



NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- ▶ Refer to specific parts of a text when speaking or writing about what it means. For example, when reading a story, explain how a character's words or actions show that she is brave.
- ▶ Notice differences between literal and figurative language. For example, the "step" is literal in with the next step he reached the finish line but figurative in the next step is finding a partner.
- ▶ Organize writing in ways that help readers understand. For example, use linking words and phrases like "another reason" and "after that" to connect ideas and information.
- ▶ Improve writing by making changes. Changes can be larger (like explaining ideas more fully) or smaller (like fixing spelling mistakes).



BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Stay on topic and ask and answer questions during class discussions.
- ▶ Notice differences between written and spoken English.
- ▶ Sound out words with two or more syllables. Use story clues to guess what words mean.
- ▶ Use a simple dictionary to find out how a word is spelled or what it means.
- ▶ Read aloud smoothly, not just one word at a time. Notice and try to fix mistakes while reading.
- ▶ Use pictures, headings, and other visual clues to help understand a story or article.
- ▶ Use books as well as other sources (like videos and websites) when doing research.
- ▶ Read two or more books on the same topic. Notice what is the same and different.
- ▶ Read traditional stories, like myths. Understand a story's lesson or message for readers.
- ▶ Describe characters in a story. Explain how their actions affect what happens.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ Who is the story about? What kind of person (or people) are they?
- ▶ What do you think the author is trying to tell you? How do you know?
- ▶ What do you think that word might mean? How can you figure it out?



TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ Books and authors to look for at the library
- ▶ Types of writing your child is working on

