

7th Grade– Language Arts

CONTENT: Phonemic Awareness, Word Recognition and Fluency

Fluency continues to develop past the primary grades. Readers increase their rate of oral reading to near conversational pace. They show their appropriate use of pauses, pitch, stress and intonation that they are reading in clauses and sentence units to support comprehension. They gain control over a wider, complex sight vocabulary and over longer syntactic structures, so that they are able to read progressively more demanding texts with greater ease. Silent reading becomes considerably faster than oral reading and becomes the preferred, more efficient way to process everyday texts.

CONTENT: Acquisition of Vocabulary

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Define the meaning of unknown words through context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast, definition, restatement and example.
Apply knowledge of connotation and denotation to determine the meaning of words.
Infer word meanings through the identification of analogies and other word relationships, including synonyms and antonyms.
Interpret metaphors and similes to understand new uses of words and phrases in text.
Recognize and use words from other languages that have been adopted into the English language.
Use knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes to understand vocabulary.
Use knowledge of symbols and acronyms to identify whole words.
Determine the meanings and pronunciations of unknown words by using dictionaries, thesauruses, glossaries, technology and textual features, such as definitional footnotes or sidebars.

CONTENT: Reading Process: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Establish and adjust purposes for reading, including to find out, to understand, to interpret, to enjoy and to solve problems.
Predict or hypothesize as appropriate from information in the text, substantiating with specific references to textual examples that may be in widely separated sections of text.
Make critical comparisons across text, noting author's style as well as literal and implied content of text.
Summarize the information in texts, using key ideas, supporting details and referencing gaps or contradictions.
Select, create and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information.
Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.
Monitor own comprehension by adjusting speed to fit the purpose, or by skimming, scanning, reading on, looking back, note taking or summarizing what has been read so far in text.
Use criteria to choose independent reading materials (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres or recommendations from others).
Independently read books for various purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, for literary experience, to gain information or to perform a task).

CONTENT: Reading Applications: Informational, Technical and Persuasive Text

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Use text features, such as chapter titles, headings and subheadings; parts of books including index, appendix, table of contents, and online tools (search engines) to locate information.
Analyze examples of cause and effect and fact and opinion.
Compare and contrast different sources of information, including books, magazines, newspapers and online resources, to draw conclusions about a topic.
Compare original text to a summary to determine the extent to which the summary adequately reflects the main ideas, critical details and underlying meaning of the original text.
Analyze information found in maps, charts, tables, graphs, diagrams, cutaways and overlays.
Assess the adequacy, accuracy and appropriateness of an author's details, identifying persuasive techniques and examples of bias and stereotyping.
Identify an author's purpose for writing and explain an author's argument, perspective or viewpoint in text.
Compare the treatment, scope and organization of ideas from different texts on the same topic.

CONTENT: Reading Applications: Literary Text

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Explain interactions and conflicts (e.g., character vs. self, nature or society) between main and minor characters in literary text and how the interactions affect the plot.
Analyze the features of the setting and their importance in a text.
Identify the main and minor events of the plot, and explain how each incident gives rise to the next.
Identify and compare subjective and objective points of view and how they affect the overall body of a work.
Identify recurring themes, patterns and symbols found in literature from different eras and cultures.
Explain the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, myths, biographies, autobiographies, science fiction, fiction and non-fiction.
Interpret how mood or meaning is conveyed through word choice, figurative language and syntax.

CONTENT: Writing Processes

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Generate writing ideas through discussions with others and from printed material, and keep a list of writing ideas.
Conduct background reading, interviews or surveys when appropriate.
Establish a thesis statement for informational writing or a plan for narrative writing.
Determine a purpose and audience.
Use organizational strategies (e.g., rough outlines, diagrams, maps, webs and Venn diagrams) to plan writing.
Organize writing with an effective and engaging introduction, body and a conclusion that summarizes, extends or

elaborates on points or ideas in the writing.
Vary simple, compound and complex sentence structures.
Group related ideas into paragraphs, including topic sentences following paragraph form, and maintain a consistent focus across paragraphs.
Use precise language, action verbs, sensory details, colorful modifiers and style as appropriate to audience and purpose.
Use available technology to compose text.
Reread and analyze clarity of writing.
Add and delete information and details to better elaborate on a stated central idea and to more effectively accomplish purpose.
Rearrange words, sentences and paragraphs, and add transitional words and phrases to clarify meaning.
Use resources and reference materials (e.g., dictionaries and thesauruses) to select more effective vocabulary.
Proofread writing, edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization) and identify and correct fragments and run-ons.
Apply tools (e.g., rubric, checklist and feedback) to judge the quality of writing.
Prepare for publication (e.g., for display or for sharing with others) writing that follows a format appropriate to the purpose, using such techniques as electronic resources, principles of design (e.g., margins, tabs, spacing and columns) and graphics (e.g., drawings, charts and graphs) to enhance the final product.

CONTENT: Writing Applications

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Write narratives that maintain a clear focus and point of view and use sensory details and dialogue to develop plot, character and a specific setting.
Write responses to novels, stories, poems and plays that provide an interpretation, a critique or a reflection and support judgments with specific references to the text.
Write business letters that are formatted to convey ideas, state problems, make requests or give compliments.
Write informational essays or reports, including research, that present a literal understanding of the topic, include specific facts, details and examples from multiple sources, and create an organizing structure appropriate to the purpose, audience and context.
Write persuasive essays that establish a clear position and include relevant information to support ideas.
Produce informal writings (e.g., journals, notes and poems) for various purposes.

CONTENT: Writing Conventions

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Spell high-frequency words correctly.
Use commas, end marks, apostrophes and quotation marks correctly.
Use semicolons, colons, hyphens, dashes and brackets correctly.
Use correct capitalization.
Use all eight parts of speech (e.g., noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, conjunction, preposition, interjection).

Use dependent and independent clauses.
Use subject-verb agreement with collective nouns, indefinite pronouns, compound subjects and prepositional phrases.
Conjugate regular and irregular verbs in all tenses correctly.

CONTENT: Research

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Generate a topic, assigned or personal interest, and open-ended questions for research and develop a plan for gathering information.
Identify appropriate sources and gather relevant information from multiple sources (e.g., school library catalogs, online databases, electronic resources and Internet-based resources).
Identify and explain the importance of validity in sources, including publication date, coverage, language, points of view, and describe primary and secondary sources.
Select an appropriate structure for organizing information in a systematic way (e.g., notes, outlines, charts, tables and graphic organizers).
Analyze and organize important information, and select appropriate sources to support central ideas, concepts and themes.
Integrate quotations and citations into written text to maintain a flow of ideas.
Use an appropriate form of documentation, with teacher assistance, to acknowledge sources (e.g., bibliography, works cited).
Use a variety of communication techniques, including oral, visual, written or multimedia reports, to present information that supports a clear position with organized and relevant evidence about the topic or research question.

CONTENT: Communication: Oral and Visual

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Demonstrate active listening strategies (e.g., asking focused questions, responding to cues, making visual contact).
Draw logical inferences from presentations and visual media.
Interpret the speaker's purpose in presentations and visual media (e.g., to inform, to entertain, to persuade).
Identify and explain the persuasive techniques (e.g., bandwagon, testimonial, glittering generalities, emotional word repetition and bait and switch) used in presentations and media messages.
Demonstrate an understanding of the rules of the English language and select language appropriate to purpose and audience.
Adjust volume, phrasing, enunciation, voice modulation and inflection to stress important ideas and impact audience response.
Vary language choices as appropriate to the context of the speech.
Deliver informational presentations (e.g., expository, research) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrate an understanding of the topic and present events or ideas in a logical sequence; b. support the controlling idea or thesis with well-chosen and relevant facts, details, examples, quotations, statistics, stories and anecdotes;

- c. include an effective introduction and conclusion and use a consistent organizational structure (e.g., cause-effect, compare-contrast, problem-solution);
- d. use appropriate visual materials (e.g., diagrams, charts, illustrations) and available technology; and
- e. draw from multiple sources and identify sources used.

Deliver formal and informal descriptive presentations that convey relevant information and descriptive details.

Deliver persuasive presentations that:

- a. establish a clear position;
- b. include relevant evidence to support position and to address counter-arguments; and
- c. consistently use common organizational structures as appropriate (e.g., cause-effect, compare-contrast).