

First Grade Literacy Information

Fluency	<p>In first grade, students focus on reading smoothly with expression that conveys the meaning of the text. Through daily shared reading of poetry, texts and other materials, students develop the fluency and confidence.</p>
Writing	<p>In writing, First Graders work on many genres, including Personal Narrative, Opinion, How-To, Informational, and Fiction Narrative. The year begins with students learning the process of writing in order to write about small moments from their lives. In this unit students take the everyday events of their young lives and make them into focused, well-structured stories, then, they learn to breathe life into the characters by making them talk, think, and interact.</p> <p>During the first grade opinion writing unit, students create persuasive reviews of all sorts—pizza restaurant reviews, TV show reviews, ice cream flavor reviews, and finally book reviews that hook the reader, clearly express the writer's opinion, and bolster their argument in convincing ways.</p> <p>In the cold winter months, students enter the world of informational writing as they combine pictures and charts with specific vocabulary and craft moves to create engaging teaching texts.</p> <p>The final unit of Grade 1 Fiction Narrative gives students the opportunity to learn to create a whole series of fiction books modeled after Henry and Mudge.</p>
Comprehension (Understanding)	<p>Comprehension in first grade involves both understanding fiction and informational (nonfiction) text. Through shared reading experiences (read-aloud and shared reading), students' develop a repertoire of strategies that proficient readers use so that they can draw on them whenever they are reading independently in order to understand the text.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Making connections between the text and their own lives, and between the text and other texts.- Asking and answering questions about key details in a text.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Retelling stories, including key details, and demonstrating an understanding of the message or lesson. -Describing characters, settings, and major events in a story. <p>Non-Fiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identifying the main topic and retelling key details -Describing the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text. -Knowing and using various text features (e.g. headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text. -Using the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas. -Identifying the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
<p>Phonics/Spelling/Word Study</p>	<p>We begin our year with a review of the upper and lower case letters, their sounds, and how to correctly write them. Next we begin work on phonetic patterns, word families, suffixes and prefixes. First graders have a list of words called "red words" These words do not follow typical spelling patterns. Red words must be memorized. Students also work on "dictation" where they listen to letters sounds and words and write what they hear. We spend a lot of time in first grade looking at how vowels work (short and long), consonant blends and digraphs (sh, th,ch,wh), and syllables.</p>