



LANGUAGE ARTS

4

FOR FAMILIES

FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

Children in fourth grade will read a variety of more challenging texts of different types (books, comics and journals, for example). Fourth-grade students are able to answer questions using information from a book and their own experiences. Their writing will continue to include more details and words. They will read and write using contractions (*can't*, *aren't*, *don't*, etc.) and abbreviations (*Dr.* and *Feb.*, etc.), words that sound or are spelled alike (*there* and *their*, for example), and words that follow the same spelling patterns, such as *receive* and *deceive*. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 4. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify the main points of longer stories, paying attention to key details such as important people, places, facts and sequence of events.
- Compare various texts to identify the type of writing in each (myths, articles and biographies, for example).
- Develop first drafts, then edit and revise them to create clear and organized writing.
- Determine if the author created a piece to persuade, inform or entertain the reader.
- Identify word parts to determine the meaning of words. (For example, the word *unable* means “not able” because of the prefix *un*.)

What to do at home:

- Compare facts and opinions while watching or reading news stories. Talk about how to confirm that facts are true.
- Ask questions about what your child is reading. Include questions that may not have a single right answer, such as “Why do you think the character made that decision?”
- Pick a word each day and ask everyone in the family to use it in conversation (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day> is a great resource).
- Make sure your child has opportunities to write in different styles that interest them (poetry and personal narrative, for example).
- Help your child identify a topic that interests them and make a plan for how to find information about it.

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps students be successful in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What five words do you think describe you best? Why?
- If you had to give everyone in your family new names, what would they be? Why did you choose the names?
- If you could be a character in any book, who would you be? Why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is the most exciting adventure you could take? Who would you take on the adventure?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Flip through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why or why not?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?

Join the conversation!

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