



LANGUAGE ARTS

5

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for 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 excellence!

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, children will read a variety of increasingly difficult materials, including newspapers, magazines, books, plays, biographies, poetry, myths, legends and other informational and technology-based content. They will read for different purposes, such as to find information or for fun. At this age, children are able to focus 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 and learn the places and countries they came from.

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

- Write summaries that follow a logical order and include the main points and details of a piece of writing.
- Develop stories with well-thought-out characters, descriptive settings and interesting plots.
- Use word parts such as affixes, roots and stems to determine the meaning of words.
- Develop a variety of sentences of different lengths with correct structure.
- Provide evidence (facts, examples and details) from a piece of writing to support ideas and draw conclusions.
- Develop longer writing pieces through editing and rewriting to create clear and organized work.

What to do at home:

- Discuss whose point of view the story is told from and how it would change if another character wrote it.
- Encourage your child to read multiple pieces of information on a topic and discuss the differences.
- Write a paragraph on a topic of interest, including key details, facts and information.
- Encourage your child to use dictionaries and online resources to understand the meaning and pronunciation of words.
- Discuss interesting words, such as those with many meanings (*bark*, etc.), the same or opposite meanings (*smart*, *clever*, *intelligent*, etc.) and those that sound or are spelled alike (*they're*, *their*, *there*, etc.).



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding 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 and 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 have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

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

- What do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week and why?
- How did you help someone in need today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block to 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 reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fifth-graders 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?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

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