



1st Grade

Parent Guide for Understanding the English Language Arts Common Core

	Reading: Literature & Informational Text	Reading: Foundational Skills	Writing	Speaking & Listening	Language
Students will be able to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask and answer questions about a text. <p><u>Literature:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retell stories with detail and understand their central message or lesson. Describe characters, settings, and major events in a text using key details. Compare and contrast the adventures of characters in stories. <p><u>Informational Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text. With prompting, ask and answer questions about unknown words. With support, identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate and understand the organization and basic features of print. Demonstrate and understand that spoken words are made up of syllables and sounds (phonemes). Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode both in isolation and in text. Know final –e and common vowel team spelling conventions for representing long vowel sounds. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write opinion pieces that introduce a topic or name a book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure. Write information/explanatory texts that name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure. Write narratives that recount two or more sequenced events, include details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners. Ask and answer questions about key details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media format. Describe people, places, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly. Speak clearly at an understandable rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print all upper- and lowercase letters. Demonstrate command of standard English grammar and conventions. Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts. Determine or verify the meaning of unknown and multiple meaning words and phrases.
Schools will support by providing opportunities to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read prose, informational text, and poetry of appropriate complexity for Grade 1 with prompting and support. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses. Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, table of contents, glossaries, electronic menus and icons) to locate key facts or information in a text. Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and distinguish features of a sentence (e.g., first word, capitalization, ending punctuation). Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends. Segment spoken single-syllable words into individual sounds. Know the spelling-sound correspondence for consonant digraphs. Decode two syllable words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively engage in group or independent writing activities with purpose and understanding. Strengthen story telling skills through oral practice. Participate in shared research and writing projects. Use technology to produce and publish writing collaboratively with peers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have group discussions on read aloud texts. Converse with peers and adults in small and large groups about Grade 1 topics. Practice speaking in clear, complete sentences when engaging in various tasks. Give, restate, and follow two-step directions. Ask and answer questions. Memorize and recite poems, rhymes, and songs with expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice penmanship of all upper- and lowercase letters. Apply the rules of English grammar and conventions in daily writing tasks. Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities. Learn and apply strategies to understand unfamiliar words in reading.
Parents can support by providing opportunities to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a variety of text (e.g., storybooks, poems, fantasy, and realistic text). Visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf. Have conversations about what you read. As your child reads, encourage them to make predictions and confirm them afterwards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read with your child 15 minutes each day modeling good reading behavior. Play phonological games. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell stories aloud with your child and practice writing down your story in words. Tell them about a childhood memory. Use several details. Draw with your child and tell a story about it. Model how to add details to your drawing and story. Try this after a fun activity or family event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have family conversations about various topics using complete sentences. Model good listening and speaking skills. Sing and recite familiar songs while driving in the car. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice writing upper- and lowercase letters in a variety of ways (e.g., on paper, with their finger on your back, using sidewalk chalk on cement). Sort objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods).

First Grade Students will:

- Read stories and show they understand the lesson or the moral of the story
- Ask and answer questions about a story, including characters, setting, and major events
- Compare and contrast the experiences of different characters
- Identify the reasons an author gives to support a point
- Explain the differences between texts that tell a story and text that provide information
- Identify words that rhyme
- Read common words such as: the, of, you, are, she, and my
- Ask and answer questions about a story the teacher reads
- Identify characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events
- Participate in class discussions by listening and taking turns speaking
- Use a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- Take part in shared reading, writing, and research projects
- Express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

How Parents Can Support:

- Read with your child every day for at least 15 minutes tracking print from left to right. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas.
- Discuss the information in a table of contents of a book. Ask your child questions about it (e.g., What page does Chapter 1 start on? What page does it end on? What am I reading on page 5?).
- Talk often, listen and ask your child questions that require more than one or two word responses. Ask them to tell you about his or her day at school. Tell them about your day.
- Be sure your child has a library card. Encourage them to select books they are interested in to develop an early passion for reading.
- Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. Libraries also have computers students can use for free to access those sites. Ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.
- Play phonological word games:
 1. Ask your child what letters make the /sh/ sound?
Answer: s-h
 2. Tell me all the sounds in man? Answer: /m/ /a/ /n/
 3. What is the final sound in fat? Answer: /t/
 4. What is the medial sound in farm? Answer: /ar/

How Things Have Changed:

English Language Arts expectations of students have changed greatly with the adoption of the Common Core Standards. Students will continue to read and write, but in addition to stories and literature, they will read more informational or non-fiction texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies. They will also read more challenging text and be asked to support their interpretations with evidence from the text. There will also be an increased emphasis on building strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

Resources:

Sacramento City Unified School District

<http://www.scusd.edu/commoncoredept>

- ✓ Links to documents for California (CCS) Common Core Standards, including a list of mentor texts for the Standards for English Language Arts Practice

Parent-Teacher Association

<http://achievethecore.org/leadership-tools-common-core/parent-resources/>

- ✓ Parent Guides including grade level specific handouts with simple descriptions of what children should be learning in English Language Arts in each grade.

California Department of Education

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/index.asp>

- ✓ Informational flyers provide overviews and highlights of the ELA CCS
- ✓ Handouts for parents on transitioning to CCS
- ✓ Link to *Council of Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps*
- ✓ Links to *Smarter Balanced Assessments*

www.bookadventure.com

- ✓ *Free online reading resource*

www.starfall.com

- ✓ *Free online reading resource*