

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS
LANGUAGE ARTS CHECKLIST
~GRADE 4~

Phonemic Awareness, Word Recognition and Fluency—Students in the primary grades learn to recognize and decode printed words, developing the skills that are the foundations for independent reading. They discover the alphabetic principle (sound-symbol match) and learn to use it in figuring out new words. They build a stock of sight words that helps them to read quickly and accurately with comprehension. By the end of third grade, they demonstrate fluent oral reading, varying their intonation and timing as appropriate for the text.

Fluency continues to develop past the primary grades. Readers increase their rate of oral reading to near conversational pace. They show by their appropriate use of pauses, pitch, stress and intonation that they are reading in clauses and sentence units to support comprehension. They gain control over a wider, complex sight vocabulary and over longer syntactic structures, so that they are able to read progressively more demanding texts with greater ease. Silent reading becomes considerably faster than oral reading and becomes the preferred, more efficient way to process everyday texts.

Acquisition of Vocabulary—Students acquire vocabulary through exposure to language-rich situations, such as reading books and other texts and conversing with adults and peers. They use context clues, as well as direct explanations provided by others, to gain new words. They learn to apply word analysis skills to build and extend their own vocabulary. As students progress through the grades, they become more proficient in applying their knowledge of words (origins, parts, relationships, meanings) to acquire specialized vocabulary that aids comprehension.

- ___ 1. Determine the meaning of unknown words by using a variety of context clues, including word, sentence

and paragraph clues.

- ___ 2. Use context clues to determine the meaning of synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms and homographs.
- ___ 3. Recognize the difference between the meanings of connotation and denotation.
- ___ 4. Identify and apply the meaning of the terms synonym, antonym, homophone and homograph.
- ___ 5. Identify and understand new uses of words and phrases in text, such as similes and metaphors.
- ___ 6. Identify word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases.
- ___ 7. Identify the meanings of prefixes, suffixes and roots and their various forms to determine the meanings of words.
- ___ 8. Identify the meanings of abbreviations.
- ___ 9. Determine the meanings and pronunciations of unknown words by using dictionaries, glossaries, technology and textual features, such as definitional footnotes or sidebars.

Reading Process: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies—Students develop and learn to apply strategies, such as predicting and recalling, that help them to comprehend and interpret informational and literary texts. Reading and learning to read are problem solving processes that require strategies for the reader to make sense of written language and remain engaged with texts. Beginners develop basic concepts about print (e.g., that print holds meaning) and how books work (e.g., text organization). As strategic readers, students learn to analyze and evaluate texts to demonstrate their understanding of text. Additionally, students learn to self-monitor their own comprehension by asking and answering questions about the text, self-correcting errors and assessing their own understanding. They apply these strategies effectively to assigned and self-selected texts

read in and out of the classroom.

- ___ 1. Establish and adjust purposes for reading, including to find out, to understand, to interpret, to enjoy and to solve problems.
- ___ 2. Predict and support predictions using an awareness of new vocabulary, text structures and familiar plot patterns.
- ___ 3. Compare and contrast information on a single topic or theme across different text and non-text resources.
- ___ 4. Summarize important information in texts to demonstrate comprehension.
- ___ 5. Make inferences or draw conclusions about what has been read and support those conclusions with textual evidence.
- ___ 6. Select, create and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information.
- ___ 7. Answer literal, inferential and evaluative questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.
- ___ 8. Monitor own comprehension by adjusting speed to fit the purpose, or by skimming, scanning, reading on or looking back.
- ___ 9. List questions and search for answers within the text to construct meaning.
- ___ 10. Use criteria to choose independent reading materials (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres or recommendations from others).
- ___ 11. Independently read books for various purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, for literary experience, to gain information or to perform a task).

Reading Applications: Informational, Technical and Persuasive Text—Students gain information from reading for purposes of learning about a subject, doing a job, making decisions and accomplishing a task. Students need to apply the reading process to various types of informational texts, including essays, magazines, newspapers, textbooks, instruction manuals, consumer and workplace documents, reference materials, multimedia and electronic resources. They learn to attend to text features, such as titles, subtitles and visual aids, to make predictions and build

text knowledge. They learn to read diagrams, charts, graphs, maps and displays in text as sources of additional information. Students use their knowledge of text structure to organize content information, analyze it and draw inferences from it. Strategic readers learn to recognize arguments, bias, stereotyping and propaganda in informational text sources.

- ___ 1. Make inferences about informational text from the title page, table of contents and chapter headings.
- ___ 2. Summarize main ideas in informational text, using supporting details as appropriate.
- ___ 3. Locate important details about a topic, using different sources of information, including books, magazines, newspapers and online resources.
- ___ 4. Identify examples of cause and effect used in informational text.
- ___ 5. Draw conclusions from information in maps, charts, graphs and diagrams.
- ___ 6. Clarify steps in a set of instructions or procedures for completeness.
- ___ 7. Distinguish fact from opinion.

Reading Applications: Literary Text—Students enhance their understanding of the human story by reading literary texts that represent a variety of authors, cultures and eras. They learn to apply the reading process to the various genres of literature, including fables, tales, short stories, novels, poetry and drama. They demonstrate their comprehension by describing and discussing the elements of literature (e.g., setting, character and plot), analyzing the author’s use of language (e.g., word choice and figurative language), comparing and contrasting texts, inferring theme and meaning and responding to text in critical and creative ways. Strategic readers learn to explain, analyze and critique literary text to achieve deep understanding.

- ___ 1. Describe the thoughts, words and interactions of characters.
- ___ 2. Identify the influence of setting on the selection.
- ___ 3. Identify the main incidents of a plot sequence, identifying the major conflict and its resolution.

- ___ 4. Identify the speaker and recognize the difference between first- and third-person narration.
- ___ 5. Determine the theme and whether it is implied or stated directly.
- ___ 6. Identify and explain the defining characteristics of literary forms and genres, including poetry, drama, fables, fantasies, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction.
- ___ 7. Explain how an author’s choice of words appeals to the senses and suggests mood.
- ___ 8. Identify figurative language in literary works, including idioms, similes and metaphors.

Writing Processes—Students’ writing develops when they regularly engage in the major phases of the writing process. The writing process includes the phases of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing and publishing. They learn to plan their writing for different purposes and audiences. They learn to apply their writing skills in increasingly sophisticated ways to create and produce compositions that reflect effective word and grammatical choices. Students develop revision strategies to improve the content, organization and language of their writing. Students also develop editing skills to improve writing conventions.

- ___ 1. Generate writing ideas through discussions with others and from printed material.
- ___ 2. State and develop a clear main idea for writing.
- ___ 3. Develop a purpose and audience for writing.
- ___ 4. Use organizational strategies (e.g., brainstorming, lists, webs and Venn diagrams) to plan writing.
- ___ 5. Organize writing, beginning with an introduction, body and a resolution of plot, followed by a closing statement

- ___ 6. Vary simple, compound and complex sentence structures.
- ___ 7. Create paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting sentences that are marked by indentation) and are linked by transitional words and phrases.
- ___ 8. Vary language and style as appropriate to audience and purpose.
- ___ 9. Use available technology to compose text.
- ___ 10. Reread and assess writing for clarity, using a variety of methods (e.g., writer’s circle or author’s chair).
- ___ 11. Add descriptive words and details and delete extraneous information.
- ___ 12. Rearrange words, sentences and paragraphs to clarify meaning.
- ___ 13. Use resources and reference materials, including dictionaries, to select more effective vocabulary.
- ___ 14. Proofread writing and edit to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization) and identify and correct fragments and run-ons.
- ___ 15. Apply tools (e.g., rubric, checklist and feedback) to judge the quality of writing.
- ___ 16. Prepare for publication (e.g., for display or for sharing with others) writing that follows a format appropriate to the purpose, using techniques such as electronic resources and graphics to enhance the final product.

Writing Applications—Students need to understand that various types of writing require different language, formatting and special vocabulary. Writing serves many purposes across the curriculum and takes various forms. Beginning writers learn about the various purposes of writing; they attempt and use a small range of familiar forms (e.g., letters). Developing writers are able to select text forms to suit purpose and audience. They can explain why some text forms are more suited to a purpose than others and begin to use content-specific vocabulary to achieve their communication goals. Proficient writers control effectively the language and

structural features of a large repertoire of text forms. They deliberately choose vocabulary to enhance text and structure in their writing according to audience and purpose.

- ___1. Write narratives that sequence events, including descriptive details and vivid language to develop plot, characters and setting and to establish a point of view.
- ___2. Write responses to novels, stories and poems that include a simple interpretation of a literary work and support judgments with specific references to the original text and to prior knowledge.
- ___3. Write formal and informal letters (e.g., thank you notes, letters of request) that follow letter format (e.g., date, proper salutation, body, closing and signature), include important information and demonstrate a sense of closure.
- ___4. Write informational reports that include facts and examples and present important details in a logical order.
- ___5. Produce informal writings (e.g., messages, journals, notes and poems) for various purposes.

Writing Conventions—Students learn to master writing conventions through exposure to good models and opportunities for practice. Writing conventions include spelling, punctuation, grammar and other conventions associated with forms of written text. They learn the purposes of punctuation: to clarify sentence meaning and help readers know how writing might sound aloud. They develop and extend their understanding of the spelling system, using a range of strategies for spelling words correctly and using newly learned vocabulary in their writing. They grow more skillful at using the grammatical structures of English to effectively communicate ideas in writing and to express themselves.

- ___1. Write legibly in cursive, spacing letters, words and sentences appropriately.
- ___2. Spell high-frequency words correctly.
- ___3. Spell plurals and inflectional endings correctly.
- ___4. Spell roots, suffixes and prefixes correctly.
- ___5. Use commas, end marks, apostrophes and quotation

marks correctly.

- ___6. Use correct capitalization.
- ___7. Use various parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns and verbs (e.g., regular and irregular, past, present and future).
- ___8. Use conjunctions and interjections.
- ___9. Use adverbs.
- ___10. Use prepositions and prepositional phrases.
- ___11. Use objective and nominative case pronouns.
- ___12. Use subjects and verbs that are in agreement.
- ___13. Use irregular plural nouns.

Research—Students define and investigate self-selected or assigned issues, topics and problems. They locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference and technological sources. Students use an appropriate form to communicate their findings.

- ___1. Identify a topic and questions for research and develop a plan for gathering information.
- ___2. Locate sources and collect relevant information from multiple sources (e.g., school library catalogs, online databases, electronic resources and Internet-based resources).
- ___3. Identify important information found in the sources and summarize important findings.
- ___4. Create categories to sort and organize relevant information charts, tables or graphic organizers.
- ___5. Discuss the meaning of plagiarism and create a list of sources.
- ___6. Use a variety of communication techniques, including oral, visual, written or multimedia reports, to present information gathered.

Communication: Oral and Visual—Students learn to communicate effectively through exposure to good models and

opportunities for practice. By speaking, listening and providing and interpreting visual images, they learn to apply their communication skills in increasingly sophisticated ways. Students learn to deliver presentations that effectively convey information and persuade or entertain audiences. Proficient speakers control language and deliberately choose vocabulary to clarify points and adjust presentations according to audience and purpose.

- ___1. Demonstrate active listening strategies (e.g., asking focused questions, responding to cues, making visual contact).
- ___2. Recall the main idea, including relevant supporting details, and identify the purpose of presentations and visual media.
- ___3. Distinguish between a speaker's opinions and verifiable facts.
- ___4. Demonstrate an understanding of the rules of the English language.
- ___5. Select language appropriate to purpose and audience.
- ___6. Use clear diction and tone, and adjust volume and tempo to stress important ideas.
- ___7. Adjust speaking content according to the needs of the audience.
- ___8. Deliver informational presentations (e.g., expository, research) that:
 - a. present events or ideas in a logical sequence and maintain a clear focus;
 - b. demonstrate an understanding of the topic;
 - c. include relevant facts, details, examples, quotations, statistics, stories and anecdotes to clarify and explain information;
 - d. organize information to include a clear introduction, body and conclusion;
 - e. use appropriate visual materials (e.g., diagrams, charts, illustrations) and available technology; and
 - f. draw from several sources and identify sources used.
- ___9. Deliver formal and informal descriptive presentations recalling an event or personal experience that convey relevant information and descriptive details.