

English Language Arts Benchmarks for Grade 3

Reading Standards for Literature
Strand: Key Ideas and Details (KID)
1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
Locate explicit key details in a story, drama, or poem by asking questions to enhance understanding
Respond to questions about explicit details related to key ideas in a story, drama, or poem
2. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
Locate key details in a story, fable, folktale, and myth from diverse cultures
Develop a key idea or lesson based on explicit details in the text of a story, fable, folktale, and myth from diverse cultures
Relate key details to a key idea or lesson of a story, fable, folktale, and myth from diverse cultures
3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
Describe the qualities of characters in a story
Relate a character's actions to his/her contributions to the sequence of events in a story
Strand: Craft and Structure (CAS)
4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from non-literal language.
Differentiate the literal from non-literal meaning of words and phrases in a story, drama, or poem
Locate literal language found in a story, drama, or poem
Locate non-literal language found in a story, drama, or poem
Distinguish between literal and non-literal words and phrases in a story, drama, or poem
5. Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.
Identify the parts of a story, drama, or poem using appropriate terms

Describe how the setting, characters, and problem change in successive chapters of a story
Describe how the setting, characters, and problem change in successive scenes of a drama
Describe how the setting, characters, and problem change in successive stanzas of a poem
6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
Compare and contrast own point of view with that of the narrator in a story, drama, or poem
Compare and contrast own point of view with that of a character in a story, drama, or poem
Strand: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (IKI)
7. Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).
Use details from an illustration in a text to determine the meaning of specific words in a story
9. Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).
Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories by the same author
Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories which include the same or similar characters
Foundational Skills
Strand: Phonics and Word Recognition (PWR)
3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
Explain the purpose of common prefixes and suffixes
Define the most common prefixes
Define the most common derivational suffixes
Decode words using common prefixes and derivational suffixes
Explain the purpose of Latin suffixes
Define the most common Latin suffixes
Decode words using the most common Latin suffixes

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Decode multisyllable words found in a text
Read aloud grade-level regularly spelled words found in a text
Read aloud grade-level irregularly spelled words found in a text
Strand: Fluency (FLU)
4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
Read on-level text fluently with purpose and understanding
Read aloud grade-level prose and poems with increasing rate on successive readings
Read aloud grade-level prose and poems with increasing accuracy on successive readings
Read aloud grade-level prose and poems with increasing expression on successive readings
Use punctuation to facilitate expression while reading prose and poetry aloud
Read aloud grade-level text with increasing automaticity on successive readings
Determine the meaning of words in a text by using context
Use context to self-correct words that are misread by rereading a text
Use context to confirm word recognition in a text
Use context to self-correct words that are not recognized by rereading a text
Reading Standards for Informational Text
Strand: Key Ideas and Details (KID)
1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
Locate key details in a multiparagraph informational text by asking questions to enhance understanding
Cite explicit details and examples that answer questions about key ideas in a multiparagraph informational text
2. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
Develop the main idea of a multiparagraph informational text
Locate key details in a multiparagraph informational text
Relate key details to the key idea of a multiparagraph informational text
3. Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text,

using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.
Analyze the relationship between a sequence of historical events in an informational text
Analyze the relationship between a set of scientific ideas/concepts in an informational text
Analyze the relationship between multiple steps of a technical procedure in an informational text
Strand: Craft and Structure (CAS)
4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.
Determine the meaning of academic words and phrases from an informational text
Determine the meaning of domain specific words and phrases from an informational text
5. Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
Locate information for a specific topic by using key features of an informational text
Locate information for a specific topic in an informational text by using search tools
6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.
Compare and contrast own point of view with that of the author of an informational text
Strand: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (IKI)
7. Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
Use details from an illustration and words in an informational text to create meaning
8. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).
Analyze how sentences are logically related to a paragraph in an informational text
9. Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
Compare and contrast key ideas and details presented by authors of two informational texts on the same topic

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Writing Standards
Strand: Text Types and Purposes (TTP)
1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
Introduce a topic or text when writing an opinion piece
State an opinion about a topic or text when writing an opinion piece
Create an organizational structure that uses lists of reasons when writing an opinion piece
Support an opinion with reasons when writing an opinion piece
Link words and phrases to connect opinions and reasons when writing an opinion piece
Develop a concluding statement or section when writing an opinion piece
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
Introduce a topic when writing an informative/explanatory text
Group related information together when writing an informative/explanatory text
Include illustrations to aid comprehension when writing an informative/explanatory text
Develop a topic with facts, definitions, and details when writing an informative/explanatory text
Link words and phrases to connect ideas within categories of information when writing an informative/explanatory text
Write a concluding statement or section when writing an informative/explanatory text
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
Introduce a narrator and/or characters when writing a narrative
Organize an event into sequences that unfold naturally when writing a narrative
Orient the reader by establishing a situation when writing a narrative
Develop events and experiences when writing a narrative
Show the response of characters to situations when writing a narrative
Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order when writing a narrative
Create a sense of closure when writing a narrative

Strand: Production and Distribution of Writing (PDW)
4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in Writing Standards 1–3.)
Produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose
5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language Standards 1–3 up to and including grade 3.)
Strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
6. With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
Use technology to produce and publish writing
Use technology to collaborate with peers when producing and publishing writing
Strand: Research to Build and Present Knowledge (RBK)
7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
Conduct short research projects that create new knowledge about a topic
8. Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.
Recall information from one's own experience to include in a short research project
Gather information from print and digital sources to include in a short research project
Take brief notes on each source of information for use in a short research project
Categorize sources of information and evidence for use in a short research project

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Speaking and Listening Standards
Strand: <i>Comprehension and Collaboration (CAC)</i>
1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
Prepare for a group discussion by studying required material
Use discussion preparation and other knowledge to articulate ideas during a group discussion
Follow agreed-upon rules for a group discussion about grade 3 topics and texts
Ask questions during a group discussion to check understanding of information provided
Ask questions during a group discussion to link comments to the remarks of others
Explain own ideas clearly during a group discussion
Link comments to the remarks of others during a group discussion
2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
Determine a main idea and the details that support a point from information presented orally
Determine a main idea and details that support a point from information presented in diverse media and formats
3. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
Ask questions about information presented by a speaker
Answer questions about information presented by a speaker by elaborating and providing additional details
Strand: <i>Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas (PKI)</i>
4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.
Present orally on a topic or text with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details
Tell a story orally with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details
Speak clearly at an understandable pace when making an oral presentation

5. Create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace; add visual displays when appropriate to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details.
Speak fluidly and at an understandable pace when recording an oral presentation using audio recording technology
Emphasize facts or details by adding visual displays to an oral presentation
6. Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification. (See grade 3 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)
Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation when giving an oral presentation
Provide requested details or clarifications when making an oral presentation
Language Standards
Strand: Conventions of Standard English (CSE)
1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
Define the general function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
Construct regular plural nouns
Use regular plural nouns when speaking or writing
Construct irregular plural nouns
Use irregular plural nouns when speaking or writing
Use abstract nouns when speaking or writing
Construct regular verbs
Use regular verbs when speaking or writing
Construct irregular verbs
Use irregular verbs when speaking or writing
Construct simple verbs tenses
Use simple verbs tenses when speaking or writing
Use subject-verb agreement when speaking or writing
Use pronoun-antecedent agreement when speaking or writing
Construct comparative and superlative modifiers

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Use comparative and superlative modifiers when speaking or writing
Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions when writing
Construct simple, compound, and complex sentences
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
Capitalize appropriate words in titles when writing
Use commas in addresses and dialogue when writing
Use commas and quotation marks when writing a dialogue
Construct possessives
Use possessives when writing
Use conventional spelling for high frequency and familiar words
Add suffixes to base words when writing
Apply spelling patterns and generalizations when writing words
Spell words correctly when writing by consulting reference materials
Strand: Knowledge of Language (KOL)
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
Use words and phrases for effect when writing or speaking
Recognize the differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English
Apply the conventions of standard English when writing or speaking
Strand: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (VAU)
4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
Determine the meaning of a word or phrase by using sentence-level context clues
Determine the meaning of a new word which combines a known affix to a known word
Determine the meaning of an unknown word by using a known root word as a clue
Clarify the precise meaning of a word or phrase by using a print and digital reference tool
5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Differentiate between the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context
Identify real-life connections between words and their uses
Distinguish between the meaning of words that describe degrees of certainty
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).
Use conversational words and phrases accurately
Use general academic words and phrases accurately
Use domain-specific words and phrases accurately