


# 1st Grade American Online School

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

### Building Literacy Through Sound, Story, and Structure



Version May/2025

## 1. Introduction

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### The Role of English Language Arts Education in 1st Grade

In 1st grade, English Language Arts focuses on unlocking the code of language through phonics, vocabulary, and sentence structure. Students learn to decode and spell words, recognize grammatical parts of speech, build complete sentences, and express themselves through stories and oral language. Through daily reading, writing, and listening activities, learners strengthen fluency, confidence, and comprehension.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Identify and use sounds, letters, and phoneme patterns.
  - ✓ Read grade-level texts with accuracy and understanding.
  - ✓ Write simple, complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation.
  - ✓ Recognize and use parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
  - ✓ Compose and retell stories with clear sequencing.
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## 2. Core Competence Areas

### ELA.1 Phonemic Awareness and Phonics – “Sounds & Letters”

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Match letters to their sounds (phoneme-grapheme mapping).
- ✓ Blend and segment simple CVC words.
- ✓ Identify initial, medial, and final sounds.

#### Competencies

##### ELA.1.A.1 – Mastering basic letter-sound correspondence

- Engage in daily sound drills and letter tracing.
- Use songs and chants to remember tricky blends and digraphs.

##### ELA.1.A.2 – Blending and decoding simple words

- Read word families like -at, -in, -op, and apply decoding skills to leveled readers.
- Create interactive sound books and phonics games.

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### ELA.2 Word Building and Vocabulary – “Words 1”

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Spell and read sight words and high-frequency vocabulary.
- ✓ Use basic word families and rhyming groups.
- ✓ Sort and classify words by theme or function.

#### Competencies

##### ELA.2.A.1 – Expanding word recognition and spelling

- Practice with word walls, bingo, and flashcard races.
- Use visual dictionaries for thematic word building.

## **ELA.2.A.2 – Using vocabulary in context**

- Write sentences and mini-stories using weekly word lists.
  - Sort picture cards and words into categories like colors, food, animals.
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## **ELA.3 Grammar Foundations – “Parts of Speech”**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify and use nouns, verbs, and adjectives in sentences.
- ✓ Differentiate between common and proper nouns.
- ✓ Build short descriptive phrases and ideas.

### **Competencies**

#### **ELA.3.A.1 – Exploring basic grammar through movement and stories**

- Act out verbs and describe objects with colorful adjectives.
- Play noun/verb/adjective sorting games with sentence puzzles.

#### **ELA.3.A.2 – Writing using targeted grammar structures**

- Create “My Grammar Book” with illustrated sentence examples.
  - Highlight and revise sentences using grammar color-coding.
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## **ELA.4 Storytelling and Narrative Skills – “Stories”**

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Retell familiar stories with correct sequence (beginning, middle, end).
- ✓ Create short personal or fictional stories using drawings and words.
- ✓ Identify characters, settings, and problems in a narrative.

## Competencies

### ELA.4.A.1 – Listening and comprehension

- Read alouds followed by comprehension drawing activities.
- Use story maps and puppets to retell classic tales.

### ELA.4.A.2 – Writing personal and fictional stories

- Use sentence starters and picture prompts to guide storytelling.
  - Present oral stories to peers and record on digital platforms.
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## 3. Assessment and Evaluation

### Formative Assessments – Routine Literacy Practice

- ✓ Weekly phonics and sight word checks.
- ✓ Oral sentence building and echo reading.
- ✓ Shared writing and read-aloud responses.

### Summative Assessments – Writing and Reading Milestones

- ✓ End-of-quarter writing samples.
- ✓ Sight word fluency checks.
- ✓ Simple grammar and punctuation quizzes.

### Authentic Assessment – Expressive Language Use

- ✓ Storybook Author Day with shared reading.
  - ✓ “Writer’s Café” reading corner performances.
  - ✓ Personal letter writing or mini-presentation.
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## 4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

### Multisensory and Play-Based

- ✓ Use music, movement, and visuals for every new sound or rule.
- ✓ Blend literacy with art and storytelling.

### Modeling and Scaffolding

- ✓ “I do, we do, you do” structure for writing and grammar.
- ✓ Word banks and sentence frames for early writers.

### Celebratory and Confidence-Building

- ✓ Publish student work on classroom walls and in digital portfolios.
- ✓ Encourage bravery in spelling, experimenting, and reading aloud.

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