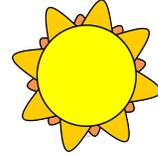
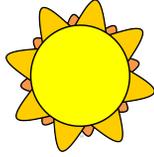


Summer Literacy Connections

Rising 5th Grade



Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful year, full of learning and fun! Our children have worked incredibly hard and have grown tremendously as learners. We are proud of all the progress they have made during this school year.

As the school year winds down, we encourage you to plan for a summer of reading with your child. Research has shown that children who read during the summer months sustain reading gains made during the school year. Additionally, it is helpful to revisit skills that may otherwise be forgotten over the summer months.

Of course, summer is a time for vacations, camp and pursuing new interests. However, we would like to provide families with some suggestions for summer academic work. On the following pages you will find information on:

1. Selecting a Just Right Book
2. Engaging your Readers – Literal/Inferential Comprehension Prompts
3. Responding to Reading – Ideas/Suggestions for Kid Blogging about Book
4. Parent Guide to Writing Mechanics
5. Thirsty for More? Links to online summer workbooks

Again, we respect your vacation time and the need in the summer for children to play and have fun. The activities and suggestions on the following pages are recommended, but remain optional.

Have a safe, healthy and happy summer!

How To Help Your Child Pick a Just Right Book

Children become good readers one book at a time. But how do you help a child choose the right books? You don't have to be an expert in reading levels to guide a child to books that entertain, enlighten, and challenge (without overwhelming).

You may be accustomed to choosing books for the children in your life. But did you know that selecting a book is a useful skill that a child can and should learn? Choosing a book independently teaches a child that we seek books for different reasons. With some simple strategies, you can help a child to be a savvy book selector. You also can help him or her choose books that are neither too easy nor too hard.

What is Your Purpose?

As early as you can, introduce the idea that we read for a purpose, even if that purpose is pure enjoyment.

Ask

What type of book are you looking for today—and why?
Are you looking for fiction (made up) or nonfiction (factual)?
Ask them to explain their choice.

SAY YES

Give the child authority over choosing books to read. Say “yes” as often as you can. A book that the child wants to read is the one you want to take home. Don't worry if a book seems short, too easy, or has pictures. Graphic novels (stories told in comic book frames) are a great way to hook a reluctant reader. Looking at pictures is a perfectly acceptable way to read a book.

USE THE 5 FINGER RULE

When your child chooses a book, open the book to a random page and have them put out their five fingers. Have your child read aloud the page to you. For each word that cannot be decoded, have them put a finger down. If all five fingers are down by the end of the page, the book is most likely too challenging for the child to read independently.

IF YOUR CHILD CHOOSES BOOKS THAT ARE TOO CHALLENGING

If the child really wants to read something you know is beyond his or her ability, solve it by reading it aloud together. You can take turns reading and define unfamiliar words as you go. That way the child will avoid the frustration and enjoy the added bonus of your company! You can also purchase or borrow books on audio!

I-Pick Just Right Books

I choose a book

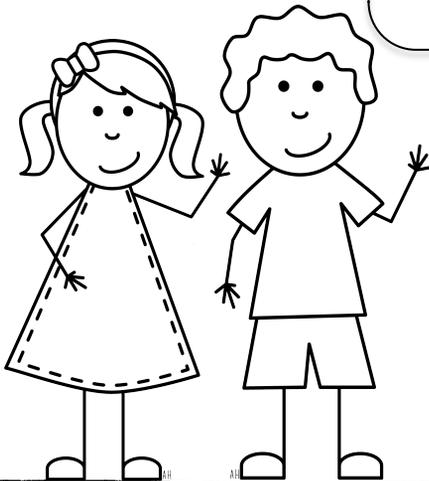
Purpose – Why do I want to read this book?

Interest – Does it interest me?

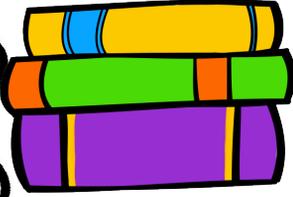
Comprehend – Do I understand what I'm reading?

Know – Do I know most of the words?
(5 finger rule!)

In school, we learn how to choose a book using the I-PICK acronym.



Engaging Your Readers



As your child becomes more and more confident reader, they will shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. It becomes very important in 4th and 5th grade for students to have a literal and inferential understanding of both fiction and nonfiction texts.

Who are the characters? Who is the main/secondary characters?
What is the setting? How does the setting change over the story?

When does the story take place?

What happened first? second? last? (RETELL/RECOUNT)

What does the main character look like?

Where in the book would you find _____?

*Any question that can be answered directly in the text is considered a “literal question”. Often these questions start with who, what, when, and where.

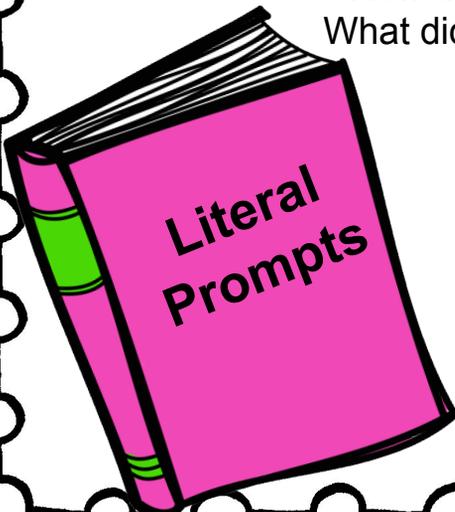
Who is telling the story? From what point of view?

What is the problem?

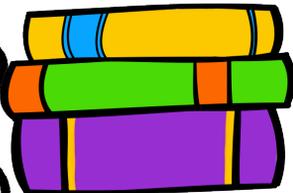
What is the solution?

How do the character solve the problem?

What did you learn in this book? (Nonfiction)



A literal question asks the reader to recall facts explicitly stated in the text. Students should be able to locate answer in text with increasing proficiency in the upper elementary grades. Help them practice this skill by asking “Where did you find that?” or “Prove it”



Engaging Your Readers

As your child becomes a more confident reader, they will shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. It becomes very important in 5th grade for students to have a literal and inferential understanding of both fiction and nonfiction texts.

What is the main idea of this text? (nonfiction)

What lesson did the character learn?

How did the character feel when _____?

Why did the character feel _____?

What made the character do that? Why do you think?

Explain why the characters acted in the way that they did?

What do you think _____ means?

How would the story have changed if _____?

How is _____ similar to _____? How is _____ different than _____?

What was the turning point?

What were the motives behind _____?

What are some other possible outcomes?

What might have caused _____?

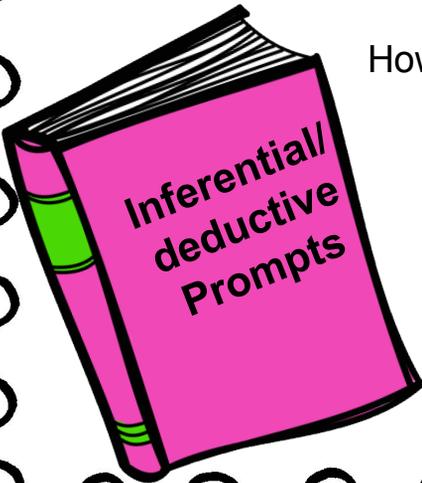
Does this text remind you of another text or something else?

What is the moral of the story?

How does the setting impact the story?

An inferential or deductive question asks the reader to go beyond the text to answer a question. The answer is often implied, but the reader must prove his or her response by using evidence from the text. These questions are typically more challenging for students to answer.

In general, asking WHY or HOW questions will help!



**Inferential/
deductive
Prompts**

Responding To Reading

Your teachers will be providing you with a reading response packet for the summer. In addition to the work you are doing in your packet, here are some ideas for you to think about as you are reading. You can also use these prompts to discuss your reading with a friend, sibling, or parent!

Fiction Prompts

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why was this part important?
2. How did the main character change in the story?
3. What lesson did the character learn in the story?
4. Does this book (or a part of the book) remind you of another book? Explain the similarities between the two books.
5. Does this book (or a part of the book) remind you of someone or something in your life? Explain why/how.
6. What was the unique about the way the author wrote the book?
7. Describe the main character. What are some character traits that describe him or her? Be sure to use evidence from the book!
8. What was the setting? How does the setting impact the story?
9. What was the problem? How was the problem solved?
10. How are you similar or different to the main character? Use at least 2 reasons to describe your thinking.

Nonfiction Prompts

1. What new or interesting information did you learn in this book?
2. Describe two nonfiction text features that you noticed. How did they help you understand the topic?
3. What was the main idea of the book? What did the author want you to learn?
4. What is something unique about this nonfiction book?
5. Why do you think the author chose the title? Is it a good title? Why or why not? If not, come up with an alternate title.



Resources to Help Your Child with Writing Mechanics



As students learn how to write, they must internalize rules for spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar so that they can communicate their ideas clearly and efficiently.

My child has a hard time remembering and/or using the rules for punctuation

- TIPS**
- Have child read a familiar story, but before he or she begins. Instruct them to replace all punctuation with a funny sound. This will help children learn to look for punctuation as they are reading aloud.
 - Deliberately leave out punctuation marks when you are writing emails or letters to friends/family and have children read and add in punctuation.
Disclaimer: ALWAYS check before you send it 😊

Online Game: Extreme Sentence Surgeons <http://mnrussbaum.com/xsurgeons-play>

Online Interactive Work: Proofreading Makes Perfect

http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language_arts/pmp/interactive_guide/g03/g03home.htm

Online Game: Big Babies Paragraphs

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?e=spelling-grammar04>

Resources

My child has a hard time remembering and/or using the rules for capitalization

- TIPS**
- Provide students with a list or paragraph of completed sentences with no capital letters. Have students correct which letters should be capitalized. Sentences from books, magazines, or even comic strips can be used.
 - Provide students with an editing checklist that includes the rules for capitalization (beginning of sentence, proper nouns, etc.)

Online Game: Magical Capitals <http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/grammar/capitals.htm>

Online Game: Blown Away

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en29punc-game-blown-away>

Online Game: Play Your Caps Right

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/game/en29punc-game-play-your-caps-right>

Resources

My child frequently misspells words while writing stories, essays or other independent work

- T**
- Have your student keep a personal dictionary or word wall close to where they do their homework each night. Help them add the correct spelling of words and hold them accountable for spelling these words correctly on homework.
- I**
- Familiarize students with how to use spell-check on word processing programs
- P**
- S**

Online Game: Princess Presto's Spelling Bee <http://pbskids.org/games/spelling/>

Online Game: Fun Brain Spell Check <http://www.funbrain.com/spell/>

Online Games and Practice: Spelling City <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
Spelling City can also be downloaded as an app for your tablet!

Online Games: Kidspell <http://www.kidspell.com/>

Resources

My child struggles to remember and/or apply grammar rules, such as noun-verb agreement, when writing

- T**
- Have students read work out loud and prompt errors with "Does that sound right?" If your child cannot identify her/his error, present with choices and say "Does it sound right this way or this way?"
- I**
- Visit Scholastic for some fun ideas to integrate grammar into your day
<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-raise-reader/2-ways-to-help-kids-fall-love-grammar>
- P**
- S**
- Use favorite picture or chapter books to highlight different grammar concepts (adjectives, verbs, etc.) to hold interest longer

Online Quiz: Grammar Blast http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/quizzes/

Online Quizzes: Grammar Gold
http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/preview/harcourt_language/goforgold.html#G3

Free Printables <http://www.greatschools.org/worksheets/fourth-grade/writing/>

Resources

Thirsty for More?



Although not required for our students, we are happy to suggest some additional summer enrichment and practice work if you choose to do some additional skill building with your child.

Summer Solutions Online Workbooks

www.summersolutions.net

Click ORDER HERE on the top menu

1. What Grade is Your Child Completing?
Grade 3

Displaying all Grade 3 Summer Solutions Products

 Grade 3 Common Core Mathematics Price: \$12.00 1 <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>	 Grade 3 Common Core English Price: \$12.00 1 <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>	 Level 3 Original Mathematics Price: \$12.00 1 <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>
 Level 3 English Grammar & Writing Mechanics Price: \$12.00	 Level 3 Reading Comprehension Price: \$12.00	 Level 3 Problem Solving Price: \$12.00

1. What Grade is Your Child Completing?
Grade 4

Displaying all Grade 4 Summer Solutions Products

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 Level 4 English Grammar & Writing Mechanics Price: \$12.00	 Level 4 Reading Comprehension Price: \$12.00	 Level 4 Problem Solving Price: \$12.00