Solutions and Test Manual, and Student Notebook (Module 10- see above for details)**

# Earth Science

**Apologia Exploring Creation with General Science** (Module 6) **OR**

**Apologia Exploring Creation with Physical Science** (Module 12)

> See the descriptions in the Biology and Chemistry sections above. Both of these resources cover the same content about Earth's crust.

## What Is the Theory of Plate Tectonics? by Craig Saunders

**Type of Resource:** Nonfiction book
**Available in the Learning Commons**

- Physical Book
- eBook

**Description:** In 1912, German meteorologist Alfred Wegener published his groundbreaking theory of continental displacement. His theory proposed that the continents were once a single land mass but had slowly moved apart over millions of years. This fascinating book examines the scientific process behind Wegener's theory and how it challenged prevailing views of the time. Readers will discover how, years after Wegener's death, his theory was embraced by scientists and is now the basis for modern earth science.

Website and Excerpt

# Social Studies

## Romans, Reformers, Revolutionaries Essentials Pack

**Type of Resource:** Home education curriculum
**Key Features:**

- Quick Start Guide to help you easily navigate through the 4-Phase structure
- Basic Lesson Plan to give you confidence for each week's activities
- Teacher Guide to provide helpful background information suggested resources, motivating suggestions, and much more
- Student Manual to introduce each era, offer multiple topics for further exploration, encourage hands-on participation, and invite creative expression
- What in the World Vol 2 CD set to bring history to life through audio instruction and stories
- Rubrics Set to help the student know what is expected and to help parent/teacher evaluate the student's creative work (qualitative assessment)
- Test Kit to allow students to demonstrate what they've learned (quantitative assessment).

The Essentials Pack includes:  Teacher Guide, Student Manual, What in the World Volume 2 CD Set, Test Kit, Rubric Set, Quick-Start Guide and Basic Lesson Plan

> **Note from Curriculum Consultant:** Assignments could possibly be applied for credit in English Language Arts, and Arts Education as well, depending on which activities students choose. This resource may seem daunting at first, but many of the assignments are pick and choose, and students can select activities that are appealing to them. I recommend listening to a sample of the audio lessons online here, as this makes up a large portion of the teaching.

**Website**

**Review**

**Other Optional or Supplementary Resources**

- Quick Start Guide
- 3-Day and 5-Day Lesson Plan
- Lesson Planner
- Elementary Activity Book
- True Tales Vol 2 Audio Set
- Digging Deeper Vol 2 Audio Set

**PDF Samples**

- Student Manual (Grades 5-12) Sample
- Teacher Guide Sample
- Lesson Planner Sample (including Introduction)

**Additional Support:** Video Introduction (highly recommended)

# Bible/Christian Studies

## Foundations in Faith

**Type of Resource:** Home education curriculum

**Description:** *Foundations in Faith* is a homeschool curriculum designed to teach Bible doctrine to teens and preteens. Your students will learn the basics of what Christians have held true as they study Scripture along with the creeds, confessions, and catechisms used over time to instill biblical truths. These helpful tools have been written to help Christ followers cling to the authority of God's Word and avoid the pitfalls of believing heresies promoted within the culture and possibly even the church.
This one-year course is conveniently scheduled so a student can complete 20-30 minute lessons five days a week.

**Table of Contents and PDF Sample**

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