



Southmoreland School District

Fourth Grade ELA Curriculum Overview

Fourth Grade English Language Arts Overview:

The fourth grade English language arts curriculum is divided into five general modules: (1) Foundational Skills, (2) Speaking and Listening, (3) Reading Informational Text, (4) Reading Literature, and (5) Writing. Fourth grade students identify the main idea of a text, summarize the text, refer to details in the text to make inferences, and explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts and why they happened based on specific information from the text. They compare and contrast two different texts on the same topic, integrating information from two different texts to demonstrate understanding of the topic. Students describe the theme of a text, provide relevant details to support what the text says explicitly, and describe in depth a character, setting, or event using specific details from the text. In addition, students compare and contrast different themes, topics, and patterns of events in literature including texts from different cultures. They write informative, explanatory, opinion, and narrative pieces conveying ideas or topics clearly. Students group related information in paragraphs and sections linking ideas within categories of information using words and phrases. The students use an organizational structure that groups related ideas and supports the writer's purpose to write an opinion piece of writing. Finally, students write a narrative that uses dialogue and descriptions to develop experiences and events or show the characters' responses to situations.

Module Titles:

- Module 1:** Foundational Skills
- Module 2:** Speaking and Listening
- Module 3:** Reading Informational Text
- Module 4:** Reading Literature
- Module 5:** Writing

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Foundation Skills

The goal of this module that is integrated throughout the year is for students to gain a working knowledge of concepts of print, alphabetic principle, and basic conventions of standard English. Fourth grade students apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words as they read grade level text with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.



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Module 2: Speaking and Listening

The goal of this module that is integrated throughout the year is for students to present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond intelligently as individuals or in group discussions. Fourth grade students demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English when speaking based on grade 4 level and content. They engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade-level topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. Students report on a topic or text in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes. In addition, students speak clearly with adequate volume, appropriate pacing, and clear pronunciation, differentiating between contexts that require formal English versus informal situations. Finally, students add audio recording or visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

Module 3: Reading Informational Text

The goal of this module is for students to demonstrate understanding of key ideas and details in informational texts and to summarize informational texts. Fourth grade students read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently. They determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details, as well as summarize the text based on specific information in the text. Students draw inferences from the text and/or compare and contrast firsthand and secondhand accounts. In addition, students write and structure informational text by describing the structure of informational text features. Finally, students acquire vocabulary and use it to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Module 4: Reading Literature

The goal of this module is for students to demonstrate understanding of the key ideas and details in literary texts. Fourth grade students summarize literary texts and demonstrate subject knowledge by reading and comprehending literary fiction text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently. They describe in depth a character, setting, event, and theme. Students use details and examples of the text when explaining and drawing inferences, and/or comparing and contrasting the point of view from which different stories are narrated. In addition, students explain major differences between texts and refer to the structural elements of each when writing or speaking about a text. The students determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and



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multiple meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. Finally, students make connections between the written text and a visual or oral presentation of the text, comparing and contrasting similar themes from different cultures.

Module 5: Writing

The goal of this module that is taught throughout the year is for students to write for different purposes and audiences as they write clear and focused text to convey a well-defined perspective and appropriate content. Fourth grade students write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. They write informative and explanatory texts by examining a topic and conveying ideas and information clearly. Students write an opinion text using valid reasons supported by relevant facts and details from text. In addition, students use writing techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences to create narrative writing. The students use the conventions of standard English, using relative pronouns, progressive verb tenses, modal auxiliaries, order adjectives, prepositional phrases, subject and verb agreement, correct capitalization and punctuation, and spelling grade level words correctly in their writing. In their responses to literature, students draw evidence from texts to support analysis, reflection, and research, applying grade-level reading standards. Finally, students develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing their work.