

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade
2

A resource to help you support your child's learning

In grade two, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in variety of texts, such as stories, books, articles, and other sources of information including the Internet. In their writing, students will learn how to develop a topic and strengthen their skills by editing and revising. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading stories, including fables and folktales from different cultures, and identifying the lesson or moral of the story
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and identifying the main idea
- Answering *who, what, where, when, why,* and *how* questions about stories and books
- Describing the reasons that an author gives to support a point
- Learning and using new words
- Describing in their own words information learned from articles or books read aloud
- Participating in class discussions
- Working together to gather facts and information on a topic
- Writing about a short series of events and describing actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Writing about opinions on books using important details and examples to support a position
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English

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

Reading Literature

Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading
<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">• Students recount stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral, explaining how it is developed in the text.
<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 aloud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

Reading for Information

Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading
<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 <i>who, what, where, when, why,</i> and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ask and answer questions about what they read by referring directly to parts of the text.
<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 are useful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use information gained from images or illustrations.

Writing

Writing tasks in grade two 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.

Grade One Writing	Grade Two Writing	Grade Three Writing
<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 introduce a topic and use facts, definitions, and details 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students provide a concluding statement or section.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students group related information together.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use linking words and phrases to connect ideas, such as <i>also</i>, <i>another</i>, and <i>but</i>.

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