

# 7 Grade 7 Reading for STAAR™



DynaNotes™ Review Guide

## Category 1 – Understanding and Analysis Across Genres

### ROOTS AND AFFIXES

**root:** basic part of a word; the meaning of an English word can often be determined from its Latin, Greek, or other linguistic root(s)

**Examples:** *fractus* (broken) → *fraction* (part of a whole)  
*trans* (across) + *latus* (past participle of *ferre*, to carry) → *translation* (in mathematics, the movement of a point or figure)

**affix:** word part placed before (**prefix**) or after (**suffix**) a base word; a word's affix changes the word's meaning in a predictable way

Affix (Prefix or Suffix)	Meaning	Example
dis-, in-, im-, un-, non-, a-, an-, il-, ir-, -less	not, opposite, no, without	irrational, improper
pre-	before	prehistory
re-	again	reclaim
-able, -ible, -ile	able to, can do, fit to	variable
-er, -or, -ist, -ite, -an	one who does or is	explorer
-ful, -ous, -ose, -lent	full of, having	religious
-ness, -ship, -ance, -ment, -age, -ism	quality of, condition, result, practice of	complement, hardship
-ry, -ary, -ery, -ory	relating to ( <i>adj.</i> ), place where ( <i>n.</i> ), quality ( <i>n.</i> )	secondary, laboratory
-ion, -tion, -sion	action, instance of	division

### CONTEXT CLUES

**context clue:** nearby words or sentence(s) that give hints about an unfamiliar or unclear word's meaning; can be an example, a definition, a relationship, or a description that connects the unknown word and information to the unfamiliar or ambiguous word

**Example:** What do the words *ubiquitous* and *organization* mean in the text below?

Lies and fraud are *ubiquitous* throughout the *organization*. Falsifying reports and failure to fully disclose information are common among warehouse, secret sales, and customer service employees as well as middle managers. Even worse, an investigation of intra-*organizational* corruption suggests that this widespread dishonesty is *ubiquitous*.

Context clues for *ubiquitous*: *everywhere* is the meaning of *ubiquitous*. The text suggests that *ubiquitous* means *everywhere*. The text restates *ubiquitous*.

Context clues for *organization*: *organization* has the meaning of being organized. It can refer to the organized structure of a business or business. The employees of the company want that, in this text, *organization* means *company*.

### DICTIONARY GLOSSARY

**dictionary entry:** shows the pronunciation (how a word is pronounced), the part of speech, and the word's meanings

Word	Description	Examples
verb	action, state of being	socialize was
noun	thing, object, idea	idea
adjective	describing or modifying a noun	effort
adverb	describing or modifying a verb or adjective or so	so
interjection	often ends in -ly	int

**Example:** *social* \soʊ·shəl/ *n* [Latin *socius* (ally, friend)] 1. relationship or inclination toward community life, 3. having a tendency to form relationships, 4. marked by pleasant feelings  
*social* \soʊ·shəl/ *n* [Latin *socius* (ally, friend)]; informal

**thesaurus entry:** lists synonyms; useful for improving writing

**Example:** *gathering*: collection, convention, horde, meeting

**glossary entry:** shows the word's meaning as it is used in a book containing the glossary (located at the end of the book)

**Example:** *social insect*: species of insect that forms a colony; labor (foraging, childcare, reproduction) is often divided among members

### STRUCTURES OF AUTOBIOGRAPHS AND DIARY-BASED WORKS

**autobiography:** text written about the author's own life; often reports historically accurate information from birth to old age; text is organized, for example, into chapters grouped by setting/age range; may include a timeline or chronology; written with the intent that others will read it (includes information most relevant to the audience)

**Example:** Jackie Robinson's autobiography *Never Will I Fade*, describes the important events and circumstances of his life from birth until near the time of his death. The reader learns about the hero who broke the color barrier in baseball, his experiences, self-doubt, and his life's challenges with racism and the support of his family and friends.

**diary:** highly informal record of autobiographical events, experiences, thoughts, and feelings; structured as dated entries; it is not written with the intent to publish

**Example:** *Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* is primarily a copy of Anne Frank's diary, which contains about two years of diary entries. The diary is organized by the date. Some information is uninteresting, but the diary provides a unique perspective on the author's experience and the events of World War II. The diary is unique and powerful.

**adaptation:** a literary work, such as a play, film, or novel, that is based on information recorded in a diary; made up, all or some deleted characters, events, or settings allow the diary's events to be pulled together into a cohesive narrative

**Example:** *The Diary of Anne Frank* television series produced by NBC depicts the events described in Anne Frank's diary as a cohesive (cohesive story), as opposed to daily diary entries.

### CHARACTERISTICS AND PURPOSE IN EXPOSITORY TEXTS

**literary text:** used to group texts with common characteristics

- **literary texts:** fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry, drama
- **informational texts:** expository, persuasive, and procedural texts

**theme:** repeated idea or lesson in a **literary text**; often deals with abstract questions, beliefs, or truths; a text may have multiple themes

**author's purpose:** reason the author wrote the **informational text**; such as to entertain, inform, describe, explain, or persuade; may be directly stated, or you may need to analyze the text to determine it; the text aligns with and is organized to support the (single) purpose

**Example:** (1) The author's purpose in an expository essay is to **explain** Abraham Lincoln's views of the Mexican War. The author analyzes Lincoln's speech and provides supporting historical details to show that Lincoln believed the war was an unjust act of aggression by the United States against Mexico.

(2) The **themes** found in a literary nonfiction story of the Mexican War are **unity versus divisions among people and immoral acts committed for "good" reasons**.



Attack on Chapultepec

### INFERENCES AND EVIDENCE ACROSS TEXTS

**inference:** reader's opinion of something that is not directly stated in the text(s), such as symbols, theme(s) of a literary text, or the author's purpose in an expository text; to infer, a reader combines the text(s) with his/her own experience; use **textual evidence** (facts, examples, ideas, or quotes from text) to support all **inferences**

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though the organization fights against his ideas and choices, Beane succeeds in building a winning team from a losing team.

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