Grade 3 Unit 3 ELA Family Information

November 2 – December 18, 2026

Unit Theme: One of a Kind

Text Set 1 (November 2 - November 13) - What do we know about Earth and its neighbors?

Students will learn about Earth, the solar system, and space while identifying main ideas and key details.

Vocabulary: *planet, Earth, orbit, solar system, rotate, star, scientist, observation, explore, galaxy*

Text Set 2 (November 16 - December 4) - What makes different animals unique?

Students will read about animal traits, adaptations, and life cycles while comparing animals.

Vocabulary: *traits, habitat, vertebrate, adaptation, life cycle, species, unique, survival, behavior, characteristics*

Text Set 3 (December 7 - December 18) - How is each event in history unique?

Students will learn about historical events and discoveries while exploring how events shape the future.

Vocabulary: *history, timeline, event, discovery, invention, anthem, transportation, chronology, innovation, progress*

Reading Comprehension	Questions to Ask Your Student
Reading Informational Text Skills assessed on unit test: • Vocabulary in Context • Determining Main Idea and Using Text Evidence • Author's Purpose • Identifying Audience • Explaining Relationships Between Ideas • Comparing Information Across Multiple Texts • Locating Information in Multiple Sources	• What is the text mostly about? • What details or facts support the main idea? • Why did the author write this text? • What does the word ___ mean? What clues helped you figure it out? • What evidence from the text supports your answer? If Reading Two Texts on the Same Topic: • What information is the same in both texts? • What information is different? • Which text helped you understand the topic better? Why?
Reading Literature Skills assessed on unit test: • Understanding Sequence of Events • Character Traits, Feelings, and Motivations • Comparing Perspectives • Determining Theme/Lesson/Moral	• What happened first, next, and last? • How is the main character feeling, and why? • Why did the character make that choice or take that action? • What lesson or message did the story teach? • What details from the story support your answer? If the Story Has Multiple Characters: • How do the characters think or feel differently about the situation? • Which character would you agree with? Why?

Grammar	Writing
Skills assessed on unit test: • Subject-Verb Agreement • Irregular Verbs • Figurative Language for Effect	Extended writing is not assessed via the unit assessment. Ask your student what they are writing about! • Project 1: Space Exploration Timeline; Our Solar System • Project 2: How Self-Driving Cars Can Work

Parent Note: Find a glossary of helpful terms on the next page.

PARENT HELP GUIDE

→→→ START HERE: These definitions come directly from the Georgia Department of Education's K-12 English Language Arts Standards. This list is intended to build your understanding and knowledge to help you support your child. Although students should be familiar with these terms, it is NOT expected for students to learn or memorize the specific language included in the definitions.

ELA TERM GLOSSARY

Evidence: Facts, statistics, expert testimony, text, or data used to support a claim or idea is considered evidence.

Expository techniques: Expository (informational) writing uses techniques such focusing on a central idea, providing evidence and examples, and presenting logical conclusions. These techniques can provide information, explain concepts and processes, or present analyses.

Main idea: The main idea is what the author is trying to convey about a specific topic and is essential to understanding the purpose and meaning of a text. Most often, it is stated as a complete sentence.

Narrative techniques: Narrative techniques are the literary methods a writer uses to craft elements of a story (e.g., plot, dialogue, setting, theme, style, and characters); they are overarching approaches or strategies authors use when storytelling while narrative devices are specific tools or mechanisms that the author uses to achieve an intended (specific) effect.

Personification: giving human characteristics to a non-human (e.g., animals, inanimate object, ideas, nature).

Poetic techniques: Poetic techniques involve the specific techniques associated with poetry; some poetic techniques could include organizing the text into stanzas, the use of sound devices or figurative language, or particular structures.

Rhyme: In literature, rhyme is the similarity or likeness of sounds that exists between two words; a true rhyme consists of identical sounding syllables with different letters preceding the vowel sounds (make, bake, cake).

Rhyme scheme: Rhyme scheme is the pattern or sequence in which end rhyme occurs. It is typically designated using the alphabet, with "a" labeling the first rhyme, "b" the second rhyme, and so forth. Any time the rhyme is repeated, the same letter will be used to identify that line.

Purpose: Purpose is the reason the text exists. It is what the author or speaker hopes to accomplish through the text and why the audience is willing to engage with the text.

Setting: The setting is the place, time, date, era (or time) in history that a text takes place.

Stanzas: Stanzas are divisions in poetry (or songs) based on thought or form; they are purposefully designated groups of lines, much like a paragraph connects related ideas in prose.

Structures: Text structures consist of the approaches and frameworks that authors use when creating texts. Authors of texts across all modes and genres determine the structures and features best suited to their intended purpose(s) and target audience(s). Expository structures include: chronological, cause/effect, problem/solution, compare/contrast

Text features: Text features used by authors, designers, and editors to increase readability and accessibility in texts using elements such as (but not limited to): page layout, titles, headings, sub-headings, accessibility features, captions, maps, diagrams, tables of contents, glossaries, bibliographies (reference pages), or indexes.

Theme: A theme is the central, unifying (and often universal) idea about the human experience that emerges through a text. Theme can also be called the central message or lesson.