

In 5th grade, your child will read widely and deeply from a range of high-quality, increasingly challenging fiction and nonfiction from diverse cultures and time periods. Building knowledge about subjects through research projects and responding analytically to literary and informational sources will be key to your child's continuing success. Your child will write stories or essays that are several paragraphs long. By devoting significant time and effort to producing numerous written pieces over short and extended timeframes throughout the year, he or she also will gain control over many conventions of grammar, usage, and punctuation as well as learn ways to make himself or herself understood.

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view
- Integrating information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer's point of view
- Writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally and developing the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action
- Coming to classroom discussions prepared, then engaging fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contributing accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others; synthesizing ideas)
- Reporting on a topic or presenting an opinion with his or her own words, a logical sequence of ideas, sufficient facts and details, and formal English when appropriate
- Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships, such as on the other hand, similarly, and therefore
- Producing writing on the computer

Learning Activity to Use at Home

READING ACTIVITY

Forming logical arguments is an important skill that children must learn under the Common Core standards. Help your child develop strong argumentation skills by requiring solid and well supported arguments from them when they want an increase in their allowance, to buy a new video game, get new clothes or other things that they want to persuade you to do for them.

WRITING ACTIVITY

Discuss with your child what life would have been like "if our family lived 100 years ago, and imagine that it was 1912." Brainstorm together different activities you would do as a family, discuss the type of home you would live in, what kind of transportation the family would use to go from place to place, what the clothes would be like and other lifestyle details (i.e. no T.V., iPhones, computers, family jobs, etc.). Have your child write a short story about 'a day in our life in the year of 1912.' Include descriptive details to help visualize the clothing, home, and other important details. Consider using dialogue between different family members to make the story 'come alive.' Have fun with this imaginary life and include drawing (s) to go along with the story.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child's teacher.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In fifth grade, these include:

- Is your child reading for detail and drawing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction materials, including the ability to quote accurately from them when answering questions
- Does your child adjust communication style and methods to accomplish a particular purpose or for different audiences. (e.g., providing more background information for audiences who do not know the topic well)

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?