

**Oak Meadow**  
**English**  
**Third Edition**  
**Assignment Summaries and**  
**Learning Assessments**





**Grade 8**

**English**

**Third Edition**

**Assignment Summaries and  
Learning Assessments**



**Oak Meadow**

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# UNIT I: Looking Ahead

## Lesson 1

### Finding Your Voice

#### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read Section I in *The Elements of Style*.
- Read three short stories.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Summarize the plot of a short story.
- Identify the story's strengths and weaknesses.
- Connect the story to your own life.
- Complete exercises #1 and #100 in *100 Ways*.

#### Learning Checklist

Use this learning checklist to keep track of how your skills are progressing. Include notes about what you need to work on. Please remember that these skills continue to develop over time so you aren't expected to be able to do all of them yet. The main goal is to be aware of which skills you need to focus on.

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Summarize a story plot			
Identify strengths or weaknesses of a story			
Make a connection between fiction and real life			
Reflect on the writing process			

# Lesson 2

## Past, Present, Future

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read Section II in *The Elements of Style*.
- Read three short stories.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Create a story map.
- Complete exercises #24, #27, #34, #36, and #37 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Identify the main conflict of a plot			
Identify key scenes in a story			
Identify the climax and resolution of a story			
Create a story map			
Recognize the main idea and supporting details of a paragraph			
Demonstrate brainstorming a topic			
Demonstrate outlining			

# Lesson 3

## Friends and Strangers

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read Section III in *The Elements of Style*.
- Begin reading *A Wrinkle in Time*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Make a list of interesting phrases or word choices in the book.
- Complete an assignment about the author or the Newbery Medal.
- Complete exercises #2 and #5 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Identify effective phrases and word choices			
Locate relevant sources for research			
Summarize research			
Strengthen a weak piece of writing with intentional word choices			

# Lesson 4

## Journey to the Unknown

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read the first half of Section IV in *The Elements of Style*.
- Continue reading *A Wrinkle in Time*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Nominate someone for a “shining light” award.
- Write a persuasive argument.
- Complete exercises #3, #4, and #47 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Construct a persuasive argument			
Identify relevant details or examples to support an argument			
Demonstrate revision and editing skills			
Demonstrate proofreading skills			

# Lesson 5

## Fear and Courage

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read the second half of Section IV in *The Elements of Style*.
- Finish reading *A Wrinkle in Time*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Identify story examples of character development.
- Explain the difference between *like* and *equal*.
- Use descriptive writing to explain the experience of sight.
- Complete exercises #43, #44, and #45 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Show examples of how character traits are expressed in story form			
Demonstrate descriptive writing			
Identify tone in a passage of text			
Demonstrate different tones in a piece of writing			



# Lesson 6

## The Power of Love

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Write a three-paragraph essay on how love and the intellect are portrayed in the story.
- Choose a creative project to complete.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Demonstrate organization of ideas in a three-paragraph essay			
Identify relevant details or examples to support an argument			
Demonstrate revision and editing skills			
Demonstrate proofreading skills			

# Lesson 7

## The Community

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read Section V in *The Elements of Style*.
- Begin reading *The Giver*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Complete exercises #6 and #7 in *100 Ways*.
- Revise a piece of writing to demonstrate effective use of adjectives and adverbs.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Demonstrate revision technique			
Demonstrate effective use of adjectives and adverbs			

# Lesson 8

## The Receiver

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *The Giver*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Compile a list of euphemisms and reflect on their use.
- Reflect on and describe a safe environment.
- Complete exercise #8 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Identify euphemisms			
Reflect on story themes and relate it to real life			
Demonstrate effective use of verbs and verb phrases			

# Lesson 9

## The Memories

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *The Giver*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Describe how Jonas changes throughout the story.
- Choose a creative project to complete.
- Complete exercise #11 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Demonstrate precise language and intentional word choice			
Cite relevant passages from a text to support ideas			
Demonstrate variety in sentence structure			
Demonstrate effective use of prepositional phrases			

# Lesson 10

## The Decision

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Finish reading *The Giver*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Write a comparative essay.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Identify similarities and differences between two fictional worlds			
Structure a comparative essay using a block or alternating format			
Demonstrate concise and expressive writing			
Cite relevant passages from a text to support ideas			
State an opinion clearly and provide supporting evidence			

# UNIT II: Looking Behind

## Lesson 11

### Values and Beliefs

#### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Begin reading *The Magnolia Sword*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Write a two-paragraph opinion essay.
- Write a creative addition to the story.
- Complete exercises #30, #31, and #32 in *100 Ways*.

#### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Write an argument to support a claim with evidence			
Read grade-level text independently			
Determine the meaning of words and phrases in text			
Create and define similes			
Create and define metaphors			
Analyze the relevance and effectiveness of similes and metaphors			

# Lesson 12

## Character Connections

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *The Magnolia Sword*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Research the working conditions for coal miners in the early 1900s.
- Complete exercises #58, #59, and #60 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story reveal aspects of a character			
Read grade-level text independently			
Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text			
Identify slang and colloquial phrases			
Write in an authentic dialect			

# Lesson 13

## Connecting to Your Values and Beliefs

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *The Magnolia Sword*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Come up with an idea for a story within another story.
- Complete exercises #79, #80, and #81 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Manage time effectively in creating a project over two weeks			
Read grade-level text independently			
Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text			
Demonstrate the format and technique of writing business correspondence via letter or email			
Demonstrate the ability to write informal letters			



# Lesson 14

## Sharing Your Values and Beliefs

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Finish reading *The Magnolia Sword*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Write a three-paragraph essay based on the story.
- Complete exercises #75, #77, and #78 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Integrate creative, multimedia, or visual elements into a presentation to express ideas in an interesting way			
Read grade-level text independently			
Write a concise summary that includes an overview of story elements			
Reflect on the theme of the novel and provide reasoning for this choice			
Meet grade-level writing expectations for grammar, usage, and mechanics			

# Lesson 15

## Story Mapping

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Choose three short stories to read.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Create a story map.
- Complete exercises #49, #50, #51, and #52 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Identify the main conflict of a plot			
Identify key scenes in a story			
Identify the climax and resolution of a story			
Create a story map			
Develop a profile for a main character			
Describe a detailed setting			

# Lesson 16

## The Craft of the Short Story

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Choose three short stories to read.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Summarize the inner transformation of a character.
- Create an artistic interpretation of a story element.
- Complete exercises #53, #54, #55, and #76 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Describe the character arc of a story			
Express a story element in a creative way			
Identify a plot conflict, climax, and resolution			
Create a plot conflict, climax, and resolution			
Portray character development in journal format			

# Lesson 17/18

## Short Story Writing

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Complete exercises #56, #57, #61, #62, #63, and #64 in *100 Ways*.
- Write a short story.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Develop a plot with a definite beginning, middle, and end			
Develop characters that have believable or realistic characteristics			
Describe a detailed setting			
Introduce a story problem or goal			
Develop obstacles or challenges for the main character to overcome			
Maintain consistency in perspective (first-person or third-person)			
Use correct punctuation in dialogue			
Demonstrate skills in revising, editing, and proofreading			

# UNIT III: Listening

## Lesson 19

### Who Are You?

#### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read a selection of poems.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Make inferences about what a poem is expressing.
- Write a poem.
- Complete exercise #9 in *100 Ways*.

#### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Infer what is being expressed in a poem			
Write a poem			
Identify and use onomatopoeia			
Identify and use alliteration			

# Lesson 20

## Who Am I?

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read a selection of poems.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Reflect on a connection between a poem and real life.
- Write a poem.
- Complete exercise #10 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Reflect on the connection between a poem and real life			
Write a poem			
Identify clichés			
Replace clichés with original expressions			

# Lesson 21

## Uncertainty

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Begin reading *Echo*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Make a prediction about the story.
- Summarize a story event.
- Complete exercises #38, #39, #40, and #41 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Predict what will happen next in a story			
Summarize a story scene			
Write a very brief timed essay			
Edit and revise work			

# Lesson 22

## A New Start

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Complete Part One of *Echo*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Identify cultural aspects of the story.
- Choose an assignment about music to complete.
- Complete exercise #21 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Identify story details regarding the cultural setting			
Make a connection between a story and real life			
Identify and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers			



# Lesson 23

## Inseparable

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *Echo*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Choose an assignment to complete.
- Complete exercise #17 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Relate story elements to another book or real life			
Express ideas clearly in text and images			
Recognize and correct run-on sentences			

# Lesson 24

## A New Hope

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Complete Part Two of *Echo*.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Describe a character's transformation.
- Summarize a scene or story event.
- Complete exercises #22 and #23 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Describe a character arc			
Provide textual evidence to support ideas			
Identify key elements of a scene			
Summarize a scene			
Identify unnecessarily repetitious writing			
Purposefully use repetition in writing			

# Lesson 25

## Dreams

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *Echo*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Interview a musician.
- Tell two stories that are connected.
- Complete exercises, #18, #19, and #42 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Conduct an interview			
Transcribe an interview with accuracy and clarity			
Demonstrate creating a connection between two stories			
Write a 30-minute timed essay			
Communicate ideas in a logical order			
Communicate ideas using concise language			
Correct faulty parallel construction			
Demonstrate correct use of parallel construction			

# Lesson 26

## A New Song

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Finish reading *Echo*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Complete exercise #89 in *100 Ways*.
- Write a book review.
- Choose a project to complete.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Use a new word in conversation and writing			
Analyze a book review for effectiveness			
Write a book review			

# UNIT IV: Looking Inside

## Lesson 27

# Reading a Biography of a Famous Person

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Begin reading your biography or autobiography of choice.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Write what you know about the person you chose.
- Complete exercises #13 and #14 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Reflect on the purpose of a biography			
Identify and correct faulty use of colons and semicolons			
Explain when and why to use colons and semicolons			

# Lesson 28

## Reading a Biography of a Famous Person

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue or finish reading your biography/autobiography of choice.
- Create a time line of significant events in the life of the person you read about.
- Reflect on the connection between events and individual actions.
- Complete exercises #15 and #16 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Identify significant events in a person's life			
Record events in chronological order			
Create a clearly labeled time line			
Demonstrate effective use of parentheses and dashes			

# Lesson 29/30

## Writing a Biography of Someone You Know

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Complete exercises #82, #83, #84, and #88 in *100 Ways*.
- Compile a biography or autobiography.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Identify significant events in a person's life			
Report events in chronological order			
Identify how events are connected over time			
Communicate clearly a person's life story			

# Lesson 31

## The First Quarter

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Begin reading *Before the Ever After*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Write down questions related to the story.
- Complete exercises #71 and #72 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Generate complex questions related to the novel			
Respond to questions with original thought and evidence from text			
Demonstrate the effective use of line breaks in verse			
Demonstrate writing a poem in blank verse			



# Lesson 32

## The Second Quarter

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *Before the Ever After*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Find five examples of figurative language.
- Answer a philosophical question.
- Complete exercises #65, #69, and #70 in *100 Ways*.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Identify examples of figurative language			
Identify and elaborate on a literary theme			
Create examples of personification			
Compose a sonnet			

# Lesson 33

## The Third Quarter

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Continue reading *Before the Ever After*.
- Choose and use a vocabulary word of the week.
- Complete exercises #73, #74, and #67 in *100 Ways*.
- Write a haiku.
- Write a scene from two perspectives.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Write song lyrics			
Describe and write haiku			
Describe or represent a scene from two different perspectives			

# Lesson 34

## The Fourth Quarter

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Finish reading *Before the Ever After*.
- Write a one-page essay on a story theme.
- Complete a creative project.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Analyze a story theme			
Communicate ideas in a logical order			
Provide textual evidence to support ideas			
Demonstrate revision, editing, and proofreading skills			
Communicate a story element in a creative way			

# Lesson 35

## Looking In

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read a selection of poems.
- Read the Grammar Tip.
- Write about a poem you read.
- Complete exercise #29 in *100 Ways*.
- Write a poem.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Relate elements of a poem to real life			
Demonstrate stream-of-consciousness writing			
Compose a poem			

# Lesson 36

## Looking Out

### ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

- Read a selection of poems.
- Write about a poem you read.
- Write a book review.
- Revise a piece of writing.

### Learning Checklist

SKILLS	Developing	Competent	Exceeds Expectations
Summarize the plot of a story			
Analyze the effectiveness of a book's writing			
Revise a piece of writing to improve its effectiveness			
Demonstrate proofreading skills			