

Grade 3 ELA Overview...

Third grade students independently read texts representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives. Instruction continues to develop and enhance students' literacy skills in the areas of reading, writing, and word study by building on the skills and strategies that have been developing since kindergarten. Students continue to build their stamina as readers and writers with increasing independence. Students are expected to interact with multiple texts and demonstrate understanding by expressing their thoughts and ideas. Reading and writing are deeply connected. The progression of the state standards is addressed through units of study.

As writers, students focus on responding to literature, as well as independently writing narrative, informative, and opinion pieces. Technology is a very important part as students regularly use iPads as a tool for writing, research, and preparation for on demand local and state testing. 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 the Readers' and Writers' Workshop: In this Unit of Study, students are developing the ability to work together in a classroom while establishing routines and expectations. They will learn ways to build their reading and writing lives. As members of this growing community of learners, students explore fiction and nonfiction texts.

Exploring Character Traits & Memoirs: In this unit of study, students will continue to explore genre while studying characters deeply, investigating patterns that reveal deeper traits and motivations, and articulating evidence-based theories about why a character acts a certain way. Students make connections to the characters in multiple texts and make personal connections between their own experiences and those of the characters. Students will explore the time, place, person, or event in the author's life and explain the significance. As writers, they decide what they will use to demonstrate character traits in their own writing and writing a memoir.

Realistic Fiction: In this unit of study, students will navigate a text to explore a theme or learn a lesson. They will ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding. They will explore and define the characteristics of this genre while referring to multiple mentor texts. Students notice and develop an understanding of this genre so that they know what to expect as readers and writers.

Informational Texts: In this unit of study, students think about how they would integrate personal experiences with other sources of information. Students read informational texts identifying the main ideas and supporting information while recognizing the text structure. They consider how writers select the genre of writing for a specific purpose and audience.

Fables & Folktales: In this unit of study, students explore what lessons can be learned from traditional stories. Students determine the central message and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Biographies: In this unit, students will explore biographical text, visualizing the setting of the story, making inferences about the subject based on text evidence, and determining major challenges the biographical subject faced. Students will focus on the information about culture, time period and setting the subject lived in, as well as looking to additional sources of information about the subject's life and times.

Literature Discussion: In this unit, students continue to compare texts, think critically, and apply what they have learned. Students will participate in conversations with classmates about fictional and informational texts and continue to write about their reading.

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. Students experience poetry throughout the year.

Narrative Writing: Students will explore how they tell a story. Through this structure of writing, students will show rather than tell how characters feel and develop believable characters in a realistic plot. They will write with a theme in mind or to teach a lesson. Students will write about a problem and how one or more characters respond to it.

Informative Writing: Students will have opportunities to organize and develop ideas that build knowledge about a topic.

Opinion Writing: Students will explore how writing is used to persuade or change other's ideas or opinions.

