

Language Arts/Reading

GRADE FOUR

The focus in reading in grade four shifts from "reading to learn how to read" to "reading to learn". Reading skills are refined and students are expected to apply skills in content area reading. Literal and inferential comprehension as well as increased vocabulary development are emphasized. Critical thinking skills and study skills form the basis of the program. Individual progress continues to be evaluated and monitored by periodic and cumulative testing.

A variety of literary forms are formally presented at this level in order for students to gain a fuller understanding of literary genre in their reading and writing, and more extensive outside reading is required. The literature program is linked closely to themes related to studies in other areas of the curriculum. For example, novel readings complement the study of American Experience in social studies.

Oral presentations, talks and oral reports take on greater significance; and speaking and listening situations become more complex. The relationship of the language arts skills to other fields of interest and study is stressed so that the child can appreciate the inter relatedness of subjects studied (music, science, art).

Functional and expressive writing include both in-class and out-of-class assignments. Instruction in the steps of the writing process continues. Students continue to expand imaginative writings and greater emphasis is placed on the application of skills. The development of practical writing ability takes on a greater focus. The use of research techniques, including the introduction of the Big6 research strategy, will be supported by technology to enhance the writing program. Content area writing skills will be integrated with the social studies program. Students work toward mastery of keyboarding skills using the Type To Learn application. Keyboarding experiences are increased with the use of Neo keyboards. Communication skills are enriched through the use of multi-media presentations (ex. Pixie).

The regular components of the language arts program such as, spelling, handwriting and the mechanics of writing continue to be reinforced and refined. Grammar takes on a more formal aspect and spelling becomes more complex with greater emphasis on the structural elements of word parts (roots, suffixes and prefixes). The structured spelling program reinforces children's word power.

Instructional Material

Reading

Macmillan McGraw-Hill Treasures, 2007. Supplemental novels: The Sign Painter's Secret, On to Oregon, Poison Ivy and Eye-brow Wigs, Trouble River, George Washington's Socks, Fighting Ground, The Year of Miss Agnes, Frindle.

Supplementary Material: SRA Reading Lab 2b, SRA Power Builders

Indiv. Reading HBJ Odyssey Lit. Prog., Reading Journals, MCP Skill Boosters D
Language Arts: Houghton Mifflin- Spelling and Voc.; HBJ- Lang. for Daily Use; Daily Oral Language- McDougall Little; Wordly Wise 3000- School Specialty, inc.

Zaner Bloser Handwriting, Teacher Resource Material Vocabulary, Spellevator
Computer Program.

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