

Grade 5 ELA Overview

The fifth grade literacy experience continues to build upon the skills and strategies learned in grades K through four. Students read, discuss, and respond to increasingly challenging literary and informational texts. Students engage with texts through independent reading, interactive read alouds, and shared reading of community books. Students demonstrate complex comprehension by recognizing the influence of point of view on the way events or topics are presented. Students support their understanding with evidence from text.

Students write poems, narratives, opinion pieces, literary responses, and essays (of varying lengths) regularly and for many purposes. In fifth grade, students are expected to make connections among multiple characters and/or texts and write about those connections.

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

Units of Study in Reading: 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 Readers' Workshop & Genre Overview: This unit of study lays the foundation for the rest of the year. Students learn the routines and expectations for building a classroom community of readers. They are also introduced to the literary genres that they will experience in fifth grade.

Historical Fiction: Students will learn about the implication of historical events through reading about fictional characters set in that place and time.

Informational Text: Students think across texts to compare and expand understandings of content and ideas. They will explore how authors use logical reasoning and specific evidence to support an argument and represent a point of view.

Fantasy: Students are able to explore beyond the boundaries of reality while remaining grounded in the world of human experiences.

Poetry: Students learn to capture the elements of life in the sparsest of language. They also learn the elements of poetry and that minimal words can evoke powerful imagery and profound meaning.

Biography: Students learn about other times and other cultures through the real life experiences of individuals who have made important contributions to society.

Preparation for Standardized Assessment: Students learn strategies and techniques to prepare them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of grade level material on standardized tests.

Financial Literacy: *What is Financial Literacy* develops reading and writing skills as well as an understanding of the personal finance concepts of earning, saving, spending, banking, borrowing, growing, and sharing. The unit teaches students to apply knowledge and vocabulary learned through informational anchor texts to literature with financial themes.

Realistic Fiction: Students extend their ability to determine the theme of a story by analyzing character and plot development. They also learn from the struggle of others as they identify and empathize with characters much like themselves who endure and overcome circumstances and hardships that the students themselves could encounter.

Word Generation Elementary: WordGen Elementary is an approach to academic language and literacy development. It strengthens the links among language acquisition, vocabulary instruction, reading comprehension, and discussion.

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.

Launching Writers' Workshop and the Writing Process: Students engage in the writing process from brainstorming to publishing, refining their ability as writers to express their thoughts and ideas in a variety of contexts.

Narrative Writing: Writers refine their ability to craft personal narratives by further developing their skills at using descriptive details, literary techniques, and attention to the narrative structure.

Informative Writing: Writers write informative pieces to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly by developing that topic with concrete details, facts, definitions, etc, and the use of precise and domain specific language.

Opinion Writing: Writers create opinion pieces supporting a point of view with logically ordered reasons.

Literary Essay: Writers will read and analyze text, and then present their thinking in the form of an essay.

Poetry: Students learn to create an imaginative awareness of experience using concise, but figurative language to evoke an emotional response from their audience.

