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# How to Use Guide: Students and Their Parents

## STAAR Practice Makes Perfect

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## Overview

**Target Audience:** Students and their parents; teachers.

## Introduction

Welcome to Sirius Online ©2022-23!

*Be prepared!* The Scout motto is as appropriate to the STAAR Test as anything.

The more practice you get in, the better you will do when you take the STAAR test. If you pretend as if you're taking the STAAR test for real, you'll feel less anxiety when it matters most. And that will make a great deal of difference in your success.

This guide is designed to help you quickly learn how to use and navigate Sirius Online AND how to succeed on the STAAR Test. It is designed in a way to allow you to quickly zero in on how to use your Sirius courses online, along with tips for using online tools in a way that represents the type of student experience you'll have when taking the STAAR Test.

## Student Experience Guided Tour Video

The Student Experience videos cover general experience and use of tools.

## General Student User Experience

**Firewall-friendly Video Clip:**

<https://api.content2classroom.com/api/publicRedirectToResource?contentItemId=FE11AC1492684DD79F1A71308A2A10E8>

**Streaming-friendly/YouTube Video Clip:** <https://youtu.be/hTb0qBAvZ2I>

## Student Tools and Accessibility Features

**Firewall-friendly Video Clip:**

<https://api.content2classroom.com/api/publicRedirectToResource?contentItemId=CAEED075F4F44E14A19DCA98F25DB537>

**Streaming-friendly/YouTube Video Clip:** <https://youtu.be/slbnwllt7cM>



# 1. Getting Started

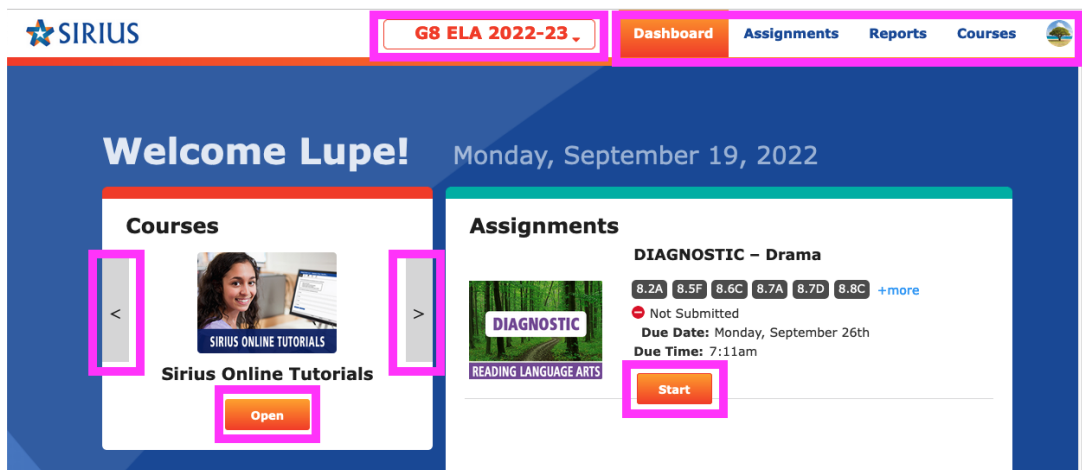
## Logging In

Log in according to instructions that your teacher has given you.

For those of you who created their own accounts or joined a second or third class, congratulations! You already know where to log in.

## Getting Started

### Student Dashboard



Take a quick scan of the screen. What do you notice?

Perhaps your *name* and the *date*, followed by your *courses* and *assignments*?

In the main area of the screen, you have likely noticed:

- **Courses:** Navigate with *left* and *right arrows* to course materials assigned to your class; click **Open** to launch your Sirius Online course.
- **Assignments:** Your most current which you can **Start**, including **Due Date** and **Due Time**.

In the top header, you'll see the name of your class (in the above case, *G8 ELA 2022-23*)

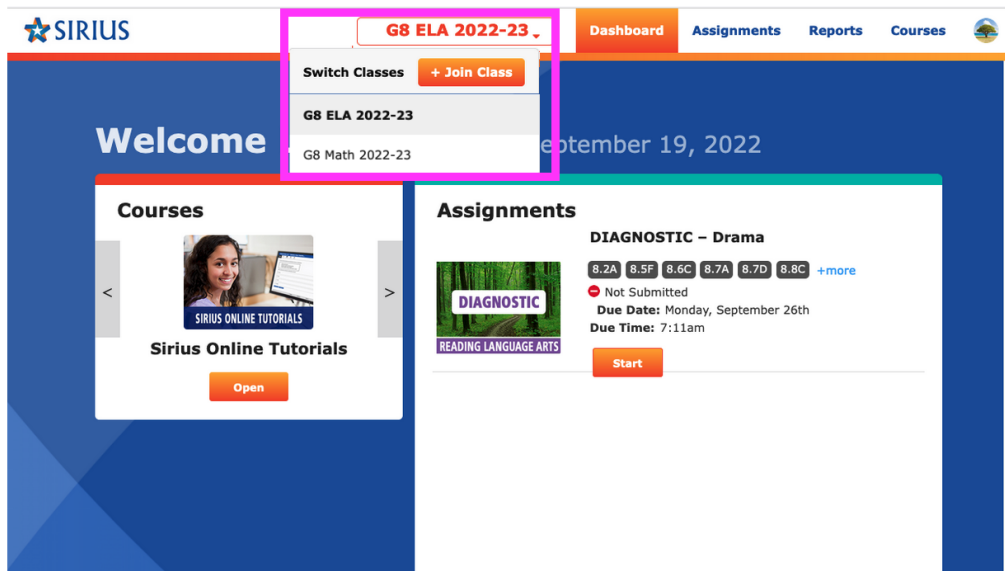
The main menu in the upper right will appear on every screen, always in the same place. It includes:



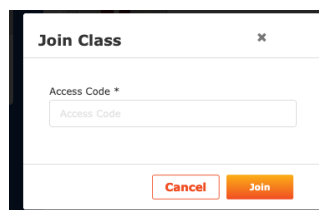
- **Dashboard:** This main welcome screen that appears when you first log in.
- **Assignments:** A centralized screen of all your assignments.
- **Reports:** Where you will review your scores, and more importantly your scored work; and
- **Courses:** Access to your course materials when you want to navigate to them at any moment in your use of Sirius Online.
- **Profile Icon** - A place to manage your avatar as well as to log out.

### Class Pulldown and Join Class

1. In the upper center, click the **Class** pulldown by clicking the caret, the small right arrow to the right of your class name.



2. If you are in more than one class that uses Sirius courses, you'll see them listed there.
3. If you self-registered, you can join a new class by clicking the **Join Class** button. Enter the code your teacher gave to you and click **Join**. Your new class will appear in the pulldown.

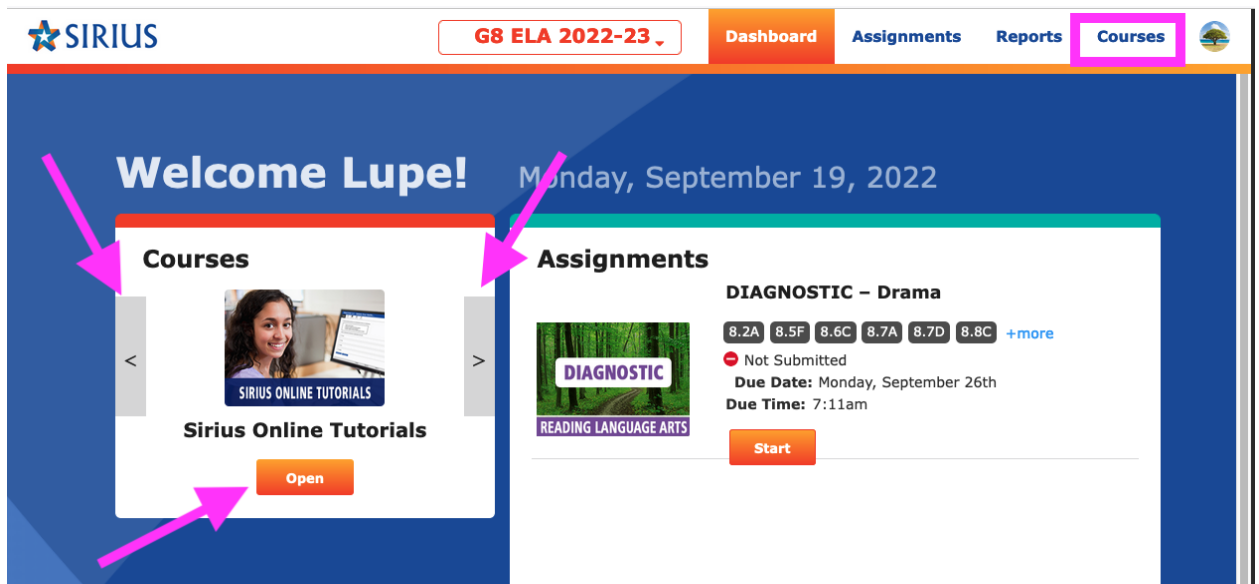




## 2. Navigating Content

### The Dashboard's Course Navigator

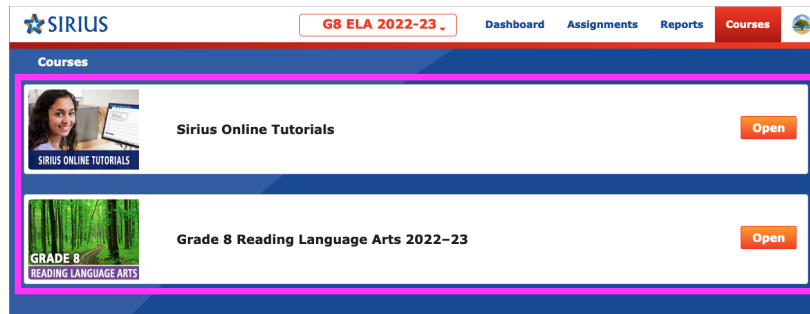
1. Click the right and left arrows of the **Course Navigator** to see all the course materials that you will use in class, including a *Sirius Online Tutorial* course featuring the *Sirius Tools Tutorial* that can help you to learn all the fun tools and features that you will also find in STAAR.
2. Click **Open** on any course to directly navigate to it.
3. You can also click the **Courses** main menu item to navigate to all the course materials from that screen..



### Courses Tab in Main Menu

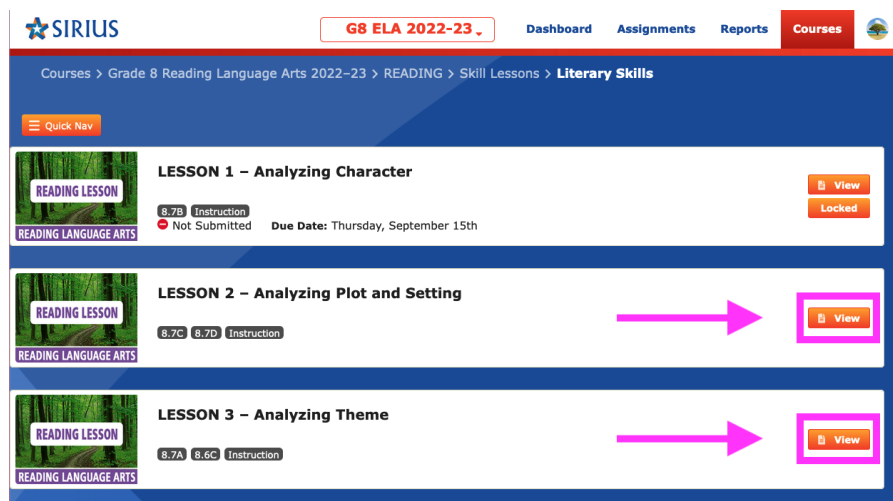
The **Courses** tab allows you to jump into materials from any screen within *Sirius Online*.

1. Click the **Courses** tab. Your course options display for your class.



2. Click a series of **Open** buttons to open courses, sections and subsections within a course until you get to sections with **View** buttons.
3. You can view content by clicking a **View** button on content that is not locked or unavailable.

**Note:** If your teacher assigned lesson content for you to do, it will be listed in your assignments.



### Assignment Status

- Assigned content will have a **Continue** button that allows you to continue your work with the content.
- Assigned content with a **Locked** button means that your work is being reviewed by your teacher.
- Assigned content with a **Review** button means your teacher has scored your work and you can view any notes from your teacher.
- Live tests or practice content will not be accessible unless your teacher assigns them.



## Working with Lesson Content

Lesson content now appears the same way practice and assessments appear. You can view both unassigned and assigned content whenever you are using Sirius Online.

### Working with Unassigned Lesson Content

You can work with any displayed **lesson content** regardless of whether it has been assigned or not. The only indication that content is unassigned is that it has a simple **Close** button in the upper right.

If you're working with assigned lesson content, you'll see a **Submit** button to the right of the **Close** button.

### Working with Assigned Lesson Content

1. If you do work but haven't yet completed it and need to log out, click the **Close (X)** button in the upper right.
2. Click the **Submit** button only when you've finished all your work.

## 3. Assignments

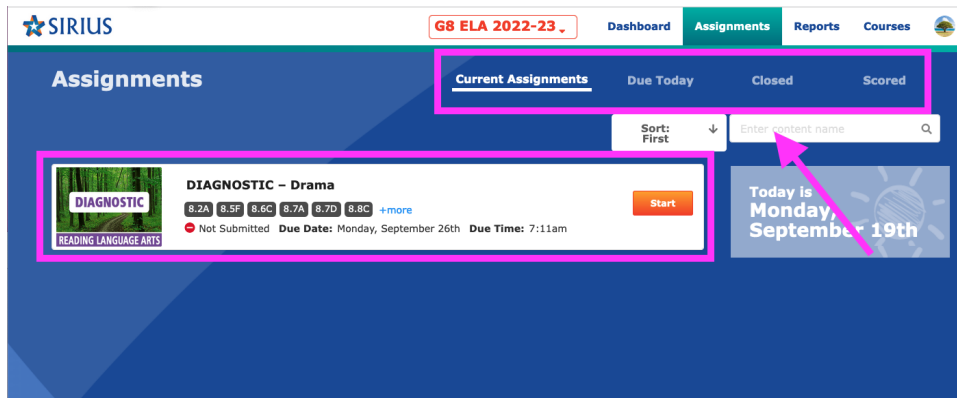
### Accessing Assignments: Dashboard or Assignments Screen

As you read in the first section, you can access your most recently assigned work on your **Dashboard**, or you can choose to view assignments by clicking the **Assignments** tab.

**Example of Student Dashboard**

The screenshot displays the Sirius Online interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Sirius logo, a course selector for 'G8 ELA 2022-23', and tabs for 'Dashboard', 'Assignments', 'Reports', and 'Courses'. The 'Assignments' tab is highlighted with a pink arrow. Below the navigation bar, the dashboard greets the user with 'Welcome Lupe!' and the date 'Monday, September 19, 2022'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Courses' and 'Assignments'. The 'Courses' section shows 'Sirius Online Tutorials' with an 'Open' button. The 'Assignments' section shows a 'DIAGNOSTIC - Drama' assignment with a 'Start' button. The 'Assignments' section also displays a list of standards: 8.2A, 8.5F, 8.6C, 8.7A, 8.7D, 8.8C, and a '+more' link. Below the standards, it indicates 'Not Submitted', 'Due Date: Monday, September 26th', and 'Due Time: 7:11am'.

### Example of Student Assignments Screen



The assignments screen lets you filter by category, including assignments that are:

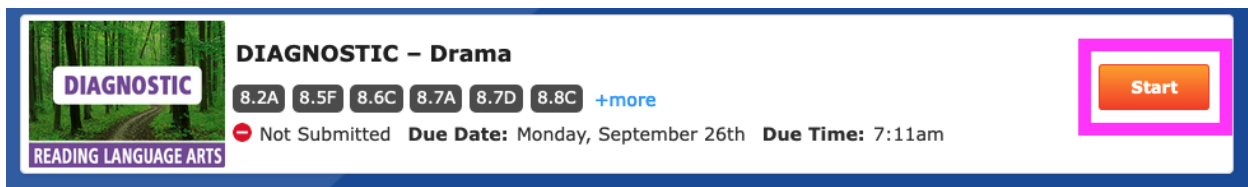
- Current
- Due today
- Closed (no longer available for you to access)
- Scored (auto-scored or teacher graded)

You can also search for assignments by name in the search field.

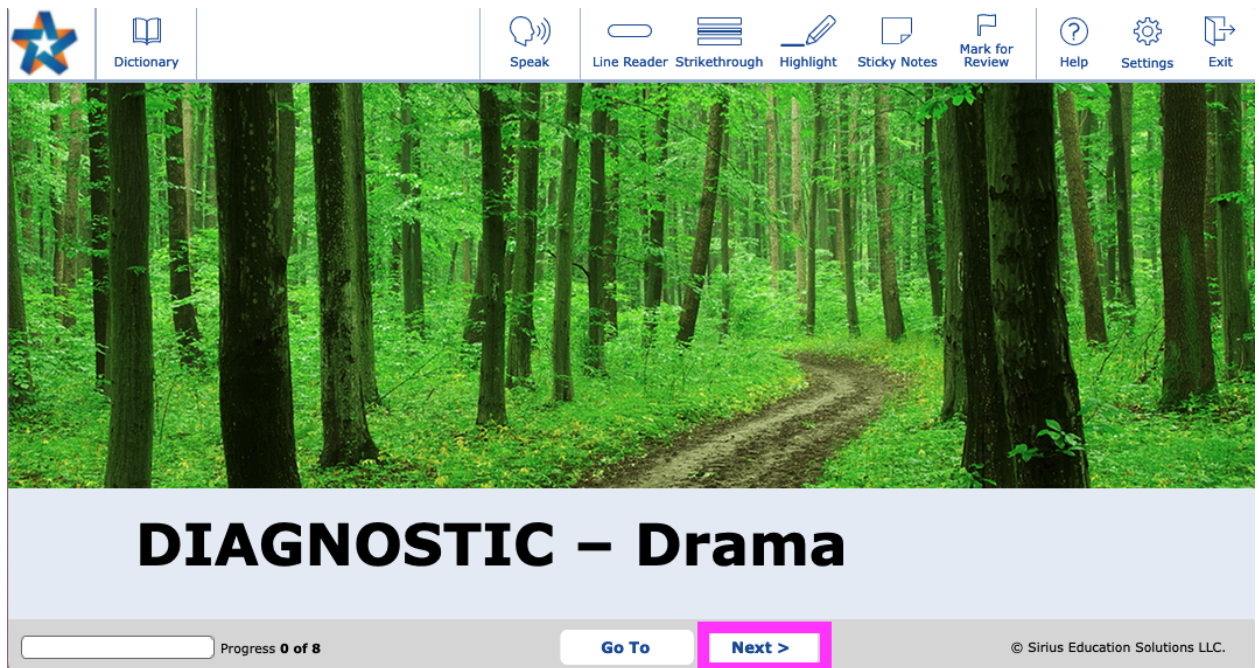
## 4. Completing Assignments

### All Screens Utilize the Same Design

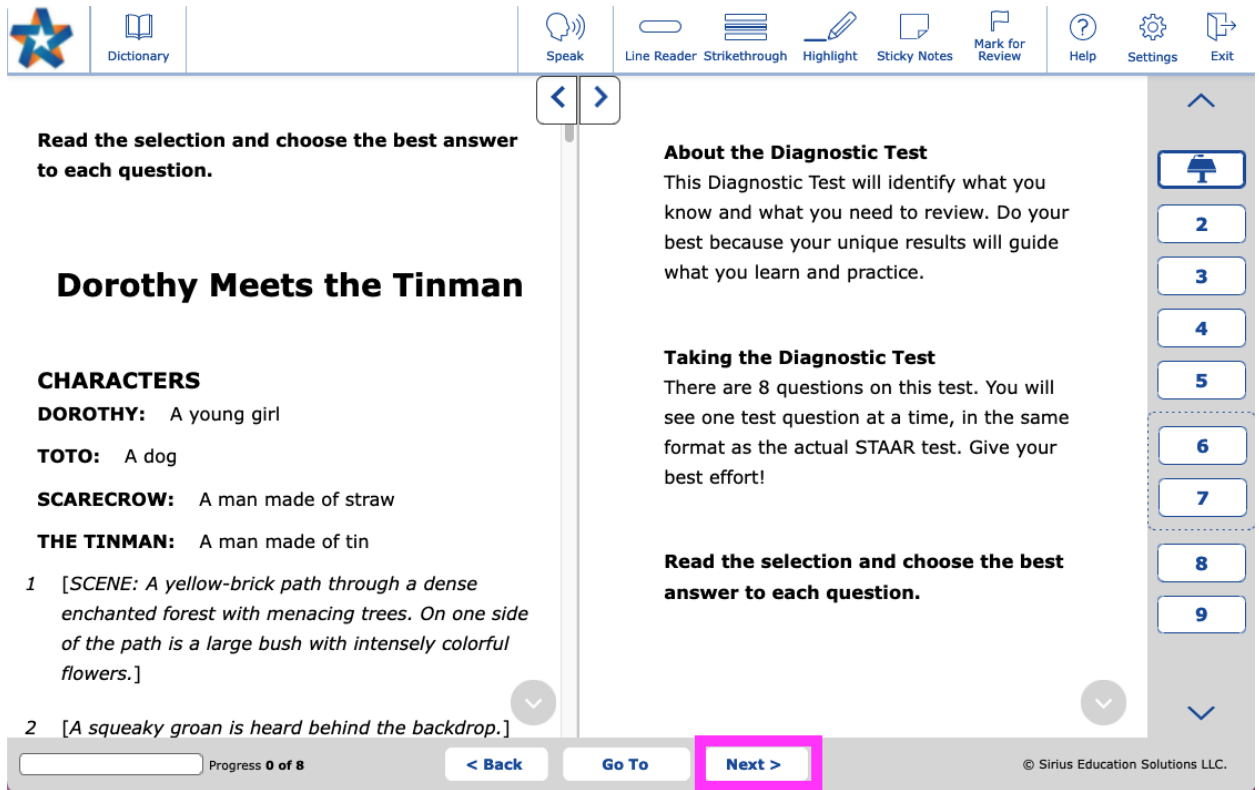
1. Begin work in *Sirius Online* by clicking the **Start** button.



2. Navigate past the *Splash* or *Title* screen, by clicking the **Next** button on the bottom of your screen.



3. Read instructions slowly and carefully, and begin your work according to instructions and information on screen. When you are ready to proceed, click the **Next** button.



The screenshot displays the Sirius Education Solutions interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Dictionary, Speak, Line Reader, Strikethrough, Highlight, Sticky Notes, Mark for Review, Help, Settings, and Exit. Below this, the main content area is split into two columns. The left column contains a reading passage titled "Dorothy Meets the Tinman" with character descriptions and two numbered paragraphs. The right column contains instructions for the diagnostic test, including "About the Diagnostic Test" and "Taking the Diagnostic Test". A vertical sidebar on the right side of the screen features a home icon and numbered buttons from 1 to 9, with button 7 highlighted. At the bottom, there is a progress bar showing "Progress 0 of 8" and navigation buttons for "< Back", "Go To", and "Next >". The "Next >" button is highlighted with a pink border. The bottom right corner of the interface includes the copyright notice "© Sirius Education Solutions LLC."

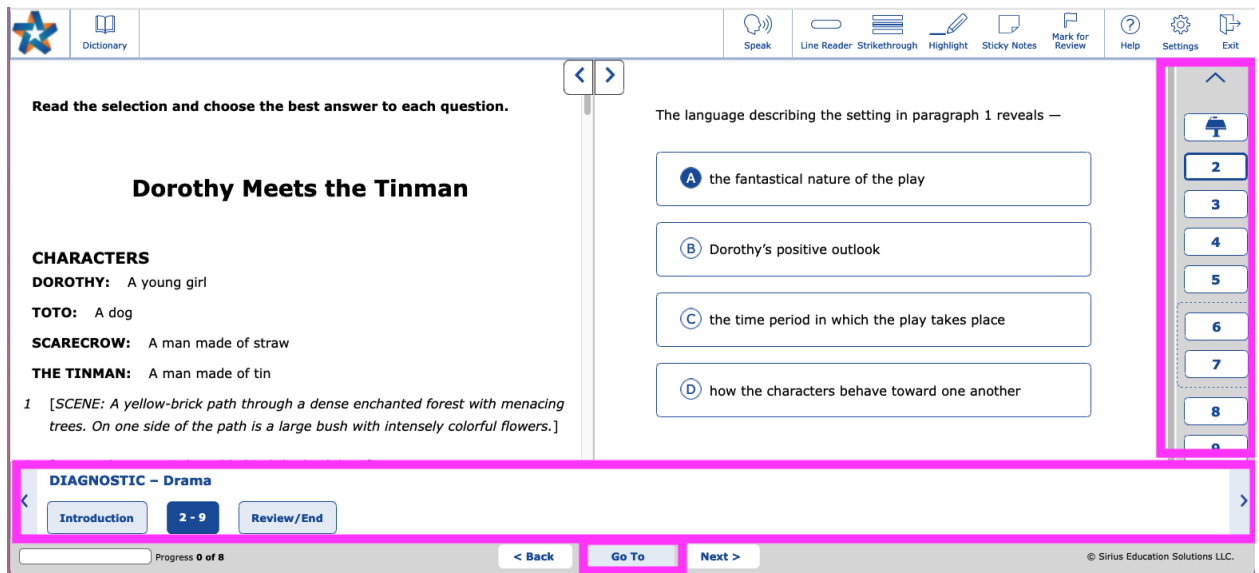
- Respond to questions by selecting the correct answer or interacting on screen according to instructions. Then click **next**.

As you may have learned in the **Sirius Tools Tutorial**, be sure to carefully read each question. You can **Highlight** key elements of the question in order to focus on what is being asked of you. Cross out wrong answers with the **Strikethrough** tool. Use other tools such as the **Dictionary** or **Speak**, including text to speech, or in **Settings**, including general settings such as voice speed, text highlight and magnifier and speech mode, or **Translate** for translations to other languages, or changes

Be sure to ask your teacher to help you learn to use the tools that best fit your learning preferences and style, as well as to understand if any special tools will be available to accommodate or assist you during the STAAR test (referred to as *accommodations*).

*Staying calm and confident can make all the difference in your success! The less stress you feel, the better you will do when you take the STAAR test.*

- Click the **Go To** button at the bottom center of the screen to jump among items, or to view items that you have not completed or *flagged* to return to in the slide tray item navigator.



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

### Dorothy Meets the Tinman

**CHARACTERS**  
**DOROTHY:** A young girl  
**TOTO:** A dog  
**SCARECROW:** A man made of straw  
**THE TINMAN:** A man made of tin

1 [SCENE: A yellow-brick path through a dense enchanted forest with menacing trees. On one side of the path is a large bush with intensely colorful flowers.]

The language describing the setting in paragraph 1 reveals —

- A the fantastical nature of the play
- B Dorothy's positive outlook
- C the time period in which the play takes place
- D how the characters behave toward one another

DIAGNOSTIC – Drama

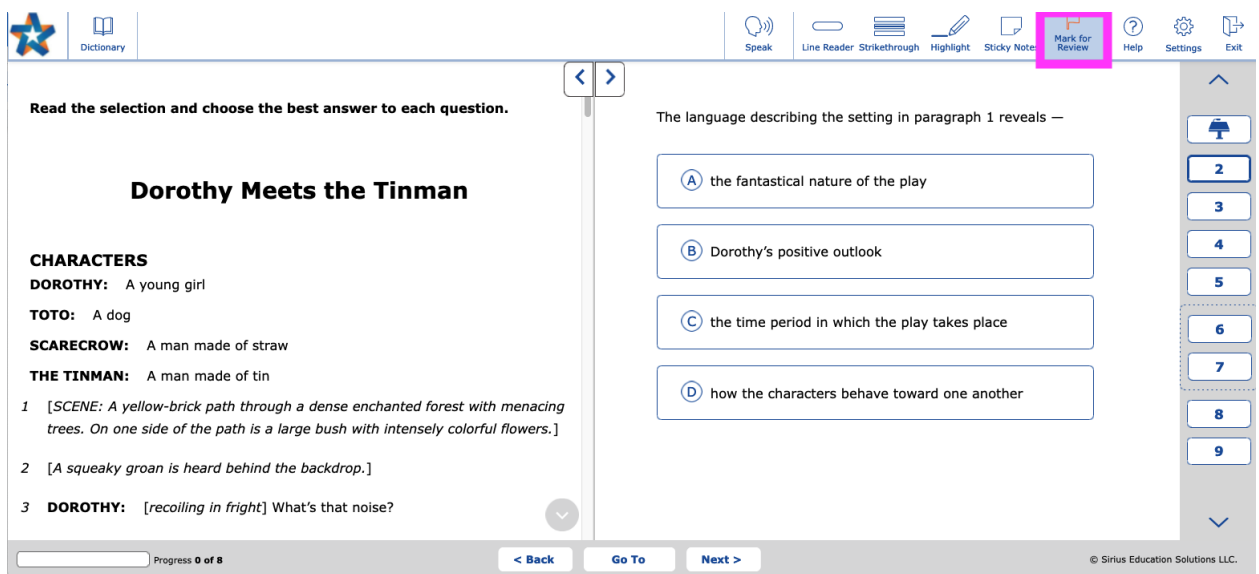
Introduction 2 - 9 Review/End

Progress 0 of 8

< Back **Go To** Next >

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- Use the **flag** button in the upper right to mark items that you would like to return to a later moment.



Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

### Dorothy Meets the Tinman

**CHARACTERS**  
**DOROTHY:** A young girl  
**TOTO:** A dog  
**SCARECROW:** A man made of straw  
**THE TINMAN:** A man made of tin

1 [SCENE: A yellow-brick path through a dense enchanted forest with menacing trees. On one side of the path is a large bush with intensely colorful flowers.]

2 [A squeaky groan is heard behind the backdrop.]

3 **DOROTHY:** [recoiling in fright] What's that noise?

The language describing the setting in paragraph 1 reveals —

- A the fantastical nature of the play
- B Dorothy's positive outlook
- C the time period in which the play takes place
- D how the characters behave toward one another

Mark for Review

Progress 0 of 8

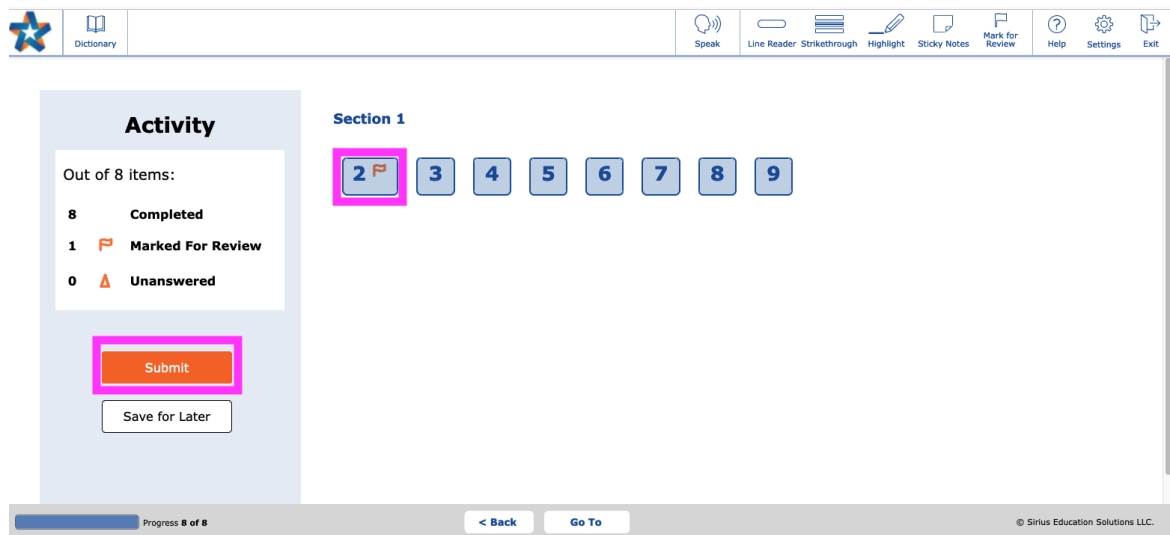
< Back **Go To** Next >

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Be sure to take your time to understand why an answer is right or wrong. If you need help, be sure to place a Sticky Note on screen for your teacher, so that they might review the item in class at a later moment.

7. Most often, when you have answered all questions, click the **Submit** button after resolving any items you have flagged (you can click the flagged items from this summary to jump back to review/revise any flagged items). You can also **Save for Later** to return to your work if your teacher allows.



## Regarding Live Practice (with Feedback) vs. Test Mode Work

Students practice using a variety of tools that mimic the STAAR test.

Any time you are working on assignments done in *practice mode*, you will have the opportunity to receive multiple forms of feedback after making a first response. You can click **Try Again**, **Show Hint**, **View Sample Answer**, or **Show Correct Answer**.

Also note that some courses have other subject-specific tools. For example, Algebra 1 has **formulas**, a **graphing calculator**, and **graph paper**.

**Note:** Teachers and students can learn more about available STAAR tools and other accommodation functionality in the **Sirius Tools Tutorial**, available within your course menu (or assigned by your teacher). Teachers must add the tutorial to your class as they do courses, and assign the tutorial to you so you can practice using the toolset.



## 5. Viewing Reports

### Accessing Your Graded Work and Scores

Why review your STAAR practice and other online tests after you complete them?

Countless reason why include:

- To learn what you know and understand about a topic, skill, or subject.
- To understand where you might need to spend more time learning about a topic.
- To ask questions about why one answer is right, while the one you chose may not be.
- To assist or learn from other classmates who may have the same strength or weakness.

What are your reasons for reviewing your work? You likely have many to add to the list.

### Steps for Accessing Your Graded or Scored Work

1. Click the **Reports** tab.



2. Review your overall **Summary** in the upper left of the screen. Your progress is color-coded to indicate your current work level. Do not let any color affect your mood or your desire to learn (it is only a computer drawing). You'll also see a bar graph representing your weekly progress (also only a computer drawing.)



### Color Coding

- Advanced (Green)
- Competent (Blue)
- Beginner (Gold)

**Weekly Performance** represents your work week-to-week by color and in the form of a bar graph.

3. To access your scores, click the **caret** (small right arrow) next to the course within which you submitted content or responses.

The items that you worked on display by content (name of activity), score, color-coded performance, and feedback (from your teacher).

4. To review the test or content for which you've been scored, click the **blue title link** of that item.
5. Examine the status, due date, and grade, and then click the **Review** button.

You will now be able to review your work.

Please note:

- A **Green Star** indicates that you got the item correctly.
- A **Red X** indicates that you answered incorrectly.

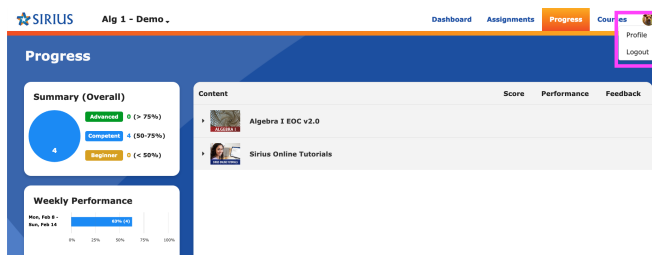
Please be sure to speak to your teacher if you do not understand why you may not have gotten an item correct and how to do better the next time you see a similar question.

Upon completion of your review, please click the **"X"** in the upper right to return to the Reports screen.

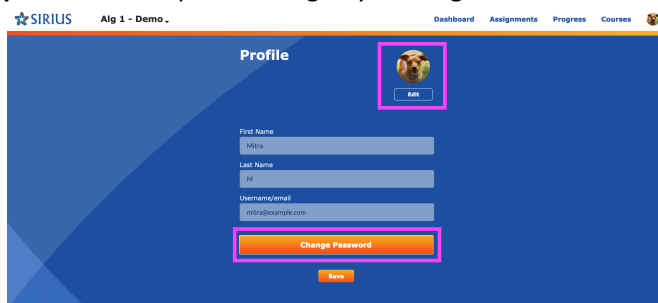
## 6. Updating Your Profile and Logging Out

The final element of your dashboard deals with your account profile in the upper right. It is also where you log out after class, or after completing your work at home.

1. Click your **profile icon** to open the pulldown menu.



2. Click **Profile**. (Or **Logout** to log out.)
3. If you're self-registered, you'll be able to update a limited amount of information, including your **password** and profile image by clicking **Edit**.



If your school does rosters for you, you'll be able to change only your profile image by clicking Edit in the upper right.

## Closing Words

Though your parents, teachers, and classmates will be helpful to you in learning, it is up to you to practice as often as possible, and under the same conditions that you'll experience when you take the STAAR test. Ask your teacher to recreate the experience of the test so that you can gain both familiarity and confidence with the format and experience.