

LAUSD Secondary ELA Textbook Selection – StudySync Question Responses

1. Does the text selection reflect the demographics of LAUSD?

StudySync's English Language Arts Program and robust digital library include a diverse selection of over 2,000 texts that reflect the demographics of Los Angeles USD. Following Rudine Sims Bishop's teachings on multicultural literature, an approach most widely known as mirrors, windows, and doors, StudySync is committed to ensuring that our ever-growing library:

- reflects the diversity of our readers' cultures, identities, and experiences
- shows our readers cultures, identities, and experiences that are different from their own
- offers access both into and out of our readers' everyday condition and invites interaction



Because of StudySync's unique digital platform, our ability to grow our library is endless. Each month StudySync adds ten new texts based on feedback from teachers, administrators, and school librarians who use our program, as well as the expertise from our author, Dr. Michelle H. Martin, the Beverly Cleary Endowed Professor in Children and Youth Services at the University of Washington.

For more information, please see:

[Diversity & Representation TOC Flyer](#)

[StudySync Full Table of Contents - Grades 6 - 12.](#)

2. Are there consumables for StudySync?

Yes, the StudySync Student Edition is bound in a custom two volume consumable set for all grade levels, 6-12. Each grade level consists of 6 units, so 3 units are included in each volume. The consumable text allows students to truly engage with the text – to read, annotate, and respond right in their Student Edition. Research shows that this active engagement with the consumable leads to stronger retention of the strategies and skills practiced.

3. Will the schools get class sets of hard copies of the texts for students when internet is down or students lose laptop?

The StudySync Student Edition is a two-volume consumable that schools will receive on an annual basis for the duration of the adoption, for each and every student. Students also have full offline access to the Student Edition and all StudySync assignments through the StudySync app.

4. Do these resources integrate with Schoology (posting assignments/materials)?

Yes, StudySync is fully integrated with Schoology. Assignments, materials, and grades from StudySync will be synced with Schoology. McGraw Hill and Los Angeles Unified have partnered together for several years on various integrations within the district, including existing integrations with the Schoology platform.

For more information about Schoology and StudySync Integration, please [click here](#).

5. Are graded assignments on StudySync linked to the schoology grade book?

Yes, assignments and grades from StudySync will be synced with Schoology and the Schoology Gradebook. McGraw Hill and Los Angeles Unified have partnered together for several years on various integrations within the district, including existing integrations with the Schoology platform.

For more information about Schoology and StudySync Integration, please [click here](#).

6. StudySync: Are the novels embedded on the platform?

Currently, 265 texts are available in full in both PDF and ePub formats. This number will continue to grow as the StudySync Library expands in years to come. In addition to the suggested novel studies in the core program, StudySync seeks to make available as wide a range of full-length works as possible.

7. Will Teachers have access to current units like a moral compass?

The current 2017 units are not found in the exact same format in the 2021 copyright. However, many of the much-loved texts from the previous edition are found within the Core ELA/ELD units or the Library section of the 2021 program. Texts available in the StudySync Library are accompanied by Reading Quizzes, Think questions, at least three writing prompt options, and, where applicable, StudySyncTV episodes and discussion questions. These texts can also easily be pulled into your own customized units using the Unit Creator feature.

For the 8th grade unit, “A Moral Compass” specifically – the unit themes and most of the texts from 2017 can be found across three units in the 2021 program: “No Risk, No Reward – Why do we take chances?” “Past and Present – What makes you, you?” and “Hear Me Out – How do you choose the right words?” Texts from “A Moral Compass” not included in those units are available in the Library and easily assigned to students.

Updates to the 2021 program include:

- 6-unit structure, each 30 days long.
 - Each grade level is now composed of 6 units—each 30 days long—and 100% of tested standards are taught in just the first 4 units.
- Thematic Unit and Novel Study options.
 - Each unit offers both a thematic option and multiple novel studies—all with full instructional support. At grades 9-12, novel study units now meet 100% of tested standards.
- New American and British Literature courses.
 - Teachers in grades 11 and 12 now have the option to choose thematic units or chronological American and British literature units.

Learn more about what’s changed [here](#).

8. If the blast response is anonymous but is shown to the whole class, how do we prevent inappropriate responses?

While students are completing Blasts, teachers have the ability to review students' responses and peer review prior to projecting the results for the class. The teacher may remove a peer review so that it is no longer seen by the reviewer or the student receiving the review.

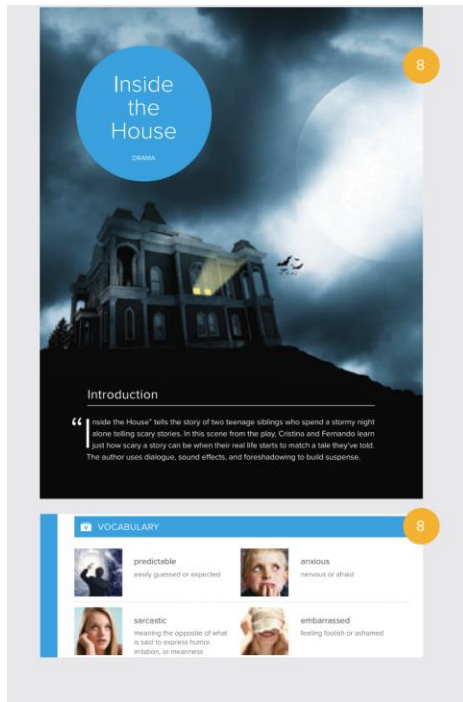
9. StudySync: Is ELD/core content presented in the same in-print materials?

The instructional materials for StudySync’s Core ELA/ELD program are available in both the print and digital resources.

The print Reading and Writing Companions for students include the following resources:

- ELD Designated Texts w/scaffolds
- Associated lessons (First Read, Skills, Close Read)

- Visual Glossaries
- Activities such as “Think” questions and “Your Turns”



7 Write

Your study of each selection will end with a writing assignment. For this assignment, you should use your notes, annotations, personal ideas, and answers to both the Think and Skills Focus Questions. Be sure to read the prompt carefully and address each part of it in your writing.

8 English Language Learner

The English Language Learner texts focus on improving language proficiency. You will practice learning strategies and skills in individual and group activities to become better readers, writers, and speakers.

vi Reading & Writing Companion

The Teacher Edition lesson plans also include point-of-use guidance for English Language Learners for every lesson, including Word Banks, Sentence Starters, Discussion Guides, and other resources and strategies to make learning accessible for multilingual students.

UNIT 1
Everyone Loves a Mystery

W
Write

SCAFFOLDS

Ask students to complete the writing assignment using textual evidence to support their answers.

CCSS: RL.8.1, RL.8.4, W.8.1A, W.8.1B, W.8.4, W.8.6, W.8.9A, W.8.10

Use the scaffolds below to differentiate instruction for your ELL English Language Learners and A Approaching grade-level learners.

ELL **BEGINNING** With the help of the word bank, write a response using paragraph frame 1.

INTERMEDIATE With the help of the word bank, write a response using paragraph frames 1 and 2.

ADVANCED, ADVANCED HIGH Write a response of differentiated length using the sentence starters.

A **APPROACHING** Write a response of differentiated length using the sentence starters.

BEGINNING	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED, ADVANCED HIGH	APPROACHING
Word Bank	Paragraph Frame 1	Paragraph Frame 2	Sentence Starters
possible tone describes trusted laughs	The narrator of the story cannot be _____. The author _____ him as hearing a dead man's heartbeat. This is not _____. He also feels proud of himself for the murder and _____ about killing the old man. I can see how the author's description of events and the author's word choice and _____ make the narrator untrustworthy.	At the beginning of the story, the author describes the narrator as _____. He then says the opposite when he describes himself as _____. This helps me understand that he cannot be trusted because he is the type of person who _____.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The narrator (can / cannot) be trusted because . . . • An example of this is when the narrator . . . • The way the author describes events in the story makes the narrator seem . . . • For example, when . . . • This shows that the narrator . . .

Finally, teachers can also print additional multilingual learner supports directly from the StudySync site.

10. How accessible is the program to independent study or terminally ill students?

StudySync content and software follows the WCAG version 2.0 AA guidelines and best practices. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are developed through the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) in cooperation with individuals and organizations around the world, with a goal of providing a single shared standard for web content accessibility that meets the needs of individuals, organizations, and governments internationally. StudySync offers a variety of accessibility options, presentation customization options, content accommodation and modification, and instructional strategies to address the needs of students with disabilities compliant with these guidelines. With all instructional resources available in digital formats with accompanying scaffolds, StudySync is uniquely designed to support students' remote learning needs.

11. Are these units different from what current StudySync schools have?

The current 2017 units are not found in the exact same format in the 2021 copyright. However, many of the much-loved texts from the previous edition are found within the Core ELA/ELD units or the Library section of the 2021 program. Texts available in the StudySync Library are accompanied by Reading Quizzes, Think questions, at least three writing prompt options, and, where applicable, StudySyncTV episodes and discussion questions.

Updates to the 2021 program include:

- 6-unit structure, each 30 days long.
 - Each grade level is now composed of 6 units—each 30 days long—and 100% of tested standards are taught in just the first 4 units.
- Thematic Unit and Novel Study options.
 - Each unit offers both a thematic option and multiple novel studies—all with full instructional support. At grades 9-12, novel study units now meet 100% of tested standards.
- New American and British Literature courses.
 - Teachers in grades 11 and 12 now have the option to choose thematic units or chronological American and British literature units.

Learn more about what's changed [here](#).

12. In StudySync, can you pull all links to the online platform into Schoology? Can we save the links put in our Schoology resources for use next year?

McGraw Hill and Los Angeles Unified have partnered together for several years on various integrations within the district, including integrations within Schoology. LAUSD currently utilizes several forms of integration in Schoology, including Single Sign-On, Assignment Sync, and Grade Passback. McGraw Hill also supports a wide variety of integration standards and solutions both in and outside of Schoology.

Schoology is a Learning Management Platform. McGraw Hill and PowerSchool (Schoology) currently support the IMS Global LTI® standard for Single Sign-On (SSO), Thin Common Cartridge v1.2 (TCC) and LTI Advantage v1.3 (LTIA) to include Assignment Sync and Grade Pass Back to the Schoology Gradebook.

Single Sign-On (SSO)

What it is

Single Sign-On is a property of access control of multiple related, yet independent, software systems. With this property, a user logs in with a single ID and password to gain access to any of several related systems removing the need to remember multiple usernames or passwords. The users will authenticate from within Schoology. All users must have access to Schoology or an additional district-initiated launch point with shared user ID. Single Sign-On must be configured at the district account level and not available for individual school configuration.

Thin Common Cartridge (TCC)

What it is

Thin Common Cartridge is a standard way to enable an evolution to digital curriculum in which the digital curriculum is hosted on a secure web server while being searchable and accessible at a granular level by a learning platform or any district system that supports the standard. This is accomplished by the learning platform ingesting the TCC, which is an index of learning objects or other direct entry points to the web hosted content. Each index entry in the TCC consists of a link to a specific entry point to the web-hosted content (a learning object) with associated curriculum standards, and other descriptive metadata. The links are either Learning Tools Interoperability®(LTI)-enabled links or open web links. LTI-enabled links automatically handle secure sign-on behind the scenes as well as enabling passing of other information between the hosted content and the learning platform.

What we currently offer

We support Thin Common Cartridge v1.2 for Student Edition, Teacher Edition and End of Unit Assessments PDFs within StudySync ELA content to be imported into a Schoology Module for direct link within a Schoology Assignment or direct launch from within Schoology. The full StudySync ELA program is not available through a Thin Common Cartridge as it is an adaptable software that is not comprised of individual linkable assets. All users must be authenticated and authorized to have access to the content through the Thin Common Cartridge. Single Sign-On is required to successfully integrate the TCC.

Question and Test Interoperability (QTI)

Question and test can be exported from within the StudySync assessment system in QTI 2.1 format for import into a 3rd party assessment system. The export would include any test or item that is QTI compliant. White Paper McGraw Hill and Schoology 3

LTI Advantage with Grade Book Pass Back

We are excited to present LTI Advantage with assignment level deep linking and grade pass back to Schoology gradebook. This will allow your users to create and launch StudySync assignments within Schoology and their score results will be passed back to the Schoology gradebook. This was collaborative development for both Schoology and McGraw Hill and in accordance with the IMS Global LTI Advantage v1.3 standard.

Conclusion

Key Takeaways

- Single Sign-On is available to customers who are currently using our Integration Services and is available for all programs hosted on the McGraw Hill ConnectED and Open Learning platforms.
- Thin Common Cartridge is currently available for StudySync ELA.
- LTI Advantage with assessment grade pass back from StudySync ELA to Schoology Grade Book will be available for 2021 Back to School implementation.
- If you have an existing integration with McGraw Hill, the StudySync program will utilize the same Single Sign-On access point and the StudySync users, courses, and classes can be added to your existing auto-roster.