

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade
1

A resource to help you support your child's learning

In grade one, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading stories and showing they understand the lesson or moral of the story
- Asking and answering questions about a story, including characters, settings, and major events
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point
- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information
- Learning and using new words
- Participating in class discussions
- Describing people, places, things, and events, expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Working with others to gather facts and information on a topic
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English

In grade one, students will read stories and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

Reading Literature

Kindergarten Reading	Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students retell stories, including key details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students retell stories, including key details, and show that they understand the lesson or moral of a story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students retell stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

Reading for Information

Kindergarten Reading	Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ask and answer such questions as, and to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students identify what person, place, thing, or idea a picture shows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use the illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students explain how specific images or illustrations (such as a diagram of how a machine works) are useful.

Writing

Writing tasks in grade one may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Kindergarten Writing	Grade One Writing	Grade Two Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing, students name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students name a topic and supply some facts about the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop points.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students provide some sense of closure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students provide a concluding statement or section.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy quality family time while experiencing the joy of reading together!
5. Get your child a library card. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun.
6. Use websites to read books or articles online. Libraries also have computers students can use.

Partnering with your child's teacher

Ask your child's teacher questions like:

- Is my child reading on grade level?
- How is my child doing in writing?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English go to <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy> or <http://www.commoncoreworks.org>.

Adapted from Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core State Standards, Council of Great City Schools, www.cgcs.org