

Grade 1 ELA Overview...

First grade students continue to be immersed in a variety of genres through engaging books. They ask and answer questions, retell stories, and find the main idea. As first grade continues, students describe characters, setting, and events as they read and comprehend grade level text. First graders are becoming more adept at identifying who is telling a story and they also compare and contrast the experiences of different characters. Students are explicitly taught grade level phonics skills to increase their independence with reading and writing.

As writers, first grade students communicate through talking, drawing, and writing. Students apply grade level conventions as they write narrative, informative, opinion, and poetry pieces throughout the year.

The Literacy Collaborative instructional framework is used to provide both standards-based instruction and attend to students' needs.

Units of Study: In order to foster the students' independence as readers and writers the following units are shared across the year. In each unit of study, students are able to apply what they have learned as readers to the craft of writing.

Launching Reader's Workshop

Minilessons focus on routines for thinking and talking about reading and working together in the classroom. Students learn how the classroom library is organized, how to choose books and return them, how to use their voices in the classroom, and how to work in various organized literacy centers.

Author study

Students will take an in-depth look at several authors and their work. Many of the stories will be read aloud and the students will have opportunities to make connections with the texts. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast different traits in the stories.

Fiction vs. Nonfiction:

Students will develop an understanding of traits seen in fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will understand that fiction stories have characters, places, and things that are made up by the author. Children will understand that non-fiction authors tell about real people, places, and things.

Informational texts/Narrative non-fiction

In this unit of study, students will understand that nonfiction texts are about a specific topic. Students will notice characteristics of nonfiction books and talk about the information they are learning. They will recognize that sometimes nonfiction authors tell information like a story.

Animal fantasy

This unit focuses on texts in which animals act like people and encounter human problems. Students will discuss whether characters seem real and if a story could happen in real life or not.

Folktales

Students will understand that folktales are alike in many ways. They are old stories that have been retold over many years. They involve characters that are good or bad, talking animals, and they have a lesson at the end.

Poetry

Students will read and listen to poems and identify words that express feelings and emotions. They will recognize that some poems contain rhythm, repetition and/or rhyme.

Units of Study in Writing: Throughout the year, students will be engaged in the craft and conventions of writing. They will continue to develop their own process for writing.

Launching Writer's workshop:

Students will learn about classroom routines for writer's workshop. They will express their ideas with peers through oral language, pictures and writing.

Narrative:

Students will understand how to craft a personal memory story or narrative from mentor texts. They will learn how to explain their thoughts and feelings about an experience or event.

Informative:

In this unit students learn to write non-fiction pieces that are enjoyable to read and give information to readers on a specific topic. Students will understand that non-fiction writers include text features (i.e. diagrams, labels photos) in their work. Students are encouraged to write procedural (how to) and all about (all about koalas) texts.

Opinion:

In this unit students will draw and write about a topic or book.

Poetry:

Students will learn to write poetry that includes feelings and sensory images. They may use rhyming words or not.

