
English Language Arts: Grade 4

During the fourth-grade year, students continue to build their vocabularies, adding letters at the beginnings and ends of root words to create new words, such as *nation/national/nationality*. They learn variations on word meanings---synonyms, antonyms, idioms, and words with more than one meaning. They recognize key features of textbooks and begin to use a thesaurus to find related words and ideas. They read a variety of grade-level-appropriate classic and contemporary literature and expand their interest in nonfiction books, biographies, historical fiction, science fiction, and mythology. They write multiple-paragraph narrative, descriptive, and persuasive compositions that begin to use quotations or dialogue to capture their readers' attention. They use the conventions of Standard English in their written communications. They deliver oral summaries of articles and books that they have read.

By the end of Grade Four, students are expected to be reading "At the Standard" (See the DoDEA ELA Addendum 1: Reading Performance Levels). The quality and complexity of materials read should reflect the grade-level-appropriate levels.

Strand: 4E1: Reading

Standard: 4E1a: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development
Students understand the basic features of words. They see letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics (an understanding of the different letters that make different sounds), syllables, word parts (such as un-, re-, -est, -ful), and context (the meaning of the text around a word). They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent (smooth and clear) oral and silent reading.

Component:
4E1a.1: *Decoding and Word Recognition*
Read aloud grade-level-appropriate literary and informational texts with fluency and accuracy and with appropriate timing, changes in voice, and expression.

Component:
4E1a.2: *Vocabulary and Concept Development*
Understand and explain frequently used synonyms (*words with the same meanings*), antonyms (*words with opposite meanings*), and homographs (*words that are spelled the same but have different meanings*).

4E1a.3: Use knowledge of root words (*such as nation, national, nationality*) to determine the meaning of unknown words within a passage.

4E1a.4: Use common roots and word parts derived from Greek and Latin to analyze the meaning of complex words.
Example:
Thermometer
root word: (meter = measure)
word parts: (therm = heat)

4E1a.5: Use a thesaurus to find related words and ideas.

4E1a.6: Distinguish and interpret words with multiple meanings (*such as quarters*) by using context clues (*the meaning of the text around a word*).

4E1a.7: Use context to determine the meaning of unknown words.

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- Standard:** **4E1b: Comprehension and Analysis of Nonfiction and Informational Text**
Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. At Grade 4, in addition to regular classroom reading, students read a variety of nonfiction such as biographies, books in many different subject areas, magazines and periodicals, reference and technical materials, and online information.
- Component:**
- 4E1b.1: Structural Features of Informational and Technical Materials**
Use the organization of informational text to strengthen comprehension.
Example: Read informational texts that are organized by comparing and contrasting ideas, by discussing causes for and effects of events, or by sequential order and use this organization to understand what is read. Use graphic organizers, such as webs, flow charts, concept maps, or Venn diagrams to show the organization of the text.
- 4E1b.2:** Identify informational texts written in narrative form (*sometimes with undeveloped characters and minimal dialogue*) using sequence or chronology.
Example: Read informational texts, such as a science experiment or a short historical account, and identify the type of organization used to understand what is read.
- Component:**
- 4E1b.3: Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Nonfiction and Informational Text**
Use appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes.
Example: Read and take notes on an informational text that will be used for a report. Skim a text to locate specific information. Use graphic organizers to show the relationship of ideas in the text.
- 4E1b.4:** Draw conclusions or make and confirm predictions about text by using prior knowledge and ideas presented in the text itself, including illustrations, titles, topic sentences, important words, foreshadowing (*clues that indicate what might happen next,*) and direct quotations.
Example: After reading an informational text, such as Camouflage: A Closer Look by Joyce Powzyk, use information gained from the text to predict what an animal might do to camouflage itself in different landscapes.
- 4E1b.5:** Evaluate new information and hypotheses (*statements of theories or assumptions*) by testing them against known information and ideas.
Example: Compare what is already known and thought about ocean life to new information encountered in reading, such as in the book Amazing Sea Creatures by Andrew Brown.
- 4E1b.6:** Recognize main ideas and supporting details presented in expository texts.
- 4E1b.7:** Compare and contrast information on the same topic after reading several passages or articles.
Example: Read several informational texts about guide dogs, such as A Guide Dog Puppy Grows Up by Carolyn Arnold, Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog by Eva Moore, and Follow My Leader by James B. Garfield, then compare and contrast the information presented in each.

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4E1b.8: Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion in informational text.
Example: In reading an article about how snowshoe rabbits change color, distinguish facts (e.g., “Snowshoe rabbits change color from brown to white in the winter”) from opinions (e.g., “Snowshoe rabbits are very pretty animals because they can change colors.”)

4E1b.9: Follow multiple-step instructions in a grade-level-appropriate basic technical manual.
Example: Follow directions to learn how to use computer commands or play a video game.

Standard: **4E1c: Comprehension and Analysis of Literary Text**
Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children’s literature. At Grade 4, students read a wide variety of fiction, such as classic and contemporary literature, historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, folklore, mythology, poetry, songs, plays, and other genres.

Component: **Structural Features of Literature**
4E1c.1: Describe the differences of various imaginative forms of literature, including fantasies, fables, myths, legends, and other tales.
Example: After reading some of the Greek or Norse myths found in such books as Book of Greek Myths or Book of Norse Myths, both by Ingri and Edgar D’Aulaire, discuss how myths were sometimes used to explain physical phenomena like movement of the sun across the sky or the sound of thunder.

Component: **Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Literary Text**
4E1c.2: Identify the main events of the plot, including their causes and the effects of each event on future actions, and the major theme from the story action.
Example: Discuss the causes and effects of the main event of the plot in each story in books such as Rudyard Kipling’s collection of animal tales, The Jungle Book.

4E1c.3: Use knowledge of the situation, setting, and a character’s traits, motivations, and feelings to determine the causes for that character’s actions.
Example: After reading a story, such as The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare, tell how the Native American character’s actions are influenced by his being in a setting in which he is very familiar and feels comfortable, as opposed to another character, Matt.

4E1c.4: Compare and contrast tales from different cultures by tracing the adventures of one character type. Tell why there are similar tales in different cultures.
Example: Read a book of trickster tales from other countries, such as Barefoot Book of Trickster Tales retold by Richard Walker. Describe the similarities in these tales in which a main character, often an animal, outwits other animals, humans, or forces in nature. Then, tell how these tales are different from each other.

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- 4E1c.5:** Define figurative language such as, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, or personification, and identify its use in literary works.
- a. Simile: a comparison that uses like or as
 - b. Metaphor: an implied comparison
 - c. Hyperbole: an exaggeration for effect
 - d. Personification: a description that represents a thing as a person
- Examples:*
1. Identify a simile, such as “*Twinkle, twinkle little star... like a diamond in the sky*”.
 2. Identify a metaphor, such as “*You were the wind beneath my wings*”.
 3. Identify an example of hyperbole, such as “*Cleaner than clean, whiter than white*”.
 4. Identify an example of personification, such as “*The North Wind told the girl that he would blow so hard it would be impossible to walk up the steep hill*”.
- 4E1c.6:** Determine the theme.
Example: Identify the theme in a classic novel, such as Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge.
- 4E1c.7:** Identify the narrator in a selection and tell whether the narrator or speaker is involved in the story.

Strand:

4E2: Writing

Standard:

- 4E2a: Processes and Features**
Students write clear sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Students progress through the stages of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing multiple drafts.

Component:

- 4E2a.1: Organization and Focus**
Discuss ideas for writing. Find ideas for writing in conversations with others and in books, magazines, newspapers, school textbooks, or on the Internet. Keep a list or notebook of ideas.
- 4E2a.2:** Select a focus, an organizational structure, and a point of view based upon purpose, audience, length, and format requirements for a piece of writing.
- 4E2a.3:** Write informational pieces with multiple paragraphs that provide an introductory paragraph; establish and support a central idea with a topic sentence at or near the beginning of the first paragraph; include supporting paragraphs with simple facts, details, and explanations; present important ideas or events in sequence or in chronological order; provide details and transitions to link paragraphs; conclude with a paragraph that summarizes the points; and use correct indentation at the beginning of paragraphs.
- 4E2a.4:** Use logical organizational structures for providing information in writing, such as chronological order, cause and effect, similarity and difference, and posing and answering a question.

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- Component:** ***Research Process and Technology***
- 4E2a.5:** Quote or paraphrase information sources, citing them appropriately.
- 4E2a.6:** Locate information in reference texts by using organizational features, such as prefaces and appendixes.
- 4E2a.7:** Use multiple reference materials and online information (*the Internet*) as aids to writing.
- 4E2a.8:** Understand the organization of almanacs, newspapers, and periodicals and how to use those print materials.
- 4E2a.9:** Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing, demonstrating basic keyboarding skills and familiarity with common computer terminology.
- Component:** ***Evaluation and Revision***
- 4E2a.10:** Review, evaluate, and revise grade-level-appropriate writing for meaning and clarity.
- 4E2a.11:** Proofread one's own writing, as well as that of others, using an editing checklist or list of rules, with specific examples of corrections of frequent errors.
- 4E2a.12:** Revise writing by combining and moving sentences and paragraphs to improve the focus and progression of ideas.
- Standard:** **4E2b: *Applications (Different Types of Writing and Their Characteristics)***
- Students at Grade 4 are introduced to writing informational reports and responses to literature. Students continue to write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of Standard English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Standard 4E2a: Writing Processes and Features. Writing demonstrates an awareness of the audience (intended reader) and purpose for writing.*
- Component:** ***Writing Application***
- 4E2b.1:** Write narratives that include ideas, observations or memories of an event or experience, provide a context to allow the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience and use concrete sensory details.
Example: Prepare a narrative on how and why immigrants come to the United States. To make the story more realistic, use information from an older person who may remember first hand the experience of coming to America.
- 4E2b.2:** Write responses to literature that demonstrate an understanding of a literary work and support statements with evidence from a text.
Example: Write a description of a favorite character in a book. Include examples from the book to show why this character is such a favorite.
- 4E2b.3:** Use varied grade-level-appropriate word choices to make writing interesting.
Example: Write stories using descriptive words in place of common words; for instance, use enormous, gigantic, or giant for the word big.

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- 4E2b.4:** Write for different purposes (*information, persuasion, description*) and to a specific audience or person.
Example: Write a persuasive report for your class about your hobby or interest. Use charts or pictures, when appropriate, to help motivate your audience to take up your hobby or interest.

Component:

Research Application

- 4E2b.5:** Write or deliver research reports that have been developed using a systematic research process (*including; define the topic, gather information, determine credibility, report findings*); and that:
- include information from a variety of sources (*such as books, technology, multimedia*) and document sources (*such as titles and authors*); and
 - demonstrate that gathered information has been summarized, organized into multiple categories (*such as solid, liquid, and gas or reduce, reuse, and recycle*) or includes information gained through observation.
- Example: After talking to local officials and conducting library or Internet research, write a report about the history of the different people and immigrant groups who settled in Indiana. Include information about where these groups came from, where they first lived in the state, and what work they did.*

Standard:

4E2c: English Language Conventions

Students write using Standard English conventions appropriate to the 4th grade level.

Component:

Handwriting

- 4E2c.1:** Write smoothly and legibly in cursive, forming letters and words that can be read by others.

Component:

Sentence Structure

- 4E2c.2:** Use simple sentences and compound sentences in writing.
Examples:
- Simple: Dr. Vincent Stone is my dentist.*
 - Compound: His assistant cleans my teeth, and Dr. Stone checks for cavities.*
- 4E2c.3:** Create interesting sentences by using words that describe, explain, or provide additional details and connections, such as verbs, adjectives, adverbs, appositives, participial phrases, prepositional phrases, and conjunctions.
Examples:
- Verbs: We strolled by the river.*
 - Adjectives: brown eyes, younger sisters*
 - Adverbs: We walked slowly.*
 - Appositives: noun phrases that function as adjectives, such as We played the Cougars, the team from Newport.*
 - Participial phrases: verb phrases that function as adjectives, such as The man walking down the street saw the delivery truck.*
 - Prepositional phrases: in the field, across the room, over the fence.*
 - Conjunctions: and, or, but.*

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Component:	Grammar
4E2c.4:	Identify and use in writing regular (<i>such as live/lived, shout/shouted</i>) and irregular verbs (<i>such as swim/swam, ride/rode, hit/hit</i>), adverbs (<i>such as constantly, quickly</i>), and prepositions (<i>such as through, beyond, between</i>).
Component:	Punctuation
4E2c.5:	Use parentheses to explain something that is not considered of primary importance to the sentence, commas in direct quotations (<i>such as He said, "I'd be happy to go."</i>), apostrophes to show possession (<i>such as Jim's shoes, the dog's food</i>), and apostrophes in contractions (<i>such as can't, didn't, won't</i>).
4E2c.6:	Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to identify titles of documents. <i>Examples:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>When writing by hand or computer, use quotation marks to identify the titles of articles, short stories, poems, or chapters of books.</i>2. <i>When writing on a computer italicize the following when writing by hand underline them: the titles of books, names of newspapers and magazines, works of art and musical compositions.</i>
Component:	Capitalization
4E2c.7:	Capitalize names of magazines, newspapers, works of art, musical compositions, organizations, and the first word in quotations, when appropriate.
Component:	Spelling
4E2c.8:	Spell correctly root (<i>base words, such as unnecessary, cowardly</i>), inflections (<i>words like care/careful/caring</i>), words with more than one acceptable spelling (<i>such as advisor/adviser</i>), suffixes (<i>such as -ly, -ness</i>) and prefixes, (<i>such as mis-, un-</i>), and syllables (<i>word parts each containing a vowel sound, such as sur*prise or e*col*o*gy</i>).
Strand:	4E3: Listening and Speaking
Standard:	4E3a: Skills and Strategies <i>Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication. They speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation (raising and lowering voice).</i>
Component:	Comprehension
4E3a.1:	Ask thoughtful questions and respond orally to relevant questions with appropriate elaboration.
4E3a.2:	Summarize major ideas and supporting evidence presented in spoken presentations.
4E3a.3:	Identify how language usage (<i>such as sayings and expressions</i>) reflects regions and cultures.
4E3a.4:	Give and follow five step oral directions.
4E3a.5:	Connect and relate knowledge of other experiences and ideas to those of a speaker.

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- Component:**
- 4E3a.6:** Present effective introductions and conclusions that guide and inform the listener's understanding of important ideas and details.
 - 4E3a.7:** Use logical structures for conveying information, including cause and effect, similarity and difference, and posing and answering a question.
 - 4E3a.8:** Emphasize points in ways that help the listener or viewer follow important ideas and concepts.
 - 4E3a.9:** Use details, examples, anecdotes (*stories of a specific event*), or experiences to explain or clarify information.
 - 4E3a.10:** Engage the audience with appropriate words, facial expressions, and gestures.
- Component:**
- 4E3a.11:** Evaluate the role of the media in focusing people's attention on events and in forming their opinions on issues.
 - 4E3a.12:** Distinguish between the speaker's opinions and verifiable facts.
- Standard:**
- 4E3b: Applications**
Students deliver brief oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent thesis statement (a statement of topic). Students use the same Standard English conventions for oral speech that they use in their writing.
- Component:**
- 4E3b.1: Speaking Applications**
Make narrative presentations that relate ideas, observations, or memories about an event or experience, provide a context that allows the listener to imagine the circumstances of the event or the experience, and provide insight into why the selected event or experience should be of interest to the audience.
 - 4E3b.3:** Make descriptive presentations that use concrete sensory details to set forth and support unified impressions of people, places, things, or experiences.
 - 4E3b.4:** Make informational presentations that focus on one main topic, include facts and details that help listeners focus, and incorporate more than one source of information (*including speakers, books, newspaper, television broadcasts, radio reports, or Web sites*).
 - 4E3b.5:** Deliver oral summaries of articles and books that contain the main ideas of the event or article and the most significant details.