

Revised K-5 Reading Curriculum - August 2022

Reading is a meaning-making process that requires the synthesis of skills to effectively communicate. Students are immersed in daily opportunities to explore, inquire, practice and apply reading strategies and skills in a variety of genres to advance toward grade level reading in addition to becoming self-motivated readers. They will learn how to effectively use before, during, and after reading strategies, build vocabulary, improve fluency, and select their own independent reading texts in order to become more informed citizens. Students will independently use their learning to grapple with increasingly complex texts from a variety of genres and time periods to gain a reservoir of literary and cultural knowledge.

Kindergarten - Reading

Course Description

In kindergarten, students begin to establish their identities as readers while they build the foundational skills for reading. In the first unit, ***Establishing the Reading Workshop***, children develop concepts of print, phonemic awareness, phonics, and the knowledge necessary to use story language to support their approximations of reading. The second unit, ***Decodable Super Powers: Reading with Print Strategies and Sight Word Power***, glories in children's love of play as they learn "super power" strategies that help them work on fluency. In the third unit, ***Reading More with Decoding***, children attempt more difficult books with greater independence and use reading strategies to read with more accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. The last kindergarten unit, ***Exploring Genres***, helps youngsters role-play their way into being the readers you want them to become. They pay close attention to characters, setting, and plot while reading fictional stories, become experts in nonfiction topics as they read together in clubs, and play with rhyme and rhythm while reading poetry.

Related Priority Standards (State &/or National): [K-5 Missouri Learning Standards](#) & [ELA Priority Standards](#)

Essential Questions

- How do I know when I am stuck?
- How do I figure out why I am stuck?
- How do I purposefully apply effective strategies to help comprehend?
- How do I motivate myself to read complex text?
- Why am I reading? For what purpose?
- How has my thinking changed?
- How can I transfer the strategies to real life experiences?

Enduring Understandings/Big Ideas

Students will understand that:

- Reading is a meaning making process that requires application of self-monitoring strategies to deepen the level of comprehension.
- Self-directed reading leads to character and knowledge development.
- Reading helps a reader extend and deepen their knowledge.
- Reading develops critical thinking skills to evaluate reasoning.
- Reading provides insights into the human condition.

Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: We are Readers
- Unit 2: Emergent Reading: Looking Closely at Familiar Texts
- Unit 3: Super Powers: Reading with Print Strategies & Sight Word Power
- Unit 4: Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles
- Unit 5: Becoming Avid Readers
- Unit 6: Growing Expertise in Little Books: Reading for Information
- Unit 7: Giving the Gift of Reading

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Establish the Reading Workshop
In this unit, children will engage in emergent reading as they develop concepts of print, phonemic awareness, phonics, and story knowledge. They will discover that many of their old favorite songs and stories are also in books. They will learn that readers read the whole book, and use connecting words to retell a story.
- Unit 2: Decodable Super Powers
This unit teaches students to use their decoding superpowers, recognize words they already know, talk about characters, notice events with strong emotions, and read with partners.
- Unit 3: Reading More with Decoding
This unit helps students shift from rereading mostly familiar books to reading more difficult books. This unit will equip students with strategies to look for patterns in words and use their knowledge of letters and sounds to read new words.
- Unit 4: Exploring Genres
This unit moves students towards greater independence as they become avid readers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

First Grade - Reading

Course Description

The start of first grade is a time for dusting off the skills and habits that children learned during kindergarten. The first unit, ***Building Good Reading Habits***, reinforces children's learning from kindergarten and establishes ability-based partnerships that tap into the social power of peers working together to help each other become more strategic as readers. The second unit, ***Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction***, taps into children's natural curiosity as they explore nonfiction, supporting the teaching of comprehension strategies, word solving, vocabulary, fluency, and author's craft. The third unit, ***Readers Have Big Jobs to Do: Fluency, Phonics, and Comprehension***, focuses on the reading process to set children up to read increasingly complex texts. The last unit of first grade, ***Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons: A Study of Story Elements***, spotlights story elements and the skills that are foundational to comprehension, including empathy, imagination, character study, and interpretation.

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Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Becoming Avid Readers
- Unit 2: Building Good Reading Habits
- Unit 3: Word Detectives
- Unit 4: Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction
- Unit 5: Readers Have Big Jobs To Do: Fluency, Phonics, & Comprehension
- Unit 6: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons: A Study of Story Elements

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Building Good Reading Habits
This unit teaches students to draw on all the good habits they learned in kindergarten to preview books, read more and more, scoop up more words to make their reading voices smoother, and to keep their eyes on the words to read what's really there.
- Unit 2: Learning About the World - Reading Nonfiction
This unit balances support for non-fiction with support for reading processes. Students learn comprehension strategies like previewing, predicting, noticing how a text is organized, and gathering information from the pictures, the print, and the text boxes.
- Unit 3: Readers Have Big Jobs to Do
This unit continues to focus on the reading process and sets students up to read increasingly complex books. Students focus on bringing together fluency, phonics, and comprehension. They will expand their word solving strategies and learn to monitor for meaning.
- Unit 4: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons
This unit is a study of story elements. It helps students begin to understand literal and inferential information. Students learn to make predictions, determine importance, and use text details to grow ideas about characters.

Second Grade - Reading

Course Description

In second grade, children move from a “little-kid” focus on print to a “big-kid” focus on meaning. The first unit, **Second-Grade Reading Growth Spurt**, teaches children to take charge of their reading, drawing on everything they know to figure out hard words, understand author’s craft, and build big ideas about the books they read. Children learn that books can be their teachers in the second unit, **Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction**, in which they learn more about familiar topics and grow understanding of new topics while working on word solving, vocabulary development, and comparing and contrasting information across texts. In the third unit, **Bigger Books Mean Amping Up Reading Power**, children learn strategies to build three foundational reading skills—fluency, understanding figurative language, and comprehension. In the final unit for second grade, **Series Book Clubs**, children work within book clubs to study author’s craft to understand ways authors use word choice, figurative language, punctuation, and even patterns to construct a series and evoke feelings in readers.

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Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Growing Word Solving Muscles
- Unit 2: Second Grade Reading Growth Spurt
- Unit 3: Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction
- Unit 4: Series Book Clubs
- Unit 5: Reading Nonfiction Cover to Cover: Nonfiction Book Clubs

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Establishing Reading Workshop and Growing Word Solving Muscles
This unit focuses on solving hard words and wrapping together phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Students learn to stop and jot and to retell to help make sense of longer texts.
- Unit 2: Becoming Experts - Reading Nonfiction
As students are writing nonfiction books during writing workshop, they are also reading nonfiction. They are learning to use resources to solve difficult vocabulary words. They choose topics and compare information across multiple texts.
- Unit 3: Amping Up Reading Power
This unit combines three foundational skills: fluency, figurative language, and comprehension. They will learn to keep track of ideas throughout longer texts and have the opportunity to choose books together with reading partners.
- Unit 4: Series Book Clubs
This unit uses the power of series books so students become experts on characters and how they face problems. Students will also use readers' theater to have opportunities for multiple rereading of familiar books and to make their voices sound like characters.

Third Grade - Reading

Course Description

The third-grade units are written to support the crucial transition children make from learning to read to reading to learn. The opening unit, ***Building a Reading Life***, launches students' lives as upper elementary school readers. Children ramp up their reading skills by immersing themselves in within-reach fiction books while working on word solving, vocabulary development, and more. The second unit, ***Reading to Learn: Grasping Main Ideas and Text Structures***, addresses essential skills for reading expository nonfiction, such as ascertaining main ideas, recognizing text infrastructure, comparing texts, and thinking critically, as well as the skills for reading narrative nonfiction, such as determining importance by using knowledge of story structure. The third unit, ***Character Studies***, lures children into fiction books, teaching them to closely observe characters and sharpen their skills in interpretation. The final unit, ***Research Clubs: Elephants, Penguins, and Frogs, Oh My!***, shows youngsters how to turn to texts as their teachers. Children work in clubs to gather, synthesize, and organize information about animals, and then use this information to seek solutions to real-world problems.

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Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Building a Reading Life
- Unit 2: Reading to Learn
- Unit 3: Mystery: Foundational Skills in Disguise
- Unit 4: Character Studies
- Unit 5: Research Clubs
- Unit 6: Social Issues Book Club

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Building a Reading Life
This unit launches students reading lives as upper elementary students. Students learn to use comprehension checks and fix-up strategies when they have lost the thread of the story. They also learn strategies for tackling multisyllabic words, figurative language, and more complex sentences.
- Unit 2: Reading to Learn
Students tackle longer nonfiction books and learn to build mental summaries that identify main ideas and organize supporting details.
- Unit 3: Character Studies
In this unit, students use what they have learned about characters to start identifying themes. They consider the big lessons characters learn and how those lessons relate to the central message the story conveys.
- Unit 4: Teaching for Transfer and Research Clubs
This unit combines strategies for preparing for the state assessments with opportunities to join research teams. Teams work together to develop research questions, read to find answers, and develop resources for understanding academic vocabulary.

Fourth Grade - Reading

Course Description

In fourth grade, children delve into complex texts and see significance in details. In the first unit, ***Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story***, children study the complexity of characters and explore themes while developing skills such as inference and interpretation. In the second unit, ***Reading the Weather, Reading the World***, children form research teams to delve into topics about extreme weather and natural disasters while developing their skills in cross-text synthesis,

practicing close reading, comparing and contrasting, and evaluating sources to determine credibility. Children take on the challenge of researching history in the third unit, **Reading History: The American Revolution**. Children study multiple points of view, support a position with reasons and evidence, tackle complex texts, and learn strategies for using new domain-specific words. In the final unit for fourth grade, **Historical Fiction Clubs**, children practice reading analytically, synthesizing complicated narratives, comparing and contrasting themes, and incorporating nonfiction research into their reading.

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- Reading provides insights into the human condition.

Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story
- Unit 2: Reading the Weather, Reading the World
- Unit 3: Detail & Synthesis: Close Reading of Fiction
- Unit 4: Reading History: The American Revolution
- Unit 5: Historical Fiction Book Clubs
- Unit 6: Power & Perspective

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Interpreting Characters
In this unit, students study the complexity of characters and explore themes while developing skills such as inference and interpretation.
- Unit 2: Reading the Weather, Reading the World
In this unit, students form research teams to delve into topics about extreme weather and natural disasters while developing their skills in cross-text synthesis, practicing close reading, comparing and contrasting, and evaluating sources to determine credibility.
- Unit 3: Reading History
In this unit about the American Revolution, students study multiple points of view, support a position with reasons and evidence, tackle complex texts, and learn strategies for using new domain-specific words.
- Unit 4: Historical Fiction Book Clubs
In this unit, students form small book clubs to read together and practice reading analytically, synthesizing complicated narratives, comparing and contrasting themes, and incorporating nonfiction research into their reading.

Fifth Grade - Reading

Course Description

Fifth grade is a time for children to hone their intellectual independence. In the first unit, ***Interpretation Book Clubs: Analyzing Themes***, students draw on a repertoire of ways for reading closely, noticing how story elements interact, understanding how different authors develop the same theme, and comparing and contrasting texts that develop a similar theme. In the second unit, ***Tackling Complexity: Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction***, children investigate the ways nonfiction texts are becoming more complex, and they learn strategies to tackle these new challenges. This unit emphasizes the strong foundational skills, such as fluency, orienting to texts, and word solving, that are required to read complex nonfiction. In the third unit, ***Argument and Advocacy: Researching Debatable Issues***, students read complex nonfiction texts to conduct research on a debatable topic, consider perspective and craft, evaluate arguments, and formulate their own evidence-based, ethical positions on issues. In the final unit for fifth grade, ***Fantasy Book Clubs: The Magic of Themes and Symbols***, students work in clubs to become deeply immersed in the fantasy genre and further develop higher-level thinking skills to study how authors develop characters and themes over time. They think metaphorically as well as analytically, explore the quests and themes within and across their novels, and consider the implications of conflicts, themes, and lessons learned.

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- Reading develops critical thinking skills to evaluate reasoning.
- Reading provides insights into the human condition.

Previous Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Reading Fiction
- Unit 2: Tackling Complexity: Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction
- Unit 3: Interpretation Book Clubs: Analyzing Themes
- Unit 4: Argument & Advocacy: Researching Debatable Issues
- Unit 5: Fantasy Book Clubs: The Magic of Themes
- Unit 6: Reading in the Content Area: The Civil Rights Movement and the Continuing Fight of Equality

Updated Course-Level Scope & Sequence (Units &/or Skills)

- Unit 1: Interpretation Book Clubs
In this unit, students draw on a repertoire of ways for reading closely, noticing how story elements interact, understanding how different authors develop the same theme, and comparing and contrasting texts that develop a similar theme.

- Unit 2: Tackling Complexity - Nonfiction

In this unit, students investigate the ways nonfiction texts are becoming more complex, and they learn strategies to tackle these new challenges. This unit emphasizes the strong foundational skills, such as fluency, orienting to texts, and word solving, that are required to read complex nonfiction.

- Unit 3: Argument and Advocacy

In this unit, students read complex nonfiction texts to conduct research on a debatable topic, consider perspective and craft, evaluate arguments, and formulate their own evidence-based, ethical positions on issues.

- Unit 4: Fantasy Book Clubs

In this unit, students work in clubs to become deeply immersed in the fantasy genre and further develop higher-level thinking skills to study how authors develop characters and themes over time. They think metaphorically as well as analytically, explore the quests and themes within and across their novels, and consider the implications of conflicts, themes, and lessons learned.