

Common Fifth-Grade Milestones

Reading, writing, and talking help your child learn in many ways. While you're home together, watch for some of the key milestones in growing fifth-grade readers. On the back, you'll find ideas for supporting these literacy developments at home.

Language

Using Powerful Words

- ▶ Understand that words may have a root or origin (such as *add* in *addition*).
- ▶ Break apart words with more than one syllable (such as *request*, *equator*, or *extinguish*) in order to pronounce them correctly, or close to correctly.
- ▶ Read clearly and with expression.
- ▶ Use context to understand vocabulary words.
- ▶ Self-correct when necessary.

Discussing Texts

- ▶ Be polite during group discussion.
- ▶ Use both fact and opinion to make statements.
- ▶ Connect to what other students share by summarizing comments; asking follow-up questions; and agreeing, partially agreeing, or disagreeing.
- ▶ Be mature when dealing with sensitive themes.

Reading

Connecting to Texts

- ▶ Understand perspectives and events that are very different from their own experiences.
- ▶ Make inferences about significant events not shown in the text.
- ▶ Understand how subplots support the main theme.
- ▶ Recognize story structure and understand how events unfold.

Reading With Purpose

- ▶ Use context to determine the varied meanings of figurative language.
- ▶ Recognize and explain how graphics, charts, and illustrations add meaning to a text.
- ▶ Compare and contrast books that are structured differently.
- ▶ Recognize that a main idea or claim is supported with evidence.

Writing

Writing With Purpose

- ▶ Create well-developed characters and a narrator.
- ▶ Engage readers with focused and exciting stories.
- ▶ Construct a well-organized opinion essay.
- ▶ Use varied and interesting introductions.
- ▶ Include historical context, facts, and science in both fiction and nonfiction pieces.

Enhancing Meaning

- ▶ Carry out interesting and varied transitions.
- ▶ Create longer passages using figurative and descriptive language.
- ▶ Use quotations to include words from other authors.



Literacy Grows at Home

Children also become stronger readers the more time they spend reading. That includes choosing their own books and rereading favorites over and over again. Seeing you read encourages them, too, as does having books and magazines available to explore.

Sharing Books

Your fifth grader has had a lot of experience reading independently, but many children this age admit that they miss the experience of being read to as they were when they were younger.

Make time to read together. Pause once in a while to help your child figure out the meaning of a puzzling word or surprising detail. Checking for meaning is part of being a strong reader. Take turns reading to each other, or just sit back and listen as your child reads to you! Encourage your child to relax, have fun, and read with expression!

Supporting Independent Reading

Your child may already love to read on his or her own, or may need encouragement. Invite your child to choose a new book, revisit a book you have read together, or finish a book you may have started as a read-aloud.

When school is in session, ideally a child will spend 20 minutes or more per day reading independently in school and an equal amount of time reading at home. Today, reading at home is even more important. Split up the time or binge-read—just get those eyes on the page!



Making Connections

As important as reading time is, so is talking about what your child reads. Conversations can happen anytime—while you cook, fold laundry, or share a meal. Bond with your child about events and people in books that remind you of events and people from your own lives.

Literacy Builders

Encourage your child to use reading as a springboard into other enjoyable literacy-building activities like these.

CREATIVE COMICS Using a movie, television show, or book as inspiration, invite your child to create a comic book-style retelling of a favorite scene or tell a new story of his or her own. Help your child share the comic via safe social media with friends.

TAKE NOTE Use a notebook or stapled-together paper to create a journal so your child can jot down thoughts about his or her daily reading. What impressed your child the most? What words or details does your child want to remember? What might he or she want to share with family and friends?

WHO ARE THE HEROES? Talk together about what qualities make someone a hero. How do the characters in books compare to heroes from other books and from the everyday heroes you know?

WHAT'S THE TRUTH? Ask your child to create a true/false quiz based on a book they have read. Then challenge family members to try to answer the questions. Whether or not people answer the questions correctly, they may become interested enough to want to read the book to find out more for themselves!