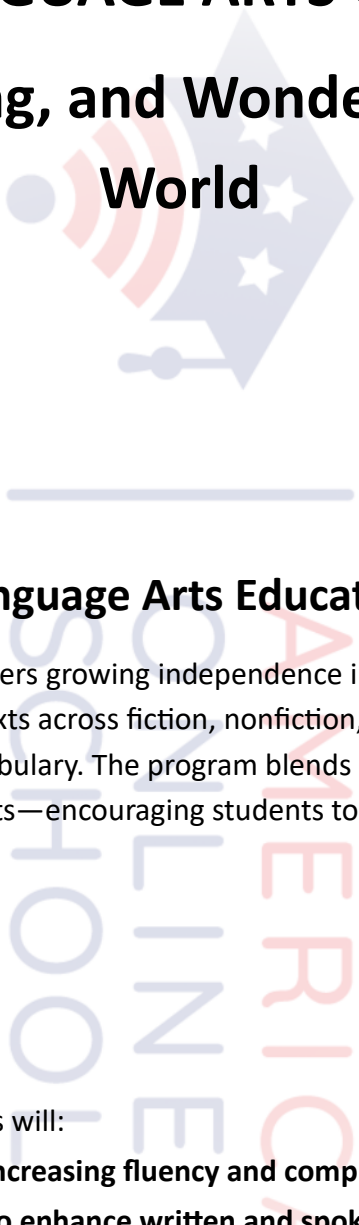


4th Grade American Online School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Reading, Writing, and Wondering Across the World



Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of English Language Arts Education in 4th Grade

The 4th Grade ELA curriculum fosters growing independence in reading, writing, grammar, and speaking. Students explore rich texts across fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while building fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The program blends inquiry, creativity, and literacy across global and personal contexts—encouraging students to think deeply, write clearly, and communicate confidently.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Read a variety of genres with increasing fluency and comprehension.
 - ✓ Use grammar and vocabulary to enhance written and spoken expression.
 - ✓ Write narrative, informative, and opinion pieces using the full writing process.
 - ✓ Develop curiosity through themed reading journeys around the world.
 - ✓ Speak, listen, and present ideas with clarity and confidence.
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2. Core Competence Areas

ELA.1 Grammar and Language Structure

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Use parts of speech correctly in oral and written sentences.
- ✓ Apply punctuation, capitalization, and spelling conventions.
- ✓ Strengthen writing using sentence variety and clarity.

Competencies

ELA.1.A.1 – Building strong sentences and paragraphs.

- Identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions.
- Combine sentences and use transitions for fluency.

ELA.1.A.2 – Editing and proofreading for clarity.

- Use editing checklists for self- and peer review.
- Apply spelling patterns and root word knowledge.

ELA.2 Exploring Nature Through Reading and Writing

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Read nonfiction texts to learn about the natural world.
- ✓ Take notes, summarize, and report findings in their own words.
- ✓ Write nature-themed personal reflections and informative texts.

Competencies

ELA.2.A.1 – Reading nonfiction with purpose.

- Identify main ideas, text features, and supporting details.
- Use organizers for compare-contrast or cause-effect texts.

ELA.2.A.2 – Writing informational nature reports.

- Choose a topic (animals, habitats, weather) and write a multi-paragraph report.
 - Include labeled diagrams and nonfiction text elements.
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ELA.3 Travel & Time: “Are We There Yet?”

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Read fictional and historical travel stories.
- ✓ Use dialogue and description to create engaging narratives.
- ✓ Reflect on the purpose and meaning of exploration.

Competencies

ELA.3.A.1 – Analyzing narrative structure.

- Identify plot, setting, character traits, and theme.
- Compare characters across cultures and time periods.

ELA.3.A.2 – Writing personal or imagined travel narratives.

- Use sensory details, figurative language, and pacing.
 - Revise drafts using peer and teacher feedback.
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ELA.4 Book Adventures and Literary Journeys

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Choose and read chapter books with independence.
- ✓ Track characters, plots, and themes over time.
- ✓ Share opinions about books in written and oral formats.

Competencies

ELA.4.A.1 – Building reading stamina and literary insight.

- Use sticky notes, reading journals, and book logs.
- Discuss symbolism and character development.

ELA.4.A.2 – Presenting and recommending books.

- Write book reviews and create book trailers.
 - Present reading reflections in small-group “Book Talks.”
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ELA.5 School Around the World

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ **Compare schools, cultures, and student experiences globally.**
- ✓ **Read stories and articles set in different countries.**
- ✓ **Express thoughts about fairness, access, and curiosity.**

Competencies

ELA.5.A.1 – Reading across cultures.

- Identify similarities and differences in school life around the world.
- Read stories and poems about global education and children’s rights.

ELA.5.A.2 – Writing reflections and opinion texts.

- Write opinion pieces using reasons and examples.
 - Respond to global issues with empathy and voice.
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3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Daily Reading and Writing

- ✓ Reading logs and sticky note tracking
- ✓ Sentence starters and grammar stations
- ✓ Peer conferencing and teacher check-ins.

Summative Assessments – Final Writing and Analysis

- ✓ Nature Report + Nonfiction Reading Quiz
- ✓ Personal Travel Story (Revised Draft)
- ✓ Book Project (Review, Poster, or Trailer)
- ✓ “School Around the World” Opinion Essay.

Authentic Assessment – Voice and Audience

- ✓ Book Talk Videos or Gallery Walk
- ✓ Public Reading of Travel Narratives
- ✓ “Global Pen Pal” Writing Exchange.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Balanced Literacy Approach

- ✓ Guided reading, shared reading, independent reading
- ✓ Mini-lessons on writing, grammar, and editing

Integrated Themes and Cross-Curricular Links

- ✓ Pair with science (nature), geography (world schools), history (travel & exploration)

Technology and Media Literacy

- ✓ Use digital tools for writing, video creation, and reading comprehension games
- ✓ Explore author websites, virtual libraries, and online books

Learning Culture

- ✓ Promote curiosity, courage, and voice
- ✓ Celebrate every student’s growth as a reader and writer
- ✓ Model feedback that builds confidence and skill.