

First Grade Curriculum Guide: English Language Arts

Reading

Students in first grade will learn to identify and read various types of literature and informational texts. They will learn about the organization and basic features of print. They will recognize familiar sight words, apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to understand spoken words, syllables and sounds, as well as to decode text with fluency and accuracy. In addition, students will learn to:

Literature

- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Retell stories, using key details, and showing understanding of their central message or lesson.
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story.
- Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or speak to the senses.
- Explain major differences between fiction and non-fiction.
- Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.
- Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- Compare and contrast characters and their experiences in stories.
- With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for first grade.
- Make connections between themselves and their experiences, or another text.

Informational Texts

- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Ask and answer questions to help determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in a text.
- Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries) to locate key facts or information in a text.

- Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations, and information provided by the words in a text.
- Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).
- With prompting and support, read informational texts of appropriate complexity for first grade.
- Determine or clarify the meaning of grade-level appropriate, unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.

Writing

Students in first grade will write about a variety of topics and in a variety of genres. They will learn to use grade appropriate conventions of standard English grammar and usage in their written work, as well as the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. In addition, students will learn to:

- Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
- Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
- Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.
- With guidance and support, focus on a topic, respond to questions and suggestions, and add details to strengthen writing as needed.
- Participate in shared writing projects.
- With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Create and present original work in different genres in response to an author or theme studied in class, with support.
- Use increasingly complex descriptive vocabulary in writing.

Speaking and Listening

Students will learn to:

- Participate in collaborative conversations with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information or clarify something that is not understood.
- Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.
- Use conventions of standard English grammar and usage when speaking.