

Literacy For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

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Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, students develop the stamina and skills to read more complex texts and write about what they read. Fourth-graders deepen their comprehension, learn to examine texts more closely, and write well-organized, multi-paragraph pieces.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn about literacy this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

What Fourth-Graders Learn and Do



Gain independence and endurance for reading and writing a wide variety of texts.



Build and use more complex, creative, and specific vocabulary, including metaphors.



Research and plan creative or community projects using different types of text.



Talk and write about what they read by referring to details in the text.



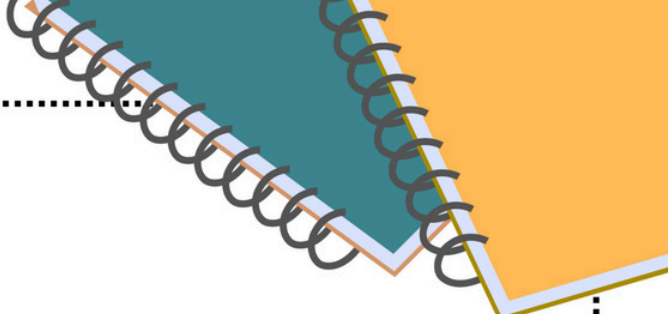
Search for information in different types of media (such as books, videos, or websites).



Identify the purpose and author of different sources and think about how information can affect the world.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



How to Support Your Fourth-Grader with Literacy

Promote Literacy at Home

- Read familiar fairy tales, stories, and books, then talk about the morals or lessons from each story.
- Talk about common metaphors and similes (for example, "This bag is as heavy as lead" or "I'm an open book"). Point them out in TV, movies, music, or books. Create your own similes and metaphors together.
- Play word-building games. Write letters on notecards and ask your child to create words using the notecards.
- Read short, simple poems together. Talk about the meaning of the poems and the feelings they inspire. Create your own poems together and share.



Talk with Your Student

- Each week, ask your student what new vocabulary words they learned. Practice using the new words in a sentence.
- Discuss what you are reading. Pick a text, read it together, and talk about what it means to each of you.
- Ask your student what they are learning. Talk about how it connects to your world and community.
- Help your student identify their strengths in reading and writing and where they feel confident. Encourage them to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use while reading and writing at school.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in reading and writing. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, and future goals.
- Communicate your student's interests and strengths to the teacher.
- Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking in class discussions about texts and in writing.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

