

CATHOLIC CURRICULAR STANDARDS AND DISPOSITIONS IN ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7-12²

Literature and the arts are also, in their own way, of great importance to the life of the Church. They strive to make known the proper nature of man, his problems and his experiences in trying to know and perfect both himself and the world. They have much to do with revealing man's place in history and in the world; with illustrating the miseries and joys, the needs and strengths of man and with foreshadowing a better life for him. Thus they are able to elevate human life, expressed in multifold forms according to various times and regions.

Gaudium et Spes, 1965, #62

<i>General Standards</i>			
CS	ELA.712	GS1	Analyze literature that reflects the transmission of a Catholic culture and worldview.
CS	ELA.712	GS2	Analyze works of fiction and non-fiction to uncover authentic Truth.
CS	ELA.712	GS3	Analyze carefully chosen selections to uncover the proper nature of man, his problems, and his experiences in trying to know and perfect both himself and the world.
CS	ELA.712	GS4	Share how literature can contribute to strengthening one's moral character.
<i>Intellectual Standards</i>			
CS	ELA.712	IS1	Identify how literature interprets the human condition, human behaviors, and human actions in its redeemed and unredeemed state.
CS	ELA.712	IS2	Describe how the rich spiritual knowledge communicated through fairy tales, fables, myths, parables, and other stories is a reflection on the truth and development of a moral imagination and the mystery, danger, and wonder of human experience.
CS	ELA.712	IS3	Describe the importance of thinking with images informed by classic Christian and Western symbols and archetypes, including their important role in understanding the battle between good and evil and their role in making visible realities that are complex, invisible, and spiritual.
CS	ELA.712	IS4	Explain from a Catholic perspective how literature addresses critical questions related to man, such as: How ought men live in community with each other? What are an individual's rights, duties, freedoms, and restraints? What are a society's? What is the relationship between man and God? Between man and the physical world? What is the nature of human dignity and the human spirit? What is love? What is the good life?
CS	ELA.712	IS5	Describe how poets and writers use language to convey truths that are universal and transcendent.
CS	ELA.712	IS6	Analyze critical values presented in literature and the degree to which they are in accord or discord with Catholic norms.
CS	ELA.712	IS7	Use imagination to create dialogue between the reader and fictional characters by entering into the lives of the characters and uncovering deeper meanings, inferences, and relationships between the characters, nature, and God.
CS	ELA.712	IS8	Explain how literature assists in transcending the limited horizon of human reality.

² See Appendix C for English Language Arts resources and a recommended reading list for Catholic schools in the United States.

CS	ELA.712	IS9	Evaluate complex literary selections for all that is implied in the concept of “person” ³ as defined from a Catholic perspective.
CS	ELA.712	IS10	Analyze how literature helps identify, interpret, and assimilate the cultural patrimony handed down from previous generations.
CS	ELA.712	IS11	Summarize how literature can reflect the historical and sociological culture of the time period in which it was written and help better understand ourselves and other cultures and times.
CS	ELA.712	IS12	Demonstrate cultural literacy and familiarity with the great works and authors of the world and in particular the Western canon.
CS	ELA.712	IS13	Explain how the powerful role of poetic knowledge, the moral imagination, connotative language, and artistic creativity explore difficult and unwieldy elements of the human condition, which is not always explainable with technical linguistic analysis or scientific rationalism.
CS	ELA.712	IS14	Analyze the author’s reasoning and discover the author’s intent.
CS	ELA.712	IS15	Describe how the gratuitousness of literary and artistic creation reflects the divine prerogative. Explain the role of man as “maker”—as artist, poet, and creator—and how the use of language to create is reflective of our being made in the image and likeness of God.
			<i>Writing Standards</i>
CS	ELA.712	WS1	Explain how language can be used as a bridge for communion with others for the betterment of all involved.
CS	ELA.712	WS2	Write in various ways to naturally order thoughts to the truth with an accurate expression of intent, knowledge, and feelings.
CS	ELA.712	WS3	Use grammar as a means of signifying concepts and the relationship to reason.
CS	ELA.712	WS4	Demonstrate the use of effective rhetorical skills in the service and pursuit of truth.
			<i>Dispositional Standards</i>
CS	ELA.712	DS1	Share how literature fosters both prudence and sound judgment in the human person.
CS	ELA.712	DS2	Develop empathy, care, and compassion for a character’s crisis or choice in order to transcend oneself, build virtue, and better understand one’s own disposition and humanity.
CS	ELA.712	DS3	Display the virtues and values evident within stories that involve an ideal and take a stand for love, faith, courage, fidelity, truth, beauty, goodness, and all virtues.
CS	ELA.712	DS4	Identify with beautifully told and well-crafted works, especially those with elements of unity, harmony, and radiance of form.
CS	ELA.712	DS5	Share how literature ignites the creative imagination by presenting in rich context amazing lives and situations told by humanity’s best storytellers and most alive intellects.
CS	ELA.712	DS6	Display a sense of the “good” by examining the degree in which characters significantly possess or lack the perfections proper to a) their nature as human persons, b) their proper role in society as understood in their own

³ A “person” includes concepts of intelligence and will, freedom and feelings, the capacity to be an active and creative agent, a being endowed with both rights and duties, capable of interpersonal relationships, called to a specific mission in the world.

			culture or the world of the text, c) the terms of contemporary culture, and d) the terms of Catholic tradition and moral norms.
CS	ELA.712	DS7	Delight and wonder through the reading of creative, sound, and healthy stories, plays and poems.