

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!

5

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade, students increase their confidence by reading and writing for different purposes and across genres (text formats and styles). Fifth-graders understand complex themes and ideas, support their arguments with evidence from the text, and write multiple paragraphs with varied vocabulary and correct punctuation. They learn to compare fiction and nonfiction and describe cause and effect in a story or text.



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 Fifth-Graders Learn and Do



Read and write different kinds of texts by themselves and with others.



Refer to details from the text when talking and writing about what they read.



Use references from text for research, creative, or community projects.



Build and use complex, creative, and specific vocabulary.



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



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



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



How to Support Your Fifth-Grader with Literacy

Promote Literacy at Home

- Read to and with your student every day. Ask them to talk about what they are reading and include important events and details from the story. This will help them understand what is happening when reading both fiction and nonfiction.
- Listen to, read, or watch a story about an event, then encourage your student to find another version of the same event told from another person's perspective. Discuss the differences in the two accounts and how point of view shapes a story.
- Make it a game to identify new words that you see or hear. Write them down, look them up, and practice using them in sentences or phrases together.
- Stop every few pages to check in while your student reads or as you read together. Ask questions to check their understanding:

"What do you think about this part of the story?"

"How do you know?"

"What do you think might happen next?"



Talk with Your Student

- Engage in storytelling together in ways that reflect your family's interests and traditions, whether through books, oral stories, or digital texts, and share your ideas and reactions with one another.
- Take turns sharing your opinion on a topic of interest (for example, sports, TV shows, or vacations) either verbally or in writing. Ask your student to give three supporting details and elaborate on them.
- Help your student select reading material that interests them. Encourage them to read different kinds of texts and set aside time to read for fun.
- Help your student identify their strengths in reading and writing and areas where they feel confident. Encourage them to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use when 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.
- Ask the teacher what your student needs to work on to be ready for next year.
- Communicate your student's strengths and interests 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).

