



## LITERACY

### WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 5th grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

#### Reading and writing skills:

- Writing to complete sentences and well developed paragraphs about what they are learning, with mostly correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Reading grade level texts smoothly and with expression, at a **fluency** rate of around 100-150 words per minute.

#### Learning about the world through text:

- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts read independently. Using specific evidence to support in depth description, to explain how ideas are connected, and to support inferences about the text.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words in text by using context, word relationships, or tools such as dictionaries and glossaries. Determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown words such as **synonyms**, **antonyms**, **idioms**, and words with multiple meanings, based on how they are used in context.
- Linking opinions and reasons or ideas within categories using words and phrases (for example, “consequently,” “specifically,” “in contrast,” “especially”).
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or essays.
- Writing in response to text. Children should include an introduction with a simple **thesis statement**, examples that are logically ordered and grouped, a conclusion, and mostly accurate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.



### EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Turn on the closed captioning while watching TV to allow your child to read along with the dialogue.
- Encourage your child each day to choose a book they want to read on their own. Reading lots of books over time is more important than the type of text. Let your child pick based on their interests and what makes them excited to read.
- Have “book talk” conversations. Ask your child to share the important ideas in their own words and show you what part of the text provided this information.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Encourage your child to use writing regularly in the real world. This can include authentic writing (grocery lists, notes, chore lists, etc.) as well as writing in a journal, book response notebook, or other creative writing opportunities.