

5th grade is an extremely important time for students to cement the skills they have gained throughout the upper grades and lay a solid foundation for the years ahead.

This year is all about helping students practice, refine, and grow their skills. Students build on what they learned in 4th grade by analyzing material in deeper ways, and write structured, clear, and detailed pieces about a variety of subjects. They are encouraged and expected to be more independent in their learning, and to require less guidance and support from teachers and other adults. For instance, when a student is asked to research a topic, they should know what to do to accomplish that (even when they need help along the way).

Fifth Grade Reading

Most of the 5th grade reading curriculum focuses on teaching students to understand and develop ideas about the texts they read. Fifth graders learn to support their ideas using specific details from books, and are expected to think carefully about (and ultimately use) quotes, facts, and events to develop opinions about a text and explain it. Students practice this as they read texts together as a class and independently, and their teachers often show them specific strategies they can use to do this. Fifth graders also expand these skills as they write extensively about what they read in every subject.

To build reading skills, your fifth grader:

- Begins to use direct quotes from texts to explain and prove ideas about the reading.
- Reads a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

- Uses details from the text to summarize it, identify the main idea or theme, compare characters or events, or compare different texts of the same genre.
- Interprets and understands metaphors and comparisons made in a text.
- Identifies an author or narrator's point of view and explains how this affects the content of a text.
- Compares multiple perspectives on the same event, idea, or theme.
- Uses the context of a text to determine the meaning of unknown words.
- Uses technology and digital media to further their understanding of a topic and to find answers to their questions.
- Gathers information about a topic from multiple sources.

Fifth Grade Reading Activities

Start a Book Club: It can include family members, your child's friends and their parents, or just the two of you. Select a book together and establish small reading assignments (perhaps one or two chapters per week). Talk about the book's themes, using concrete examples you find in the text. After you finish one book, pick another by the same author about a similar topic (or in the same genre) and compare the two.

Gain Perspective: Read two different texts about an event you and your child attended (or you can each write your own personal account of it). Ask your child to compare the differences in the perspectives they are written from.

Read and Research: Help your child come up with a question about a topic of interest, and work together to explore a variety of sources for the answer. Use technology, books, magazines, newspapers, and, if relevant, poetry and fiction.

Fifth Grade Writing

Fifth graders build on the skills they learned in 4th grade to become clearer and more developed writers. They pursue many different kinds of pieces covering a variety of topics, and use details and organization to strengthen their writing. As they work on pieces in class, students are taught to use writing to share their own unique ideas and perspectives — not just those of others.

To build writing skills, your fifth grader:

- Writes opinion pieces, which include:
 - an introduction and conclusion
 - a logical and clear structure
 - evidence that supports the author's opinion
- Writes informational pieces that:
 - explain a topic using details such as definitions, quotations, and facts
 - include an introduction and conclusion
- Writes narrative pieces that:
 - introduce and describe an event in a logical way
 - use details such as dialogue, thoughts, and emotions
 - provide a conclusion
- Plans, revises, and edits their writing.
- Thinks about the best way to approach their writing and tries different ways to do so — such as writing in a different tense, or from a different perspective.
- Uses technology (under adult supervision) to publish writing, research, and communicate with others.
- Types at least two pages of text in one sitting.
- Uses multiple sources to write and create a research project.
- Takes notes on information and cites the sources used.

- Writes pieces that take long periods of time (a few weeks) and short periods of time (one sitting or a couple of days).

Fifth Grade Writing Activities

Practice Typing: Experiment with the many different ways your child might do this — for instance, they can play typing games, type something they have written, or transcribe a conversation you have together.

Edit, Edit, Edit: You and your child can both write your own pieces, or your child can choose a short piece of writing from another source. Whatever they choose, ask your child to “revise” or “edit” the text, aiming to improve it by adding more detail and descriptions.

Pick a New Perspective: Use a piece you or your child wrote or pick a text written by someone else, like a short story or article. Ask your child to rewrite the piece from a different perspective, like that of another character in the story or a person who witnessed the event. Talk to your child about the differences in those perspectives.

Books and Authors

100+ Free Video Read Alouds: High quality picture book video read alouds collected by The Indianapolis Public Library.

<https://www.indypl.org/blog/for-parents/free-video-read-alouds>

Authors Everywhere: A YouTube Channel created and run by middle grade author Susan Tan, and made possible by an amazing community of children's book writers and illustrators.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCowhHSUaWp3KJDcuI0nR0vw/featured>

The Big List of Children's Authors Doing Online Read-Alouds & Activities: Comprehensive and updated list provided by We Are Teachers. <https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/>

Resources available through Launchpad:

Sora: Sora is Overdrive's app designed for K-12 schools. Happy eBook reading!

Tumblebooks: eBook database for children Kindergarten-6th grade.

Epic: Epic! is an American kids subscription-based reading and learning platform. It offers access to books and videos for children ages 12 and under.

iXL: iXL uses insights from student work in the curriculum and the Real-Time Diagnostic to generate personalized guidance for each learner. These personalized action plans seamlessly link students to the skills that will help them build on their knowledge and remediate gaps in understanding.