

5th Grade American Online School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Language, Literature, and Literacy for Thoughtful Communication

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of English Language Arts Education in 5th Grade

The 5th Grade English Language Arts curriculum strengthens students' ability to read analytically, write effectively, and communicate with confidence. Students expand their vocabulary, develop a deeper understanding of grammar, and grow as critical thinkers through genre-rich reading and writing experiences. Poetry, book studies, and oral communication allow learners to engage with language as a tool for understanding the world—and themselves.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Read with fluency, purpose, and critical awareness across genres.
- ✓ Apply grammar and punctuation rules in both creative and academic writing.
- ✓ Express themselves through structured paragraphs, essays, poetry, and storytelling.
- ✓ Grow vocabulary through word study, morphology, and context-based learning.
- ✓ Develop speaking and listening skills through discussion, presentation, and performance.

2. Core Competence Areas

ELA.1 Grammar, Structure, and Punctuation

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Use conventions of standard English grammar in writing and speaking.
- ✓ Identify and correct common punctuation and sentence structure errors.
- ✓ Recognize parts of speech and their function in sentence construction.

Competencies

ELA.1.A.1 – Applying grammar rules in writing.

- Use proper subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, and pronoun clarity.
- Apply conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections effectively.

ELA.1.A.2 – Using punctuation for clarity and style.

- Master commas in lists, compound sentences, and after introductory phrases.
- Use quotation marks in dialogue and titles, and edit for run-ons and fragments.

ELA.2 Reading Comprehension and Literary Analysis

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Summarize, infer, and analyze texts with increasing complexity.
- ✓ Identify theme, character development, and author's purpose.
- ✓ Compare texts across genres, authors, and cultural perspectives.

Competencies

ELA.2.A.1 – Understanding literary elements and nonfiction structures.

- Track plot, theme, setting, point of view, and text structure.
- Identify figurative language, text evidence, and vocabulary in context.

ELA.2.A.2 – Reading across genres and media.

- Explore fables, biographies, adventure stories, and historical fiction.
 - Analyze main ideas and supporting details in informational texts.
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ELA.3 Writing Development and Expression

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Write narratives, opinion pieces, and informational texts using structure and purpose.
- ✓ Use planning and revision to strengthen clarity, coherence, and detail.
- ✓ Express creativity and voice across multiple writing formats.

Competencies

ELA.3.A.1 – Crafting strong written work.

- Use strong leads, transitions, varied sentence types, and conclusions.
- Cite sources and integrate quotes or facts in informational writing.

ELA.3.A.2 – Engaging in the writing process.

- Brainstorm, draft, revise, and edit using rubrics and peer feedback.
 - Publish work digitally or in portfolios and reflect on growth
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ELA.4 Vocabulary, Word Study, and Phonics

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Decode multisyllabic words and apply grade-level spelling rules.
- ✓ Use Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes for word analysis.
- ✓ Build academic and domain-specific vocabulary.

Competencies

ELA.4.A.1 – Strengthening decoding and spelling patterns.

- Master common phonics patterns, syllable types, and high-frequency exceptions.
- Engage in weekly word sorts, games, and spelling challenges.

ELA.4.A.2 – Expanding vocabulary with strategy and context.

- Use context clues, dictionaries, and thesauruses to clarify meanings.
 - Create vocabulary maps and apply new terms in writing.
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ELA.5 Oral Communication and Performance

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ **Speak clearly and confidently in structured and spontaneous settings.**
- ✓ **Listen actively and build upon others' ideas in discussions.**
- ✓ **Present information and stories using voice, body, and visuals.**

Competencies

ELA.5.A.1 – Developing oral presentation and speaking skills.

- Practice volume, pacing, articulation, and eye contact.
- Deliver presentations using notes, slides, or props.

ELA.5.A.2 – Participating in collaborative dialogue.

- Engage in structured debates, literature circles, and interviews.
 - Reflect on speaking roles and responsibilities in groups.
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ELA.6 Poetry and Creative Writing Workshop

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Interpret and write various poetic forms.
- ✓ Use imagery, rhythm, and figurative language creatively.
- ✓ Explore personal expression and symbolic meaning through poetry.

Competencies

ELA.6.A.1 – Reading and responding to poetry.

- Explore haiku, free verse, limericks, and narrative poems.
- Discuss tone, theme, metaphor, and poetic voice.

ELA.6.A.2 – Writing and sharing original poems.

- Compose poetry using sensory language, rhyme, and repetition.
- Participate in classroom “Poetry Slams” and peer feedback circles.

ELA.7 Book Adventures and Independent Reading

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Choose texts for enjoyment and challenge.
- ✓ Reflect on themes, characters, and ideas from independent reading.
- ✓ Share reading experiences with peers through discussions and projects.

Competencies

ELA.7.A.1 – Developing reading stamina and habits.

- Read self-selected books across genres (novel, nonfiction, poetry, graphic novel).
- Maintain a reading log and personal “Book Ladder.”

ELA.7.A.2 – Connecting reading to self and world.

- Present book reviews, visual reports, or dramatizations.
- Participate in book clubs and author studies.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Skill Growth and Process

- ✓ Reading logs, annotation practice, and grammar notebooks.
- ✓ Peer editing and collaborative revision.
- ✓ Exit tickets and discussion stems.

Summative Assessments – Product and Mastery

- ✓ Final drafts of writing pieces (narrative, opinion, informational).
- ✓ Oral presentations and reading reflections.
- ✓ Vocabulary and grammar performance tasks.

Authentic Assessment – Expression and Impact

- ✓ Poetry portfolio with performance reflections.
- ✓ Literature response podcasts or videos.
- ✓ “My Reading Journey” visual timeline.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Workshop Model for Reading and Writing

- ✓ Mini-lessons, independent practice, conferences.
- ✓ Emphasis on student choice, reflection, and voice.

Multimodal Text Integration

- ✓ Pair fiction with video clips, podcasts, and infographics.
- ✓ Use audiobooks, graphic novels, and digital tools.

Inclusive and Inquiry-Based Culture

- ✓ Empower students to ask questions and explore interests.
- ✓ Foster a love of reading, writing, and expression.

Learning Culture

- ✓ Encourage risk-taking in writing and performance.
- ✓ Promote feedback as a tool for growth.
- ✓ Celebrate literacy as lifelong empowerment.