

Second Grade Literacy Information

Skill	At School	At Home
<p>Fluency</p>	<p>In second grade, students focus on both the rate at which they read as well as their intonation, phrasing and expression. Does their reading flow like natural conversation? Do they pay attention to and use punctuation? Are they reading accurately in a way that doesn't change meaning?</p>	<p>At home, you can have your child read out loud to you for a few pages, and then you read to them using expression and minding punctuation. Practicing poetry always helps, too. Listening to their expression and demonstrating expression in reading will help reinforce fluency.</p>
<p>Writing</p>	<p>In writing, second graders write in four genres (types). These are personal narrative, informational, opinion, and poetry. In the personal narrative unit, students build on their skill to tell a small moment in their lives by studying mentor texts such as <u>Owl Moon</u> by Jane Yolen and <u>The Leaving Morning</u> by Angela Johnson. The students are encouraged to mimic the writing "moves" of these texts to enhance their personal style. By using dialogue, details, and feelings when writing their personal narratives, their writing becomes meaningful and intentional. The informational unit requires students to write about something that they consider themselves an expert in, teaching others about their topic. This unit ties in with our science as we do lab reports to document our knowledge of Force and Motion. In the opinion unit, students develop an opinion about favorite authors or books and provide evidence to support that opinion. The poetry unit is a fun unit to end our year. Students use strategies that they learned from the personal narrative unit to craft poetry from their imagination.</p>	<p>At home, ask students about their "Small Moments notebook." This notebook contains ideas and events to write about during their writing workshop in class. Whenever something happens that is noteworthy, your child can jot down some words in this notebook to help them remember it for writing.</p>
<p>Comprehension (understanding)</p>	<p>Comprehension in second grade involves both understanding fiction and informational (nonfiction) text. We begin our year learning a variety of strategies to use while reading and learn that authors have intentions and we as readers need to pay attention to them. Students are taught to identify the plot, setting and characters in a story through retelling, and to summarize a story by recalling the main idea and the author's purpose. (What does the author want the character to learn from this story?) Students are taught to monitor their understanding of the text by recognizing and self-correcting when text doesn't make sense. Students learn to answer literal questions (directly stated) and inferential questions (indirectly stated) to show understanding of the text. In informational text, students need to recognize and use various nonfiction text features to help them comprehend the text (graphs, index, captions, etc.)</p>	<p>Nightly reading at home is the best way for your child to practice the strategies we learn at school. A bookmark with these strategies should be in their take home binder, along with questions you can ask your child after they have read.</p>

**Phonics/Spelling/
Word Study**

Second grade phonics and spelling focuses on reviewing all sounds, and learning new spelling patterns, plus learning the four syllable division patterns. Each week a new spelling pattern is introduced along with 2 new "Red Words." Red words are words that don't follow the "rules." We study the spelling patterns and use syllabication as strategies to read and spell tricky words correctly in our everyday reading and writing.

Practicing words on skill sheets that come home with your child will reinforce what we are learning in class. Pointing out red words and spelling pattern words in their nightly reading and store/road signs, newspapers, etc. will help them realize that these skills are important in their everyday life.