



Upper Perkiomen School District
English Language Arts Course Descriptions K-3
Updated August 2025

Upper Perkiomen School District Mission & Vision

OUR MISSION

The Upper Perkiomen School District empowers students to achieve their potential through engaging instruction, fostering critical thinking, real-world skills, and responsible citizenship.

Our VISION

Empower our students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to reach their full potential as lifelong learners and engaged global citizens.

At Upper Perkiomen School District, we believe in developing Well-Rounded Students. Our core areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies are designed to empower students to reach their full potential by fostering critical thinking, real-world skills, and responsible citizenship. We endeavor to provide comprehensive supports addressing the needs of every student through their educational journey to cultivate students who are well-rounded productive members of society, excelling not only in academics, but also their personal and social capacities. The ELA Course of Study is purposefully planned to build across grades K-5 to build the knowledge and skills necessary for success, engaging in all four strands of Pennsylvania Core Standards: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

English Language Arts (ELA) Course of Study

Materials and Resources: *Benchmark Literacy*; Phonics skills will be explicitly taught as per the Wilson Language Training *Foundations* Program. Phonemic awareness skills will be explicitly taught using the *Heggerty* Phonemic Awareness Curriculum Resource. Supplemental digital resources utilized include Lexia, See Saw.

	Unit Themes	Essential Questions
KINDERGARTEN		
Unit 1	Back to School/Rules, Names, Classroom Community Themes	Why are rules necessary for learning? What does it mean to be part of a community?
Unit 2	Fiction & Non-Fiction through the themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairy Tales• Calendar• Weather• Seasons• Climate	Why are there different types of texts? How does text structure change based on the type of text?
Unit 3	Fiction: Theme through themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fairy Tales• Kindness• Snowmen	How can I understand theme and literary elements in text?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Groundhogs* ● 100th Day ● Presidents Day* ● Valentine's Day ● Plants and Animals <p>* Non-Fiction: Main Idea, Text Analysis, Evaluating Arguments taught through themes of:</p>	
Unit 4	<p>Fiction: Text Analysis, taught through themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring / Weather ● Earth Day ● Frogs ● Easter ● Life Cycle & Farm <p>Non Fiction: taught through themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dental Health ● Read Across America ● Spring / Weather ● St. Patrick's Day ● Frogs ● Easter ● Life Cycle & Farm 	<p>How can I begin to analyze different sources of information?</p> <p>How does using diverse media help with analysis?</p>
GRADE 1		
Unit 1	<p>Good Listening and Speaking Habits,</p> <p>Introduction to Grammar and Vocabulary,</p> <p>Introduction to Reading Response</p>	<p>How can using good listening and speaking habits improve understanding of text and other communication?</p> <p>Why should we learn grammar rules and vocabulary?</p> <p>How can I interact with text to provide</p>
Unit 2	<p>Key Ideas and Details Text Analysis</p> <p>Key Ideas and Details Literary Elements</p> <p>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas Sources of Information</p> <p>Craft and Structure Text Structure</p>	<p>How does asking questions about key details in a text help me understand more deeply?</p> <p>Why is it important to use key details in the story to describe characters, settings, and major events?</p> <p>How can illustrations and details help us describe characters, settings, or events?</p> <p>How can we learn about craft and structure of a story using text features?</p>
Unit 3	Story Retell	<p>How can I learn to retell stories using key details to show understanding of the central message?</p> <p>Why should I ask and answer questions about Key Ideas in a text?</p>

	Key Details as Text Evidence Text Types: Informational, Literary	How can I figure out the major differences between texts?
Unit 4	Main Idea and Key Details Ask and answer questions about the text	How can I define the main idea and key details and why is that important? How can asking questions help determine and clarify the meaning of words and phrases in text?
Unit 5	Key Ideas and Details Craft and Structure: Point of View Integration of knowledge and ideas sources of information Vocabulary Strategies	How can I recognize and analyze the author's point of view? How does point of view change the story? How can I use ideas from different texts to express new ideas and/or answer questions? How can I determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases?
Unit 6	Key Ideas and Details - Text Analysis Craft and Structure - Vocabulary Integration of knowledge - Analysis Across Text	How can I describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text? How can I determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases to better understand the craft and structure of the text? How can I identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic?
Unit 7	Craft and Structure - Vocabulary Integration of knowledge - Text Analysis.	How can I describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song? How can I compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories?
Unit 8	Craft and Structure - Text Structure Integration of knowledge - Diverse Media Integration of knowledge	How can I use various text features and search tools to locate key facts or information in a text? How can I describe key ideas using illustrations, including photographs, maps, graphs, timelines, and diagrams)? How can I evaluate arguments that an author gives to support points in a text?
Grade 2		
	Unit Themes	Essential Questions
Unit 1	Story Elements and Story Structure (including Sequence of Events)- Fiction	How do characters in a story respond to major events and challenges and how does this affect the story? Why does the overall structure of a story affect the reader?

		<p>How can we use illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters, setting, and/or plot?</p> <p>How can I learn to coherently retell or tell a story using appropriate and relevant facts, descriptive details and coherent sentences?</p>
Unit 2	Text Analysis, Text Structure, and Diverse Media- Non-Fiction	<p>Why is it important to understand and communicate the connection between a series of events, concepts, or steps in a written procedure within a text?</p> <p>How can we efficiently use various text features and tools to locate key facts or information in a text?</p> <p>How do graphic representations contribute to clarity in a text?</p>
Unit 3	Theme, Text Analysis, and Vocabulary Acquisition	<p>Why should my retell of a story include the central message, lesson, or moral?</p> <p>How can I ask questions of the text (such as who, where, when, why) to demonstrate my understanding of key details in a text?</p> <p>How can I use a variety of tools to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words in a text?</p> <p>How can I acquire and use grade appropriate, conversational, general academic, and domain specific words and phrases to help me better understand text?</p>
Unit 4	Main Idea, Text Analysis, Range of Reading, and Vocabulary Acquisition	<p>How can I identify the main idea and focus of multi paragraph text?</p> <p>How can I ask questions of the text (such as who, where, when, why) to demonstrate my understanding of key details in a text?</p> <p>How can I use a variety of tools to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words in a text?</p> <p>How can I grow my ability to read and comprehend literary fiction and informational text proficiently on (and above) grade level?</p>
Unit 5	Craft and Structure: Point of View and Vocabulary	<p>Why does the author use different points of view in characters?</p> <p>How do words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a short story, poem, or song?</p>
Unit 6	Main Idea, Text Analysis, Range of Reading, and Vocabulary Acquisition	<p>How do reasons support specific points the author makes in a text.</p> <p>How can I determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in grade level text including multiple-meaning words?</p>
Unit 7	Craft and Structure: Point of View and Vocabulary	<p>What can be learned by comparing and contrasting two or more versions of the same story by different authors or from different cultures?</p> <p>How can I acquire and use grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases to improve my writing and reading comprehension?</p>

Unit 8	Main Idea, Text Analysis, Range of Reading, and Vocabulary Acquisition	<p>What can be learned by comparing and contrasting the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic?</p> <p>How can I acquire and use grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases?</p>
Grade 3		
	Unit Themes	Essential Questions
Unit 1	Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking and Listening Fiction vs Nonfiction Framework for Constructed Response 	<p>How can I improve my reading, speaking, and listening skills through the study of fiction and nonfiction?</p> <p>How does a strong framework for a constructed response improve its message and meaning?</p>
Unit 2	Text Structure and Sources of Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literary Elements Sources of information Text Structure 	<p>How can a study of literary elements and text structure improve my ability to read and write?</p> <p>Why is it important to study a variety of sources of information?</p>
Unit 3	Text Structure and Sources of Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text Analysis Diverse Media Text Structure 	<p>How can I use what I've learned to analyze text efficiently, with insight, across diverse media?</p> <p>How can text structure help me understand text better to support stronger analysis?</p>
Unit 4	Point of View and Vocabulary Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point of View Vocabulary Strategies 	<p>How does the author's point of view impact the text?</p> <p>How can strategies and tools help me understand the author's point of view and choice of vocabulary?</p> <p>How can vocabulary strategies help me improve my reading, writing, and personal vocabulary?</p>
Unit 5	Point of View and Vocabulary Strategies	<p>How does an author connect sentences and paragraphs in a text to support his/her points, and express the author's point of view?</p> <p>How can I determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies and tools?</p>
Unit 6	Theme and Text Analysis	How does reading and analyzing a range of text improve my ability to identify themes and analyze text?
Unit 7	Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Idea Text Analysis Range of Reading 	How does reading a range of text help me support text analysis through identification and explanations of key ideas and details?
Unit 8 Unit 9	Key Ideas and Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary & Strategies Text Analysis 	How can increasing/improving my vocabulary help with text analysis?

