

# Common Core State Standards

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade  
**3**

*A resource to help you support your child's learning*

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Writing research or opinion papers
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science)
- Participating in class discussions
- Giving a class presentation using relevant, organized facts and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic

In grade three, students will read stories, plays, 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

Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students retell stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students recount stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral, explaining how it is developed in the text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text and summarize the text.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are told, including the difference between first- and third-person accounts.</li></ul>

### Reading for Information

Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i>, <i>what</i>, <i>where</i>, <i>when</i>, <i>why</i>, and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students ask and answer questions about what they read by referring directly to parts of the text.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students refer to details in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and from inferences.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students explain how specific images or illustrations (such as a diagram of how a machine works) are useful.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use information gained from images or illustrations.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students interpret charts, graphs, or other visual sources and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text.</li></ul>

## Writing

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

Grade Two Writing	Grade Three Writing	Grade Four Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop their points.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic and use facts, definitions, and details to develop points.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students introduce a topic clearly and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students group related information together.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students group related information in paragraphs and sections and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use linking words and phrases to connect ideas, such as <i>also</i>, <i>another</i>, and <i>but</i>.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases such as <i>another</i>, <i>for example</i>, <i>also</i>, and <i>because</i>.</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.</li></ul>

### 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 at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?

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