

Kindergarten: Building a Foundation for Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Viewing

The Kindergarten English language arts curriculum builds a foundation of literacy through each of the language arts. Children begin to explore and expand the functions and uses of literacy in their daily lives. In reading, children develop an understanding of sound-letter relationships, learn about concepts of print, and name letters. Children become aware that writing is done for a purpose and understand the difference between pictures and print. They also use some recognizable symbols in writing. With assistance they begin to write simple narratives and expository pieces. In listening, speaking, and viewing, children attend to stories, join in on songs and poems, begin to use talk to communicate their ideas clearly and effectively, and allow others to speak without unnecessary interruption. Children connect phrases and clauses with conjunctions and speak at a rate that enables others to follow. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., fairy tales, nursery rhymes, picture books, alphabetical books) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, kindergarteners explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Learning to Learn Together in a Classroom Community

Friendship

Nursery Rhymes

Traditional Fairy Tales

Changes in the Story of My Life

Making Good Choices

First Grade: Developing a Foundation for Reading, Writing, Listening Speaking, and Viewing

The first grade English language arts curriculum continues to develop a foundation of literacy through each of the language arts. Literacy skills are a major emphasis throughout the year. In reading, children learn to blend the sounds of one-syllable words, practice one-to-one letter-sound correspondences, decode regular one-syllable words that contain regular sound-letter relationships, and monitor their own reading. In oral reading, they continue to work on fluency by phrasing accurately, reading with an understanding of punctuation, and reading at a good rate with a smooth flow. In writing, children begin to use the steps of the writing process to compose fairly readable first drafts using appropriate grammar and spelling conventions. They write or dictate simple stories, letters, and descriptive reports. Children view dramatizations of stories. In speaking, they retell stories viewed or heard in class, preserving the sequence of events, give simple directions, and converse with others about concepts they learn. In listening, they sustain attention for increasing periods of time. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., fables, realistic fiction, fairy tales, fantasy stories, photo essays, magazines, how-to-books) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, first graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Cooperation

Folktales

Family

Caldecotts

Fantastic Fantasy

Someone Special – A Study of People with Special Needs

Our Friends – Our Pets

Second Grade: Expanding a Foundation for Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking and Viewing

The second grade English language arts curriculum continues to expand the foundation of literacy through each of the language arts. Literacy skills are a major emphasis throughout the year. In reading, children decode unknown multi-syllable words through phonic and structural analysis and monitor their own reading. In oral reading, they work on fluency by phrasing accurately, reading with an understanding of punctuation, and reading at a good rate with a smooth flow. In writing, children create simple adventure stories, legends, personal narratives, and research reports that utilize compare and contrast or cause and effect organizational patterns. They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., simple flashbacks, metaphors, and similes). They compose fairly readable second drafts using appropriate grammar and spelling conventions, and they employ appropriate steps of the writing process. Through listening, speaking, and viewing, the children retell a story heard or viewed in class, capturing major story events, main ideas, and supporting ideas; conduct a brief interview; and give a news report. In listening, children sustain attention for increasing periods of time. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., adventure stories, legends, folktales, personal narratives, realistic fiction, journals, reports, diaries) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, second graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Personal Relationships

Learning About Words

Realistic Fiction

Comparing Communities

Adventure

Read All About Remarkable Discoveries!

Stories From Long Ago

Third Grade: Enhancing a Foundation for Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Viewing

The third grade English language arts curriculum continues to enhance the foundation of literacy through each of the language arts. Literacy skills are a major emphasis throughout the year. In reading, students use context as the basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, self-correct using knowledge of language structure and sound-symbol relationships, exhibit fluency in oral reading, and know simple prefixes and suffixes. In writing, they create simple humorous stories, poetry in varying forms, a detailed description of a character, a simple problem and solution report, and they devise a set of explicit instructions for performing a task. Students use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., simple marginal notes, time lines, preface, foreshadowing, personification, third person point of view). They use appropriate grammar and spelling conventions and the appropriate steps in the writing process. Through listening, speaking, and viewing, students summarize all types of text; tell a story using volume, pause, and intonation; and recite a poem. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., humorous stories, fantasy stories, poetry, plays, adventure stories, essays, reports, advertising, and textbooks) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, third graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Growing and Changing

Modern Fantasy

Learning About Our Regional Communities

Poetry

Adapting to Change

Humorous Stories

Natural Disasters!

Fourth Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The fourth grade English language arts curriculum furthers the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students learn to use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. In reading, they use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, and they self-correct their reading using knowledge of language structure and sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose fairly readable drafts using appropriate grammar and spelling. Students use element of the writer's craft (e.g., simple symbolism, similes, metaphors, illustrations, and subheadings). They write mysteries, fantasy stories, research reports, newspaper articles, and how-to articles. Students apply grammar rules and conventions (e.g., appropriate spelling conventions, compound subjects and predicates, collective compound nouns, personal and interrogative pronouns, and coordinate and subordinate conjunctions). Through listening, speaking, and viewing, students compare informational texts, and they compare themes and characters across narrative texts. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., mysteries, fantasy stories, plays, poetry, biography, personal essays, how-to articles, research reports, and textbooks) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, fourth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Personal Narrative

Courage

Mysteries

Research on Environmental Preservation

Supporting Others in a Time of Need

Myths and Legends

Adventure

Fifth Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The fifth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the fifth grade Early American History social studies curriculum. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structures, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar (e.g., compound subjects and predicates, collective compound nouns, personal and interrogative pronouns, coordinate and subordinate conjunctions). They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks, introduction, summary, and conclusion). They write historical fiction, legends, short on-act plays, science fiction, persuasive essays, and research reports. Fifth graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view, by giving a comparative speech, responding to arguments, and attempting to persuade others. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., historical fiction, legends, tall tales, narrative poetry, plays, persuasive essays, personal essays, and biographies) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, fifth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Exploration

Celebrating Diversity

Science Fiction

Tell Me A Tale

Survival

Justice, Fairness, and Equity

Personal Writing

Sixth Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The sixth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the sixth grade Western World social studies curriculum. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structure, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process (e.g., reflective pronouns, compound-complex sentences). They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., simple imagery, exaggeration, understatement, footnotes, and subheadings). They write detailed narrative descriptions, historical fiction, tales with a moral, persuasive essays, newspaper articles, and research reports with persuasion as well as problem and solution as the dominant organizational patterns. Sixth graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view by giving a how-to speech, dramatizing scenes from a play, and giving a speech for one audience, then altering the style for another audience. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., legends, tales, historical fiction, adventure fiction, narrative poetry, autobiographies, persuasive essays, biographies, and how-to articles that use problem and solution) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, sixth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Literacy Strategies

Goals & Aspirations

Modern Fantasy

Trustworthiness

Mysteries

Tales of Adventure

Research - Complementing Our Rivers

Seventh Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The seventh grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the seventh grade Eastern World social studies curriculum. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structure, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar (e.g., adjective and adverbial phrases, comparative adjectives and adverbs, and relative pronouns). They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., flashback, anthropomorphism, diagrams, and captions). They write fables, realistic fiction, poetry, folktales, personal essays, autobiographies, and research reports with problem and solution, cause and effect, and sequence (process). Seventh graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view by delivering an entertaining biographical skit, and ask prepared interview questions to a guest speaker followed up with relevant questions that emerge from the interview. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., myths, folktales, fables, realistic fiction, narrative poetry, essays, autobiographies, biographical sketches, and newspapers that use cause and effect, problem and solution, and sequence) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, seventh graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Literacy Strategies

Self-discovery

Decision Making

What to Do with a Poem

Heroes & Heroines of Myths and Legends

Perspectives on Eastern World Cultures

Drama

Eighth Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The eighth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the eighth grade Nineteenth Century American History social studies curriculum. In reading, students use context as a basis for predicting meaning of unfamiliar words, they self-correct using knowledge of language structure, and they use sound-symbol relationships. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar (e.g., participial phrases, adverbial subordinate clauses, subjective, objective, and nominative case pronouns). They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., personification, exaggeration and understatement, symbolism, complex subheadings, marginal notes, similes, and metaphors). They write historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction, historical essays, and editorials. In informational writing they use complex description, example, classification, and comparison as the dominant organizational patterns. Eighth graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view by debating a position tied to major concepts, giving a political speech, and dramatizing the diary of an historical character. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., realistic fiction; historical fiction; science fiction; free verse poetry; historical essays; editorials; journals; diaries; and persuasive essays that use complex description, classification, examples, chronological order, and hierarchical organizational patterns) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, eighth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Survival

Voices of Freedom

Change - Journeys Across Cultures

Realistic Fiction

The Civil War in Historical Fiction and Historical Accounts

Research - The Future

Freedom to Learn to Read

Ninth Grade: Continued Development of the English Language Arts

The ninth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the ninth grade social studies curriculum. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar (e.g., infinitives and gerunds). They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., simple irony; imagery; simple mood; complex figures and diagrams; and complex introductions, summaries, and conclusions). They write adaptations of a drama, an adaptation of an episode from an epic poem, an imaginative skit, directions for a complex task, complex persuasive advertising campaign for a product, and dramatizing a tragedy. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., realistic fiction, adventure fiction, dramatic tragedies, epic poetry memoirs, persuasive autobiographies, journalistic essays, speeches, and literary magazines that use a variety of complex organizational patterns) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, ninth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Science Fiction

Language as a Tool

Exploring Human Nature

Life Stories

Research - Community Project

The Play's the Thing - A Genre Study of Drama

The Odyssey - An Heroic Journey

Tenth Grade: American Literature

The tenth grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the tenth grade Twentieth Century American History social studies curriculum. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar. They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., simple allusion, simple paradox, synopses, complex bibliographies, and complex prefaces). They write satire, tales, free verse poetry, historical accounts, letters, and specialized academic reports. Tenth graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view by giving an inspirational speech and a patriotic speech that sustains a point of view. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., satire, tales, humor, poetry, realistic fiction, historical fiction, sermons, dramatic comedy, historical accounts, classic essays, speeches, newspapers, editorials, and literary magazines that use a variety of complex organizational patterns) from our common culture and other cultures around the world, tenth graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

The American Dream

The Darker Vision – A Genre Study of Tales of Horror

Frontiers – A Restless Nation

Well-Aimed Wit – Learning About Satire

Building Research Skills – Environmental Preservation

American Poetry – Form and Vision

The Language and Literature of War

Eleventh Grade: World Literature

The eleventh grade English language arts curriculum expands the development of literacy through each of the language arts. Students use a variety of learning strategies that can be applied to gaining knowledge in all subject areas. Where appropriate, the language arts are linked to the content of the eleventh grade World History social studies curriculum. In writing, students continue to refine their use of the writing process and compose readable drafts using appropriate spelling conventions and grammar. They use elements of the writer's craft (e.g., alliteration, allegory, complex symbolism, complex metaphor, and complex similes). They write parody and satire, humorous adaptations of a monologue, tales, blank verse poetry, literary critiques, a proverb, a social commentary, and specialized academic reports. Eleventh graders develop their ability to listen, speak, and view by negotiating agreements in groups where there are disagreements, clarifying the understanding of complex concepts, delivering a humor monologue, and presenting an interpretative reading. Through the use of classic and contemporary literature and other texts (e.g., satire, parody, sonnets, dramatic tragedy, social comedies, proverbs, odes, lyric poetry, biblical text, blank verse, primary sources, literary critiques, classic essays, speeches, newspapers, editorials, biographies, autobiographies, and literary magazines that use a variety of complex organizational patterns) from our culture and other cultures around the world, eleventh graders explore a variety of topics in the units of study.

Units of Study

Drama

The Oral Tradition – Myths, Poetry, and Folktales from the Ancient World

Human Rights

Contemporary World Issues – A Research Process

Macbeth – Leadership Turns to Tyranny

Reading and Writing Profiles

Women's Lives – An International Perspective