

Department: English

Course Name: Fourth Grade Language Arts

Course Description:

The fourth-grade curriculum for language arts is a combination of reading, writing, grammar, spelling and vocabulary. Reading in fourth grade focuses on theme study, novel study and skills practice introducing the students to classic novels and modern literature while developing analytical skills. Spelling in fourth grade emphasizes patterns which help to build word use encouraging an expansion of the students' vocabulary skills, particularly through inference and context clues. Parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, subject-verb agreement, pronoun usage, and sentence structures form the core for the grammar component of the fourth-grade program with attention given to proofreading skills. Finally, students in fourth grade learn to structure paragraphs, write responses to short essay questions and formulate research paper. In addition, students learn to write persuasive papers, compare-and-contrast essays and creative pieces. The 5-step writing process is followed for all major writing assignments. Students learn basic outlining skills, note taking and organization throughout the writing program.

Content:

Reading:

Fiction, novel studies, & non-fiction text

Character analysis

Comprehension skills

Poetry vs. prose

Spelling/Vocabulary:

Word definitions

Word origins

Grammar:

Sentences

Nouns

Verbs

Adjectives

Capitalization and Punctuation

Pronouns

Adverbs and Prepositions

Writing:

Short essay responses

Essays to compare, contrast, express an opinion, and persuade

Research paper

Fictional story

Character analysis essay

Poetry

5-step writing process

Basic outlining skills

Journal prompts

Skills:

Reading:

Understand plot development

Understand how characters may change in a story
Predict outcomes in stories read
Question, evaluate, and summarize reading selections and novels
Compare and contrast, and categorize and classify material within selections and between selections
Recognize and read high-fluency words
Read fluently at an appropriate rate
Show judgment
Understand genres
Solve problems and make decisions
Discern fact and opinion and cause and effect in selections read
Identify the topic and main idea, and note supporting details in a selection
Reflect on what was read through writing
Orally present a book report
Read a variety of selections within a theme representing various genres
Develop reading fluency and comprehension
Foster a love of reading and gain knowledge and appreciation for different genres
Identify the author's purpose
Define unknown words using context clues
Determine deeper level plot and character development through inference

Spelling/Vocabulary:

Study spelling patterns within words
Identify different ways of spelling the same phonetic sound
Identify long and short vowel sounds, and the various ways different vowel sounds are written
Study base or root words and varieties of words with prefixes and suffixes
Analyze word relationships
Process and apply word meanings
Build word study skills, including using affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word
Understand topics such as multiple meaning words, homographs, and analogies to expand students' vocabularies

Grammar:

Recognize and create different types of sentences
Identify and use the different parts of speech in sentences, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
Identify and correct run-on sentences

Writing:

Determine and create the topic sentence and details of a paragraph
Understand and follow the writing process, including brainstorming, composing a first draft, editing, composing a final draft, and sharing the finished product
Evaluate their work using a rubric
Use technology to prepare stories, paragraphs, and research papers
Write clearly and concisely for a variety of audiences

Text and Materials:

Chinn, Beverly Ann, Grammar Workshop (Sadlier, 2013)
Shostak, Jerome, Vocabulary Workshop: Enriched Edition (Sadlier, 2011)
Curtis, Christopher Paul, Bud, Not Buddy (Random House, 1999)
Lai, Thanhha, Inside Out & Back Again (Harper Collins, 2011)
Carbone, Elisa Blood on the River: James Town 1607 (Penguin Group, 2006)
Daily Language Review – Grade 4 (Evan-Moor, 2024)
Daily 6-Trait Writing – Grade 4 (Evan-Moor, 2024)

Methods of Instruction:

Quarterly novel studies
Reading response journals
Weekly reader exercises
Lecture
Review games
Demonstrations
Presentations
Classwork
Book reports
Oral demonstrations

Methods of Evaluation:

Accelerated Reader tests
Tests
Quizzes
Homework
Book reports
Class participation
Classwork
Review games
Writing exercises
Grammar workbook exercises
Textbook exercises
Workbook
Journals
Essays /Research Paper

