



Back to School, Back Together

Dear teachers,

If you're like us here at Team *Scope*, you might be feeling lots of emotions as school starts up this fall. But we certainly could not be more thrilled to be back in the classroom with you during this historic back-to-school season. I only wish we could teleport ourselves to all of your classrooms to say hello in person!

We have so many wonderful things cooking this year—new activities, new stories, new videos. And it all begins with this special first issue. From a powerful narrative about the boatlift of September 11 (p. 4) to a heartfelt story about the complexity of returning to school this fall (p. 17), every article, story, and activity has been lovingly created by our team. Our goal? To inspire and fascinate your students and to support you in your teaching priorities.

May this fall be a season of celebration and, most of all, togetherness.

Fondly,

Kristin and the *Scope* Team



Kristin Lewis, Editor
 KELewis@scholastic.com

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Scope Community for Middle School ELA Teachers

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Staff Picks

"The poem 'Ode to Family Photographs' (p. 32) totally describes my camera-crazy family! I am sure our readers will relate to this sweet, funny poem as well."

—Alison Colby, *Production Editor*



"Here's to breathing in the singular smell of school that Lauren Tarshis describes so perfectly in 'Back to Normal?' (p. 17). We can't wait to see your students' responses to the in-role writing prompt."

—Lauren Salisbury,
Education Editor

"The debate about school start times (p. 28) is so in your students' world. It's sure to spark lively discussion!"

—Adee Braun, *Managing Editor*



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Your September 2021 Issue at a Glance

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 Story	 Summary	 Skills and Standards**	 Multimedia	 Skill Building Activities	 More Resources
Grammar , pp. 2-3 "Zap!"	Students practice using <i>its</i> and <i>it's</i> while learning about some of the strangest and deadliest tongues in the animal kingdom.	Featured Skill: conventions of standard English CCSS: L.3	 Video: Grammar Hack: <i>Its</i> and <i>It's</i>	 Print, project, or share digitally! More practice with <i>its</i> and <i>it's</i>	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
Narrative Nonfiction , pp. 4-10 "Rescue at the Water's Edge"	Through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy and a Coast Guard officer, this moving nonfiction feature tells the remarkable true story of the heroic boaters who brought thousands of people to safety on September 11, 2001.	Featured Skill: supporting a claim CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.7, W.1, W.2, SL.1, L.4, L.5, L.6	 Audio: Article and vocabulary  Video: Beyond the Story		✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Lower Lexile ✓ Spanish version ✓ Answer key
Drama , pp. 11-16 <i>Troy</i>	Students will love performing this action-packed play about the Trojan War based on the poems <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>The Aeneid</i> .	Featured Skill: literary analysis CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.5, R.7, R.10, W.2, W.9, SL.1, SL.2, L.4, L.6	 Audio: Pronunciation guide  Slideshow: Mythology in Modern Language  Podcast	• Preparing to Write: Gods and Mortals • Close-Reading & Critical-Thinking Questions • Theme Anticipation Guide • Character Thinking Tool • Vocabulary: Definitions & Practice • Choice Board • Quiz* • Core Skill: Inference	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
Fiction , pp. 17-21 "Back to Normal?"	In this poignant story by author Lauren Tarshis, a young boy copes with change and loss after the Covid-19 pandemic.	Featured Skill: character CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.5, R.7, R.10, W.3, W.9, SL.1, SL.2, L.4, L.6	 Audio: Story and vocabulary	• Preparing to Write: Elijah and Devon's Conversation • Close-Reading & Critical-Thinking Questions • Choice Board • Vocabulary: Definitions & Practice • Quiz* • Core Skill: Text Evidence*	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
Paired Texts , pp. 22-25 "The Amazing History of Video Games"	Two nonfiction articles explore the history—and future—of video games.	Featured Skill: synthesis CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, R.7, R.9, W.2, SL.1, SL.2, L.4, L.5, L.6	 Audio: Articles and vocabulary	• Preparing to Write: Video Games Then and Now • Close-Reading & Critical-Thinking Questions • Vocabulary: Definitions & Practice • Choice Board • Quiz* • Core Skills: Central Ideas and Details*, Text Structure, Text Features	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
Short Read , pp. 26-27 "A Toilet on the Moon"	In this bite-sized article, students learn about the difficulties of going to the bathroom in space and how NASA is working to solve the problem.	Featured Skill: constructed response CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.4, W.1, W.4, W.5, L.4, L.6	 Audio: Article  Vocabulary Slideshow	• The Short Write Kit • Vocabulary: Definitions & Practice • Quiz*	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
Debate , pp. 28-29 "Should School Start Later?"	Students read arguments on both sides of the debate and take a stand.	Featured Skill: argument writing CCSS: R.1, R.2, R.6, R.8, W.1, W.4, W.5, W.7, SL.1, L.4, L.6	 Audio: Article and vocabulary	• Essay Kit • Vocabulary: Definitions & Practice	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key
You Be the Editor , pp. 30-31 "The Hidden Town"	Students hone their writing and revision skills while learning about Coober Pedy, a town built partially underground.	Featured Skills: editing and revising CCSS: R.1, W.5, L.3		• Word Variation • Sentence Variation	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key ✓ Model text
Poem , p. 32 "Ode to Family Photographs"	Students read a beautiful poem by Gary Soto about family and memories, then use it as a model to write their own poems.	Featured Skills: analyzing and writing poetry CCSS: R.10, W.3	 Audio: Poem	• Poetry Analysis • Poetry Planner	✓ Lesson plan ✓ Text-to-speech ✓ Answer key

** Common Core Anchor Standards. For grade-level-specific Common Core standards as well as Texas State Standards, go to Scope Online.

* Available on two levels

What to Love This Month at Scope Online

Explore these resources—and more—at scope.scholastic.com.



Podcast

Get to know Achilles, the famous hero of ancient Greek mythology. The perfect pairing with this month's play!




Video

Use our powerful video about September 11 with this issue's cover story.



Special Slideshow

What English words come from Greek mythology? Find out in this slideshow, which you'll want to keep in rotation year after year.



Interactive Poll

After reading the debate "Should School Start Later?", students can vote yes or no—and see how other kids across the country are voting.

Join the *Scope* Community!

Harness the power of other *Scope* teachers by joining our Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/ScopeMag.



POSTAL INFORMATION: SCHOLASTIC SCOPE (ISSN 0036-6412; in Canada, 2-c no. 9230) is published monthly in SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY and bimonthly DECEMBER/JANUARY, 8 issues total, by Scholastic Inc., 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102. CANADIAN ADDRESS: Scholastic Canada Ltd., 175 Hillmount Rd., Markham, Ontario, Canada L6C 1Z7. Periodical postage paid at Jefferson City, MO 65102 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send notice of address changes and undeliverable copies to SCHOLASTIC SCOPE, 2931 East McCarty St., P.O. Box 3710, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

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