

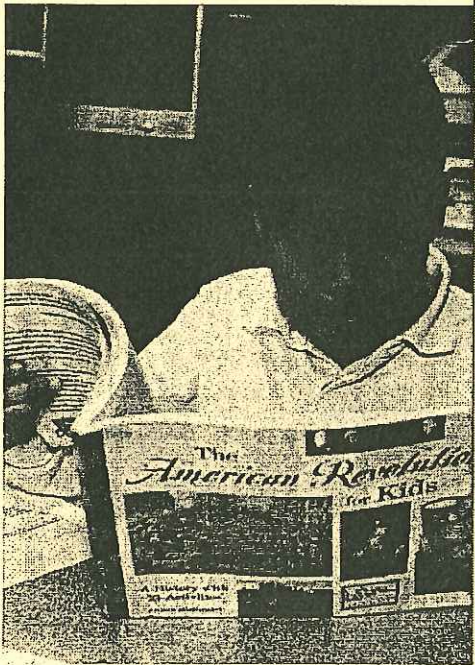


parent **ROADMAP**

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE FOUR
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



What your child will be learning in grade four English language arts and literacy



In grade four, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. In writing, students will organize their ideas and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information. Activities in these areas will include:

- Identifying the theme or main idea of a story, play, or poem
- Comparing stories from different cultures
- Explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points
- Reading and understanding information presented in charts, graphs, timelines, and other illustrations
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant, organized facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Taking notes and organizing information from books, articles, and online sources to learn more about a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the 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?

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

Grade Three Writing

- Students introduce a topic and use facts, definitions, and details to develop points.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section.
- Students group related information together.
- Students use linking words and phrases to connect ideas, such as *also*, *another*, and *but*.

Grade Four Writing

- Students introduce a topic clearly and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
- Students group related information in paragraphs and sections and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful.
- Students link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (such as *another*, *for example*, *also*, and *because*).
- Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.

Grade Five Writing

- Students introduce a topic clearly, providing a general observation and focus, and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
- Students group related information logically and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful.
- Students link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (such as *in contrast* or *especially*).
- Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.



Some writing guidelines may seem similar from year to year. However, with practice at each grade level, students continue to learn and apply the rules of standard written English and to strengthen and expand their vocabulary, use of language, and organization of ideas.

