



Perfection Learning's *Literature & Thought* Program and Minnesota's Language Arts Academic Standards

The *Literature & Thought* program from Perfection Learning is designed to teach middle school and high school students to be critical readers and thinkers through a unique questioning strategy.

- Each anthology begins with an essential question and a set of related cluster (unit) questions. Students explore these questions through reading relevant and challenging fiction and nonfiction selections.
- As students read, they analyze, interpret, compare, and synthesize information.
- Students react to the cluster questions through writing, group discussions, and independent projects.
- At the end of the reading experience, students respond to the essential question.

The following chart explains how the *Literature & Thought* program aligns with the Minnesota Academic Standards.

	<p>A focus on a specific literary skill is included with every selection. Skills covered include symbolism, foreshadowing, irony, rhyme, mood, tone, voice, contrast, writing style, and others. This knowledge enables students to read on different levels of meaning, including literal and interpretative.</p>
<p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types of Writing • Elements of Composition • Research 	<p>Writing is used as a tool to explore the essential question and apply critical thinking skills in the <i>Literature & Thought</i> program. A writing prompt at the end of each cluster (unit) requires students to interpret the selections and relate the information to the essential question of the book. A reproducible organizer in the teacher guides helps students plan their essays.</p> <p>Rubrics in the teacher guides focus the students on specific criteria for a strong, coherent written or oral response.</p> <p>Students write an essay at the end of their reading, reflecting, and discussions that responds to the essential question of the book. This requires students to synthesize information and data from all the fiction, nonfiction, and primary source selections in the text.</p>
<p>Speaking, Listening, and viewing</p>	<p>The structure of the questioning/inquiry method in <i>Literature & Thought</i> relies strongly on sharing ideas and responding to other's responses and questions. Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on interpreting and synthesizing what they read • challenge and contribute to others' ideas • modify initial opinions as evidence demands • value and learn from their peers • become a community of learners and thinkers. <p>Discussion occurs throughout the students' reading about and exploration of the essential question. There are discussion guidelines for teachers to follow in the teacher guide.</p> <p>Project choices to display how students respond to the essential question include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research • speaking and listening (poems, debates, songs, speeches) • creative writing (short stories, newspaper articles, poems, etc.) • artistic expression (poster, leaflet, editorial cartoon, painting, cover design, etc.).