

RSU 26 Grade 5 Literacy Curriculum



Fifth grade represents the culmination of elementary literacy instruction, preparing students for the increased academic demands of middle school. This year emphasizes sophisticated analysis of complex texts, advanced writing across multiple genres, and the development of critical thinking skills necessary for success in all academic areas. Students will engage with challenging literature and informational texts while developing their ability to communicate complex ideas effectively through various forms of written expression.

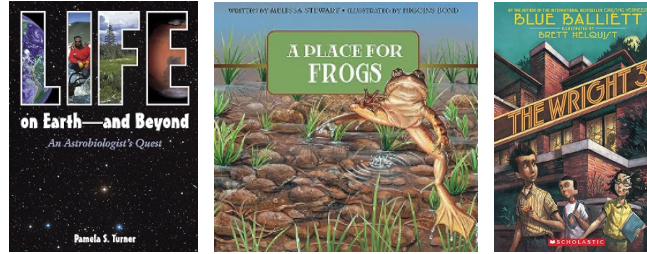
Foundational Skills

Advanced Word Analysis Fifth graders will master the most sophisticated spelling patterns and develop strategies for tackling complex, unfamiliar vocabulary. Your child will work with challenging multi-syllable words, including those with irregular spellings, and develop fluency with academic and domain-specific vocabulary across all subject areas. Students will learn to use context clues, reference materials, and word analysis strategies independently to determine meanings of unfamiliar terms encountered in their reading.

Advanced Morphology (95 Percent's Morpheme Magic) Your fifth grader will become more accomplished in analyzing word structure to understand meaning, improve spelling, and expand vocabulary. Students will master complex Greek and Latin roots, sophisticated prefixes and suffixes, and understand how morphemes combine to create academic terminology across disciplines. This advanced morphological knowledge enables students to tackle challenging texts in science, social studies, and literature while developing precise vocabulary for their own writing. Students will also learn etymology—the study of word origins—helping them understand connections between related words and remember spelling patterns.

Reading Instruction (myView)

Fifth grade reading instruction emphasizes critical analysis and evaluation of sophisticated texts. Your child will analyze complex themes, character motivations, and author's craft in literature, learning to identify literary devices such as symbolism, metaphor, and irony. For informational texts, students will evaluate arguments, analyze evidence, identify bias, and synthesize information from multiple sources to form their own conclusions. The curriculum includes challenging texts across genres and disciplines, preparing students for the text complexity they'll encounter in middle school.



Students will develop advanced comprehension strategies, including analyzing how authors use structure to convey meaning, evaluating the reliability of sources, and making connections between texts and real-world issues. Literature study includes both classic and contemporary works that provide opportunities for deep discussion and analysis. Students will participate in student-led book discussions, Socratic seminars, and research projects that require them to read widely and think critically about complex topics. Students will gain these skills through theme-based units such as Journeys, Observations, and Reflections.

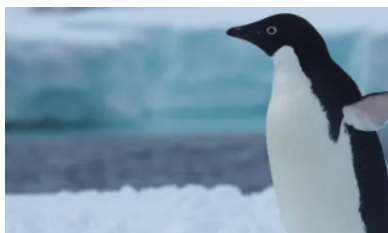
Writing Instruction (Mystery Writing)

Through the Mystery Writing curriculum resources, fifth grade writers will demonstrate mastery of sophisticated narrative writing techniques. They'll develop nuanced characters and create authentic settings that enhance their stories. The curriculum also emphasizes advanced informational and argumentative writing. Students will conduct independent research projects, evaluating sources for credibility and bias, synthesizing information from multiple texts, and presenting findings through various formats including traditional essays, multimedia presentations, and creative formats. In argumentative writing, students will craft sophisticated persuasive pieces that acknowledge multiple perspectives, address counterarguments, and build compelling cases supported by evidence from credible sources.



Exploring Mentor Texts

5th • Welcome to Storyteller Con



Intro to Narrative Writing

Parts of a Story



Drafting

5th • Convince Your Reader to Vote Yes!

Fifth graders will master the complete writing process, from initial brainstorming through final publication. They'll learn advanced revision strategies focusing on improving clarity, coherence, and engagement, and develop expertise in editing for sophisticated grammar and punctuation rules. Students will maintain writing portfolios that demonstrate their growth and publish their work for authentic audiences both within and beyond the school community.

This curriculum ensures students leave elementary school as confident, critical readers and sophisticated writers prepared for the academic challenges and opportunities that await them in middle school and beyond.

