



LANGUAGE ARTS

5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Children in fifth grade will read a variety of more challenging texts of different types (books, newspapers and poems, for example). They will read for different purposes, such as to find information or for fun. Fifth-graders are focusing on elements of writing including style, structure and the author's purpose for writing. They can explore words with multiple meanings and make educated guesses about what words mean based on how and where they are used. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 5. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](https://www.sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://www.sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Be able to tell the difference between fact and opinion, providing reasons to support specific points.
- Create stories with well-thought-out characters, descriptive settings and clear and interesting plots.
- Use word parts to determine the meaning of words. (For example, the word *unable* means “not able” because of the prefix *un*.)
- Use sentences of different lengths with correct structure when working on a longer piece of writing.
- Provide facts, examples and details from a piece of writing to support ideas and draw conclusions.
- Edit and revise first drafts to create clear and organized writing.

What to do at home:

- Encourage your child to read several pieces of information on a topic and discuss the differences between them.
- Work together to write a paragraph on a topic your child is interested in, including key details, facts and information.
- Pick a word each day and ask everyone in the family to use it in conversation (<https://www.nytimes.com/column/learning-word-of-the-day> is a great resource).
- Ask your child to find and discuss interesting words in the books they are reading. Consider words with several meanings (*bark*, for example) or more descriptive words, such as *saunter* instead of *walk*.

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:

- If you were in a play, what would your character be like?
- If you could end your favorite movie a different way, how would you change it? Why?
- How would you explain eating spaghetti to someone who has never done it before?

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 do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow? Why?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week? 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

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- How can you find out the meaning of words you don't understand?

AFTER READING

- Give a summary of the book in 10 words.
- What problem did the main character face? What was the solution?
- What message is the author sharing with the reader? Why do you think that?

Join the conversation!

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