

Language Arts/Reading GRADE FIVE

Convergent and divergent thinking skills emphasized in grade four, continue to be developed in greater depth and the basis of the reading program. Since reading in the content area increases importance, instruction in functional reading and study skills takes on greater significance. Students develop reading flexibility and become better able to adjust reading skill application to the differing demands of various types of printed materials.

As a period of skill refinement, extensive work in vocabulary is provided. The analysis of word structures, derivatives and context clues is stressed to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words. Dictionary skills and spelling serve as reinforcements of vocabulary development and facilitate students' writing needs.

Mechanical skills introduced in earlier grades continue to be monitored by periodic review and new skills required for more complex writing demands expected at this level are introduced. Grammatical skills are expanded and students begin to use formal grammatical terminology (nouns, verbs, prepositions, objects). Handwriting continues to be monitored. Typing skills are practiced and reinforced through the computer lab, the NEO keyboards, and development of skills in

Google Apps.

Functional and expressive writing are developed at a more sophisticated level and oral expression is treated in a more formal manner.

Brainstorming, talks, panel discussions, formal reports, debates, drama and town meetings are examples of oral activities. Students are encouraged to focus on the development of clear, concise, logically sequenced essays and short research papers as well as on producing imaginative stories and poems. They are encouraged to use the computer as a tool to compose and edit selected written assignments. Social studies units are integrated closely into reading and writing activities. For example; the study of mythology enhances the understanding of the Ancient World; Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Use of the *Big6* research method continues to be implemented and supported by technology to enhance the writing program.

Instructional Materials

Reading Materials:

Macmillan/Mcgraw-Hill Wonders Reading Program—Core Program (Readers, Skill Practice Bks. Resource Bk & Assessments)

School Specialty, *Wordly Wise Grade 5 & 6*

5th Grade novels: *Ulysses*, *Rats of NIMH* and sequels, *The Golden Goblet*, *The Giver*, *David and the Phoenix*

Supplementary Support Material: SRA Power Builders,
Skills Practice Books (HBJ, Ed. Pub. and al.)

Language Arts:

Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Voc. Program

Let's Communicate (Ind. School Press Supp.)

Personal Voc. (from Lit. and spelling) Journals

Vocabulary from Classical Roots (Fifer & Flowers)