

Kids Learn!

Lessons and Activities

8th Grade

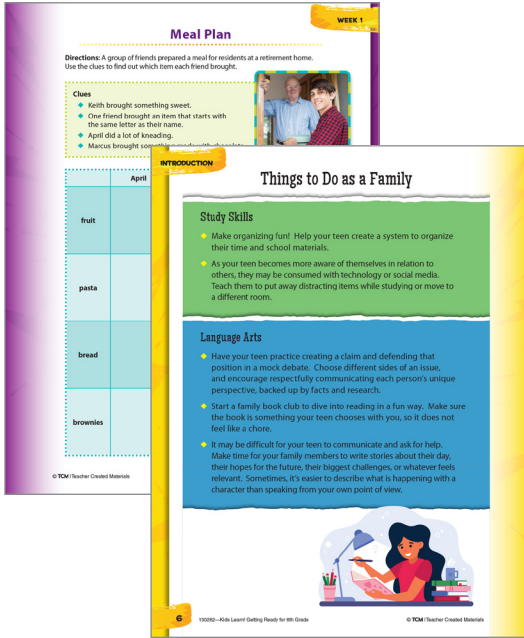
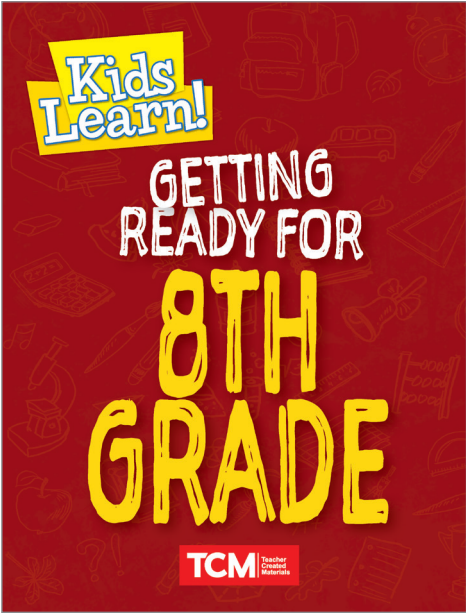
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**Kids
Learn!**

**GETTING
READY FOR**

**8TH
GRADE**

TCM | Teacher
Created
Materials

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Welcome Letter

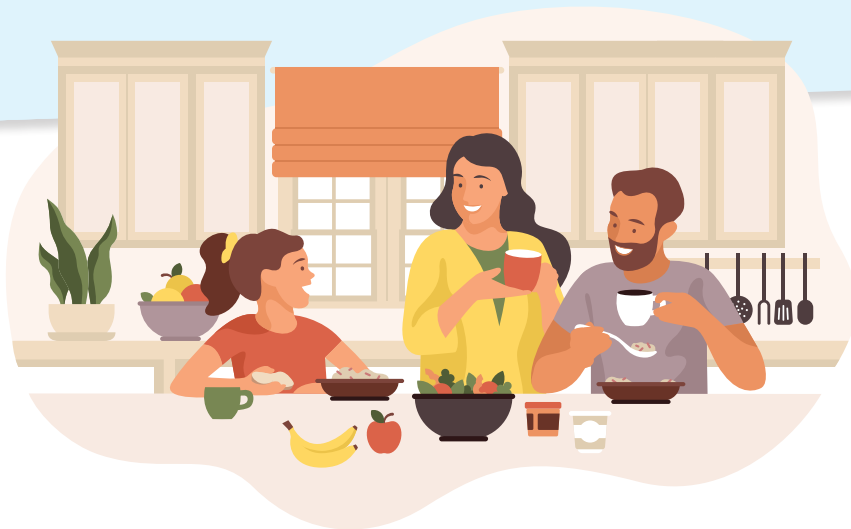
Dear Family,

Welcome to *Kids Learn! Getting Ready for 8th Grade*. This book was created to help your teenager solidify the concepts they learned in seventh grade and prepare them for the year ahead. Eighth graders will be encouraged to practice critical thinking and problem-solving through multistep problems, word problems, reading comprehension and analysis, and more. With this increase in rigor, your teen will need to take greater ownership over their education. Work with your teen to help them create good study habits while balancing their social and extracurricular interests.

Keep these tips in mind as your teen completes the activities.

- ◆ Discuss why completing this work is important, and ask your teen to share their opinions about this, too. Explore how this connects to their success in middle school and beyond. This will help them stay motivated.
- ◆ Communicate your trust in your teen to practice independence as they work through this book, and empower them to take responsibility.
- ◆ Encourage your teen to creatively share their thoughts and feelings on the My Journal pages.

Most of all, use this book to show your teen that learning can be fun. With that mindset, they will be most prepared for a successful eighth-grade year!



Things to Do as a Family

Study Skills

- ◆ Make organizing fun! Help your teen create a system to organize their time and school materials.
- ◆ As your teen becomes more aware of themselves in relation to others, they may be consumed with technology or social media. Teach them to put away distracting items while studying or move to a different room.

Language Arts

- ◆ Have your teen practice creating a claim and defending that position in a mock debate. Choose different sides of an issue, and encourage respectfully communicating each person's unique perspective, backed up by facts and research.
- ◆ Start a family book club to dive into reading in a fun way. Make sure the book is something your teen chooses with you, so it does not feel like a chore.
- ◆ It may be difficult for your teen to communicate and ask for help. Make time for your family members to write stories about their day, their hopes for the future, their biggest challenges, or whatever feels relevant. Sometimes, it's easier to describe what is happening with a character than speaking from your own point of view.



Games to Play Together

- ◆ Help your teen apply concepts they learned in school by playing games, such as Yahtzee! to practice mental math or Scrabble to work on vocabulary. Mystery games are a great way to practice problem-solving skills. You can purchase mystery board games, or you can make up a scenario to solve for some DIY fun.
- ◆ Trivia games can be fun and educational tools. Your teen will likely learn interesting facts that they might not have explored otherwise.
- ◆ Puzzles, riddles, word unscrambling activities, and other decoding games promote problem-solving and critical-thinking skills while encouraging creativity.
- ◆ Typing will become more and more necessary for success in high school and beyond. Find competitive typing games online to help your teen increase their typing speed.



Figurative Language

Directions: Read the text. Then, identify each type of figurative language used and its meaning. Write a new phrase that has a similar meaning.

Some Types of Figurative Language

- ◆ **Simile:** a comparison using *like* or *as*
Example: My sister Martina laughs like a hyena.
- ◆ **Metaphor:** a strong comparison that does not use *like* or *as*
Example: Life is a dream.
- ◆ **Personification:** a description of a non-living object using human traits
Example: The sun smiled down on us as we began our long walk through the park.

	Type of Figurative Language	Meaning	Create Your Own
Example My best friend was leaving, and I was becoming an island.	metaphor	The narrator felt lonely and unreachable.	She was a lone wolf.
1 Her family members were planets, orbiting the car and moving truck.			
2 The football player ran through the other team like a bulldozer.			
3 The car creaked and moaned in agony.			
4 The dancer jumped as gracefully and nimbly as a cat.			

Multiply!

Directions: Find each product.

1 $(9)(-5) =$ _____

8 $(-3)(-\frac{1}{5}) =$ _____

2 $(-0.004)(1.5) =$ _____

9 $(1\frac{3}{5})(1\frac{1}{2})(-1) =$ _____

3 $(5\frac{1}{4})(12) =$ _____

10 $(-0.4)(-0.7) =$ _____

4 $(-4.5)(-2.1) =$ _____

11 $(-10)(-10)(2)(-3) =$ _____

5 $(2\frac{1}{2})(-5\frac{1}{5}) =$ _____

12 $(-5)(8)(-2) =$ _____

6 $(-4)(5)(-2)(3) =$ _____

13 $(3\frac{1}{2})(2\frac{1}{6}) =$ _____

7 $(8.2)(-1.2) =$ _____

14 $(-9)(-9)(2) =$ _____

Meal Plan

Directions: A group of friends prepared a meal for residents at a retirement home. Use the clues to find out which item each friend brought.

Clues

- ◆ Keith brought something sweet.
- ◆ One friend brought an item that starts with the same letter as their name.
- ◆ April did a lot of kneading.
- ◆ Marcus brought something made with chocolate.



	April	Marcus	Keith	Paula
fruit				
pasta				
bread				
brownies				