Anchor Standards for Reading

• **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4** Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

   The *Oxford English Dictionary* is the most authoritative and comprehensive record of the English language in the world making it the ideal resource for interpreting words and phrases. Not only do you receive the definition of a word but also the historical meaning. This will help the user understand how a word is being used in the text based on the timeframe in which it was written.

   **Example:** If you are reading a text with the word “computer” that was written before 1869, the OED will tell you that “computer” is referring to a person who makes “calculations or computations” and not a machine.

Anchor Standards for Language

• **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3** Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

   Each definition of a word in the OED is supported by quotations (over 3 million in all) giving the user a full picture of the word to understand how it is used in different contexts.

• **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

   The OED includes historical meanings of words, helping you understand multiple meaning words and providing context.

• **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

   The OED’s historical definitions of words and cited sentence examples will help you with this standard. Take a look at the OED’s Top 1000 sources.

• **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6** Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

   Browse or search definitions by category, such as medicine or law, to find academic or specialist/domain specific words and phrases.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.1 and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.1a Apply the understanding that usage is a matter of convention, can change over time, and is sometimes contested.

As a historical dictionary the *OED* fits this standard perfectly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

The *OED* includes meanings of each word from their first use to present day usage, helping you understand multiple meaning words and providing context.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.4 and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 and grades 11-12 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.4c and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.4c Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.4d and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.4d Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

The *OED Online* helps you meet this standard as it is an online dictionary and thesaurus (The *OED Online* gives you access to the Historical Thesaurus of the *OED*). You can also browse or search definitions by category, such as medicine or law, to find academic or specialist/domain specific words and phrases and view multiple quotations for each dictionary entry.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.5 and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

The quotations cited in each entry will be very helpful when determining word relationships and subtle differences in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.9-10.6 and CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Browse or search definitions by category, such as medicine or law, to find academic or specialist/domain specific words and phrases.