ELA Reading Workbook — Grade 9

Reading Skills & FAST Assessment Preparation

Cuaderno de Lectura ELA — 9.º grado

Destrezas de lectura y preparación para la evaluación FAST

High School Series / Serie de Educación Secundaria

Florida Standards & General High School Curriculum / Estándares de Florida y currículo general de secundaria

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How to Use This Workbook / Cómo usar este cuaderno

Welcome to the **ELA Reading Workbook — Grade 9**. This workbook is designed to help ninth-grade students master essential reading comprehension skills for literature and informational texts while building confidence for standardized exams such as the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). Each unit presents English reading passages with bilingual support: clear English instructions followed immediately by Spanish translations, a Spanish summary of core reading concepts, and key vocabulary glossaries located directly below every reading passage.

Bienvenido al **Cuaderno de Lectura ELA — 9.º grado**. Este cuaderno está diseñado para ayudar a los estudiantes de noveno grado a dominar las destrezas fundamentales de comprensión de lectura en literatura y textos informativos, al tiempo que desarrollan confianza para exámenes estandarizados como la evaluación FAST de Florida. Cada unidad presenta pasajes de lectura en inglés con apoyo bilingüe: instrucciones claras en inglés seguidas inmediatamente por traducciones al español, un resumen en español de los conceptos clave de lectura y glosarios de vocabulario esencial ubicados directamente debajo de cada pasaje de lectura.

Structure of Each Unit / Estructura de cada unidad

1. **Mini-Lesson / Mini-lección:** A foundational overview of the unit's core reading skills in English with a bilingual summary and structural visual organizer. / Una revisión fundamental de las destrezas de lectura de la unidad en inglés con un resumen bilingüe y un organizador visual estructural.

2. **Worked Examples / Ejemplos resueltos:** An original reading passage followed by key vocabulary and step-by-step analyzed questions showing how to locate textual evidence. / Un pasaje de lectura original seguido de vocabulario clave y preguntas analizadas paso a paso que muestran cómo localizar evidencia textual.

3. **Guided Practice / Práctica guiada:** An original passage with comprehension questions accompanied by bilingual hints to support strategic thinking. / Un pasaje original con preguntas de comprensión acompañadas de pistas bilingües para apoyar el pensamiento estratégico.

4. **Independent Practice / Práctica independiente:** An original passage paired with exam-style questions to build complete student autonomy. / Un pasaje original junto con preguntas estilo examen para desarrollar una autonomía estudiantil completa.

5. **FAST-Style Mini-Quiz / Mini-quiz estilo FAST:** A concise final assessment replicating standardized test formatting and question rigor. / Una evaluación final concisa que replica el formato y el rigor de las preguntas de exámenes estandarizados.

Note: Complete answer keys with detailed explanations for all practice items are located at the end of this workbook. / Nota: Las claves de respuestas completas con explicaciones detalladas para todos los ejercicios de práctica se encuentran al final de este cuaderno.

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Unit 1: Fiction — Plot, Character and Theme

Unidad 1: Ficción: trama, personaje y tema

Mini-Lesson / Mini-lección

In literary fiction, understanding how plot, character motivation, and theme interact is essential for deep reading comprehension.

1. **Plot Structure:** The sequence of events in a narrative generally follows five stages:
   - **Exposition:** Introduces the setting, main characters, and primary conflict.
   - **Rising Action:** Introduces complications that build tension and develop the conflict.
   - **Climax:** The turning point or peak emotional moment of the story where the conflict reaches its highest intensity.
   - **Falling Action:** Events immediately following the climax where tension begins to decrease.
   - **Resolution:** The final outcome of the narrative where loose ends are tied up.

2. **Character Traits and Motivation:** Character traits are personal qualities (e.g., persistent, cautious, stubborn) revealed through a character's actions, dialogue, and thoughts. Character motivation refers to the underlying reasons (desires, fears, needs) that drive a character's choices.

3. **Theme vs. Topic:** A **topic** is the broad subject of a text expressed in one or two words (e.g., courage, forgiveness). A **theme** is the universal message, lesson, or insight about life that the author conveys through the narrative, expressed as a complete statement (e.g., True courage requires confronting one's deepest fears despite uncertainty).

Exposition	Rising Action	Climax	Falling Action	Resolution

Spanish Summary / Resumen en español

La estructura de la trama organiza los acontecimientos de una historia en cinco etapas: exposición, acción ascendente, clímax, acción descendente y resolución. Los rasgos de carácter son cualidades internas reveladas mediante palabras y acciones, mientras que la motivación explica por qué actúa un personaje. El tema es la lección o mensaje universal sobre la vida expresado mediante una oración completa, a diferencia del tema general o tópico que se nombra en una sola palabra.

Worked Examples / Ejemplos resueltos

Read the story below and answer the questions that follow.

The Clockmaker’s Ledger

Arthur leaned over his workbench, the faint tick of dozens of antique clocks creating a rhythmic pulse inside the narrow shop. For thirty years, he had restored discarded timepieces, finding quiet satisfaction in making broken gears turn once more. Yet, his own shop was falling behind the times. Modern digital repair shops had opened across the avenue, drawing away his long-standing clientele.

That afternoon, a teenager named Elena entered holding a heavy brass pocket watch wrapped in cloth. She explained that the watch belonged to her grandfather, who had recently passed away. The internal spring was snapped, and two local shops had already turned her away,

declaring the mechanism obsolete and irreparable. Arthur inspected the delicate brass gears under his magnifying lens. He recognized the rare Swiss craftsmanship immediately; sourcing a replacement spring would require hours of hand-filing custom steel parts.

Arthur looked around his silent shop. Taking the job meant spending days on a single item with no guarantee of success, money he desperately needed for rent, and time away from taking digital repair courses. However, when he noticed Elena’s tearful eyes and realized how deeply she cherished her grandfather's memory, his reluctance faded.

For three consecutive nights, Arthur stayed up past midnight. He carefully crafted a custom steel mainspring, filing down microscopic imperfections by candlelight. On the fourth morning, he inserted the handmade component into the housing. He turned the winding stem. A steady, clear ticking filled the room. When Elena returned and heard the rhythmic chime, she wept with gratitude, leaving Arthur with a restored confidence that extended far beyond his craft.

Key Vocabulary / Vocabulario clave

- **Obsolete:** Out of date; no longer produced or used. / Obsoleto: Anticuado; que ya no se produce ni se usa.
- **Mechanism:** A system of parts operating together in a machine. / Mecanismo: Sistema de piezas que funcionan juntas en una máquina.
- **Reluctance:** Unwillingness or hesitation to do something. / Renuencia: Falta de voluntad o duda para hacer algo.
- **Craftsmanship:** Skill in a particular craft or trade. / Artesanía / Maestría: Habilidad en un oficio o arte determinado.
- **Consecutive:** Following continuously; in unbroken sequence. / Consecutivo: Que se sigue sin interrupción.

Questions and Analyzed Answers / Preguntas y respuestas analizadas

WE1. Which event marks the climax of the story?

A. Elena brings her grandfather’s watch into Arthur’s shop.

B. Modern digital repair shops open across the avenue.

C. Arthur successfully inserts the custom spring and hears the watch tick.

D. Arthur decides to file the custom steel parts by hand.

Correct answer / Respuesta correcta: C

Explanation / Explicación: The climax is the peak turning point of tension. The narrative tension reaches its height as Arthur inserts the component he spent nights making. The moment when "A steady, clear ticking filled the room" resolves the central uncertainty of whether the impossible repair will succeed. Options A and D represent rising action, while B is part of the exposition.

WE2. How does Arthur’s character trait of persistence influence the plot?

A. It causes him to reject modern technology completely.

B. It motivates him to work three consecutive nights to hand-craft a rare watch part.

C. It convinces Elena to learn how to repair antique timepieces herself.

D. It prompts him to close his shop and move to another town.

Correct answer / Respuesta correcta: B