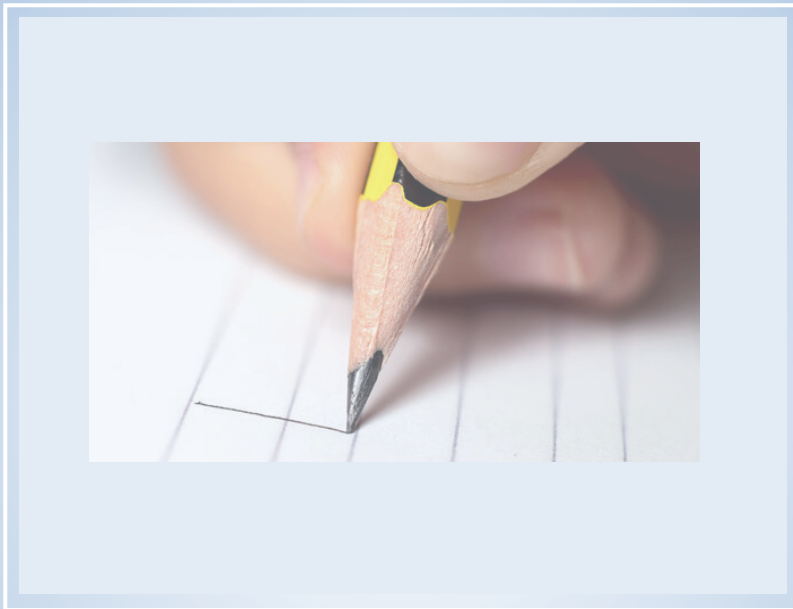


LANGUAGE ARTS SEQUENCE



FOR ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL



BEST HOMESCHOOL RESOURCES

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Disclaimer. This is only one suggested sequence. If you use a Language Arts curriculum, you will almost certainly find its Scope & Sequence to be somewhat different from the sequence outlined below. However, most (if not all) of the material laid out herein should be covered at some point during the Elementary & Middle School years.

GRADE 1

READING

- Understand reading directionality and recognize that the sequence of letters in a written word represents the sequence of sounds in the spoken word.
- Recognize and name the 26 letters of the alphabet in uppercase and lowercase form. Say the letters of the alphabet in order, either in song or in recitation.
- Indicate whether a target sound is or is not present in the beginning, middle, and end a spoken word. For example, hear /m/ at the beginning of *mat* and /g/ at the end of *bag*.
- Tell the beginning or ending sounds of spoken words. For example, given *dog*, identify the initial /d/ sound or the final /g/ sound.
- Orally blend 2–3 sounds to form a word. For example, given the sounds /k/.../a/.../t/, blend to make *cat*. Conversely, segment a spoken word into its individual phonemes. For example, understand that the word *bat* is made up of the sounds /b/.../a/.../t/.
- Given a spoken word, produce another word that rhymes.
- Identify the number of syllables in a spoken word.
- Read words containing single consonant sounds and short vowel sounds (*hit, egg*).
- Read words with initial blends (*frog*).
- Learn the sounds of the consonant teams *ch, ck, th, sh, ng, nk*
- Begin to read words with consonant and vowel teams and words with the vowel-consonant-*e* pattern (*cake*).
- Understand and use commas and end punctuation while reading aloud.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/reading>

SPELLING & HANDWRITING

- Practice proper pencil grip.
- Print the letters of the alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase.
- Generally stay within lines and leave spaces between words.
- Spell words containing consonant sounds and short vowel sounds.
- Learn to spell some common consonant blends, such as *ch, ck, ng, nk, sh, and th*.
- Spell words ending in double consonants – *ff, ll, and ss*.
- Spell phonetically when encountering words with unknown phonograms.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting>

VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE

- Identify synonyms and antonyms.
- Learn about onomatopoeia.
- Use frequently occurring prefixes and suffixes as a clue to a word’s meaning.
- Identify root words (*walk*) and their inflectional forms (*walks, walked, walking*).
- Sort words into categories (*things that float* or *things that are red*).
- Distinguish shades of meaning among similar words (*little and tiny* or *jog and sprint*).

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language>

GRADE 1

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

- Learn basic parts of speech: nouns, verbs, and pronouns. Identify common, proper, and possessive nouns.
- Use singular and plural nouns with the correct form of a verb (*I walk, he walks*).
- Use proper verb tense (*Today I cook, Yesterday I cooked, Tomorrow I will cook*)
- Use personal, possessive, and indefinite pronouns (*she, her, they, them, their, someone*).
- Capitalize dates, holidays, and names of people and places.
- Understand the concept of a sentence. Capitalize the first letter of a sentence and use end punctuation for sentences – periods, question marks, and exclamation points.
- Use commas in dates and to separate items in a list.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation>

COMPOSITION

- Retell a story. Describe characters and setting and give the story a beginning, middle, and end.
- After hearing a story read aloud, change some events and invent a different ending.
- Create and tell an original story. Create a title for the story.
- With help, write a descriptive paragraph using sensory language. At this stage, it is perfectly acceptable to act as a scribe for your child, writing or typing their original thoughts as they compose them.
- Express an opinion, providing reasons and supporting details for this opinion.
- With help, write a simple friendly letter.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Listen to a variety of read-aloud texts: fiction, fairy tales, fables, historical narratives, drama, informational texts, and poems.
- Understand the difference between fiction, nonfiction, and drama. Within a story, distinguish fantasy from realistic text.
- Practice putting in order a series of pictures depicting the events in a story
- After hearing a story, try describing the illustrations and recounting some of the details of the story (people, places, events, actions, or facts). Identify the narrator.
- Notice words in a poem or story that suggest feelings or that appeal to the senses.
- Compare and contrast characters within a story and those from different stories.
- Identify the moral or lesson of a fable, folktale, or myth.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 2

READING

- Continue daily reading practice. As the year progresses, your child will be able to read decodable text with improved accuracy, fluency, and expression.
- Continue to practice reading words with the vowel-consonant-*e* pattern (*cake*).
- Learn the sounds of new vowel teams, such as *au, aw, ee, oi, oo, ou, ow,* and *oy*
- Learn the sounds of new phonograms, such as *ar, or, wh, er*
- Form and read common contractions (*isn't, I'm, can't, don't*)
- Learn about the past tense and the suffix *ed*.
- Use phonics skills and context clues to confirm or self-correct word recognition.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/reading>

SPELLING & HANDWRITING

- Continue to practice manuscript printing, with attention to proper path of movement and automaticity of letter formation
- Regularly practice the mechanical act of writing down thoughts (through copywork, dictation, free writing, etc.)
- Learn to spell words with new vowel teams, such as *au, aw, ee, oi, oo, ou, ow,* and *oy,*
- Learn to spell new phonograms, such as *wh, er, ar,* and *or.*
- Spell words with the vowel-consonant-*e* pattern (*cake*).
- Spell plural words with suffixes *-s* and *-es*.
- Spell one-syllable words that end in *y*.
- Spell words with blends at the beginning and end.
- Spell words with *soft c* and *soft g*.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting>

VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE

- Learn about compound words; deduce the meaning of new a compound word based on the meanings of the individual words (*lighthouse, bookmark, dragonfly*).
- Learn about homophones (*dear, deer*).
- With help, use a children's dictionary to check spelling and verify word meaning.
- Alphabetize words to the second letter.
- Understand and recognize simile and metaphor.
- Deduce the meaning of a new word formed when a common prefix or suffix is added to a known word (*happy → unhappy* or *addition → additional*)
- Continue to develop an understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings by identifying connections between words and their use and by distinguishing shades of meaning among related words.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language>

GRADE 2

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

- Learn basic parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, and pronouns.
- Use collective nouns (*group of children, herd of sheep, pack of cards*).
- Recognize and use common irregular plural nouns (*feet, mice, children*).
- Recognize and use common irregular past tense verbs (*sat, hid, told, ran, swam*).
- Use reflexive pronouns (*myself, yourselves*).
- Capitalize names, dates, holidays, product names, and geographic names.
- Use commas appropriately in the greetings and closings of letters.
- Use apostrophes to form contractions and common possessives (*the girl's truck*).
- Recognize and use correct noun–pronoun agreement.
- Use the articles *a* and *an* appropriately.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation>

COMPOSITION

- With help, write a personal narrative or a story that includes setting, character, dialogue, and events. It is perfectly acceptable to transcribe your child's original writing as they continue to master the mechanics of writing.
- With help, write an informative text about a nonfiction topic. Provide a beginning and ending sentence, facts, and examples. Group similar information into paragraphs.
- With help, express an opinion or point of view in writing, providing reasons and supporting details.
- With help, practice revising and editing selected pieces of writing.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Continue to listen to a wide variety of high-quality read-alouds, including fictional stories, fairy tales, fables, historical narratives, drama, informational texts, and poems.
- Demonstrate engagement with a read-aloud by verbally summarizing parts of the story, making predictions about a story and comparing actual outcomes to predictions, answering verbal questions about a text, and giving opinions about a read-aloud.
- Appreciate how words and phrases—such as alliteration, rhymes, and regular beats—can give rhythm and meaning to a story, poem, or song.
- Make personal connections to stories and make connections between stories. Discuss similarities and differences between two texts.
- Identify who is telling a story or providing information in a text. Describe characters in depth by referring to dialogue and/or their actions in the story.
- Understand the terms author, illustrator, character, setting, plot, and dialogue.
- Identify sensory language and discuss how it is used to describe people, objects, places and events.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 3

READING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue daily reading practice. As the year progresses, your child will continue to read decodable text with improved accuracy, fluency, and expression. ▪ Decode most one- and two-syllable words. ▪ Decode words with new phonograms, such as <i>igh, tch, dge, ew, wr, kn, eigh, oe, tion</i>. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/reading</p>
SPELLING & HANDWRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to expand knowledge of phonemes, syllables, roots, prefixes, and suffixes to spell multi-syllable words. ▪ Continue to review manuscript, with attention to proper path of movement and automaticity of letter formation ▪ Continue to regularly practice the mechanical act of writing down thoughts. ▪ Learn new phonograms, such as <i>ai, ay, ur, oa, oo, ea, ed, igh, ir, ey</i>. ▪ You may choose to start cursive instruction and introduce keyboarding skills this year. <p>Go to: : https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting</p>
VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn the correct usage of commonly confused homophones: <i>their, there, they're</i> and <i>your, you're</i> and <i>its, it's</i> and <i>here, hear</i> and <i>to, too, two</i>. ▪ Determine the meaning of a new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to that word. (<i>hope</i>→<i>hopeless</i> or <i>heat</i>→<i>reheat</i>). ▪ Use dictionaries or glossaries to clarify the precise meaning of key words. ▪ Develop an understanding of figurative language. In context, distinguish the literal and nonliteral meaning of certain words and phrases (<i>hit the road</i>); distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language</p>
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, conjunctions, articles, adjectives, and adverbs. ▪ Correctly form regular and irregular verbs and plural nouns. ▪ Use abstract nouns (<i>education, peace</i>). ▪ Ensure agreement between subject and verb (<i>Jane runs</i>) and between pronoun and antecedent (<i>Mary and I biked to the store and we shared an ice cream</i>). ▪ Correctly use comparative (<i>happier</i>) and superlative (<i>happiest</i>) adjectives and adverbs. ▪ Distinguish complete sentences from fragments; produce simple, compound, and complex sentences. Learn about the four kinds of sentences; understand that each type requires special punctuation. ▪ Appropriately capitalize the words in a title. ▪ Use commas in friendly letters, addresses, dates, and to separate words in a series. ▪ Use commas and quotation marks when writing dialogue. ▪ Appropriately use possessives. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation</p>

GRADE 3

COMPOSITION

- Continue regular practices that increase fluency of getting ideas onto paper (copywork, dictation, free writing).
- Continue to support your child’s writing by transcribing their words when needed. Gradually turn over responsibility for the mechanical act of writing to your child, as he or she is ready.
- With support, produce a variety of types of writing, including stories, short informational research reports, narratives (real and imagined), poems, letters, and opinion pieces.
- Produce written work with a beginning, middle, and end. Understand how to use a topic sentence and how to develop a paragraph with examples and details. Know that each new paragraph is indented.
- In some (but not all) writing projects, go through the process of gathering information, organizing thoughts, composing a draft, revising (with help), and proofreading with attention to spelling, mechanics. Produce a final draft.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Independently read longer texts, including fiction chapter books and nonfiction books.
- Demonstrate reading comprehension by orally summarizing the main points of a fiction or nonfiction text, asking and answering questions about a text, describing characters in a story (including their traits and motivations) and explaining how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- Understand some basic literary terms—chapter, scene, stanza, biography, autobiography, fiction, and nonfiction. Differentiate between literal and figurative language
- Use a table of contents and index
- Practice literary analysis. Compare and contrast themes, settings, and plots of similar stories written by the same author. Explain how a text’s illustrations contribute to the story by creating a mood or emphasizing aspects of a setting, for example.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 4

READING

- Decoding skills should be increasingly automatic, allowing the child to focus on meaning when independently reading.
- Regular practice in reading aloud and silent reading should continue.
- Decode words containing more challenging endings, such as *ism, ity, ize, ary, ery, ice, ine, ite, ive, ile, able, ible, ain, ture, sure*
- Decode words containing phonograms such as *ci, ough, augh, ear, ph, ui, ie*.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/reading>

SPELLING & HANDWRITING

- Continue to review manuscript, with attention to proper path of movement and automaticity of letter formation
- Continue to regularly practice the mechanical act of writing down thoughts (copywork, dictation, free writing, etc.)
- Spell most words correctly or with a highly probable spelling, and use a dictionary to check and correct spellings
- Spell words with phonograms such as *tch, dge, ew, ei, wr, kn, eigh, ear, ph, ti, tion, oe*.
- Correctly add a prefix to a word.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting>

VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE

- For a given word, provide synonyms or antonyms.
- Continue to practice the correct usage of commonly confused homophones: *their, there, they're* and *your, you're* and *its, it's* and *here, hear* and *to, too, two*.
- Use common Latin and Greek affixes and roots as clues to a word's meaning.
- Determine the meanings of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters in mythology (*Herculean*).
- Consult dictionaries and other reference materials to find pronunciation and clarify the meaning of key phrases.
- Recognize common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Recognize similes (*sly as a fox*) and metaphors.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language>

GRADE 4

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

- Correctly use relative pronouns: *who, whose, whom, which, that*.
- Correctly use the progressive verb tenses: *I was walking, I am walking, I will be walking*
- Understand the convention for correctly ordering adjectives in a sentence: *a big yellow duck vs. a yellow big duck*
- Identify and use prepositional phrases: *under the table, inside the box*
- Identify and correct run-on sentences and fragments.
- In a compound sentence, use a comma before a coordinating conjunction.
- Use correct capitalization.
- Use commas and quotation marks for dialogue and quotations.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation>

COMPOSITION

- Produce a variety of types of writing – stories, informative reports, opinion pieces, narratives, descriptions, poems, letters – with coherent structure or story line
- Learn to gather information from different sources—encyclopedias, magazines, interviews, observation, online—and to take notes and categorize information.
- Write short nonfiction reports. Understand the purpose and audience; define a main idea and stick to it; provide an introduction and conclusion; organize material in paragraphs; document sources in a rudimentary bibliography

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts – biographies, speeches, poems, drama, historical fiction, and books about art, science, and music. Understand the major differences between poetry, drama, and prose.
- Demonstrate reading comprehension by summarizing the theme of a text and by describing, in-depth, a character, setting, or event in a story.
- Compare and contrast different points of view in narration (first- and third-person).
- Be familiar with the following terms: verse, rhythm, meter, cast of characters.
- Continue to practice analyzing texts. Compare and contrast treatment of similar themes (good vs. evil) and patterns of events (the quest) in stories from different cultures.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 5

SPELLING & HANDWRITING

- Continue to review manuscript, with attention to proper path of movement and automaticity of letter formation
- Take regular opportunities to practice the mechanical act of writing down thoughts (copywork, dictation, free writing, etc.)
- Learn to spell words with new phonograms, such as *si, ie, ough, ui, gn, our, ci*.
- Spell words with *ei* and *ie*.
- Add two suffixes to a word.
- Form irregular plurals.
- Use spelling skills in writing across the curriculum. Use a dictionary to check spellings.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting>

VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE

- Use common Latin and Greek affixes and roots as clues to a word's meaning.
- Consult dictionaries and other reference materials to find pronunciation and clarify the meaning of key phrases.
- Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.
- Recognize and understand common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Use the relationship between words (synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand the meanings of those words.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language>

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

- Understand the parts of speech: nouns (proper and common), pronouns, verbs, conjunctions, articles (*an, a, the*), adjectives, and adverbs.
- Learn about pronouns and antecedents (the antecedent is the noun to which the pronoun refers). *When Mark and Daniel got to the restaurant, they ordered dinner.* In this sentence, *Mark and Daniel* is the antecedent to the pronoun *they*.
- Use commas: to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence (*Nevertheless, she persisted*); to set off the words *yes* and *no* (*Yes, he did say that*); to set off a tag question (*It's lovely, isn't it?*); to indicate direct address (*Are you hungry, Ben?*)
- Use punctuation to separate items in a series.
- Use underlines, quotation marks, or italics to indicate the title of a book, movie, play, song, article, or story.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation>

GRADE 5

COMPOSITION

- Continue to hone expository writing skills with narratives, literary analyses, essays, and reports.
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a position with reasoning and information.
- Write informative pieces based on independent research. Introduce topics clearly, develop the topic with facts and concrete details, and link ideas across categories of information. Synthesize information from at least three different sources, producing a report that presents the information in the child's own words.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences.
- Begin to spend more time revising, taking projects through edits and drafts to produce a finished product that is reasonably correct in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Read, for enjoyment and information, a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Continue to demonstrate comprehension by describing theme, contrasting characters, settings, and events, and drawing inferences from a text.
- Continue to develop skill in literary analysis. Look closely at authors' use of language, noting devices such as simile, metaphor, and alliteration. Understand how a narrator's point of view influences the portrayal of events. Compare and contrast stories of the same genre.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 6

SPELLING & HANDWRITING

- Review spelling rules and rules for adding prefixes and suffixes
- Continue work with spelling, with special attention to commonly misspelled words
- Learn to spell words with new phonograms, such as *mb*, *gu*, *augh*, *ible*, *able*
- Learn more challenging suffixes, such as *ain*, *ive*, *ture*, *ice*, *ate*

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting>

VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE

- Use common Latin and Greek affixes and roots as clues to a word's meaning.
- Consult dictionaries and other reference materials to find pronunciation and clarify the meaning of key phrases.
- Interpret figures of speech, such as personification, in context.
- Distinguish among the connotations of similar words: *stingy*, *economical*, *thrifty*

<https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language>

GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

- Recognize troublesome verbs and use them correctly: *sit vs. set*, *rise vs. raise*, *lie vs. lay*
- Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case: subjective (*I*), objective (*me*), and possessive (*my*).
- Properly use reflexive pronouns (*myself*, *yourselves*).
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person and vague pronouns (with ambiguous antecedents).
- Use commas, parentheses, and dashes to set off parenthetical elements.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation>

COMPOSITION

- Spend more time revising writing projects, editing to produce (in some cases) a finished product that is thoughtful, well-organized, and reasonably correct in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.
- Continue to place an emphasis on expository writing (summaries, literature analyses, narratives, essays that explain a process, and descriptive essays).
- Learn to write a persuasive essay, a research essay, and a standard business letter
- Give a short, well-organized, well-supported speech in front of a group

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition>

LITERATURE

- Read, for enjoyment and information, a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres.
- Analyze a text by citing explicit textual evidence and by drawing inference; determine the theme of a text; provide a summary of a text that is distinct from personal opinions.
- Continue to develop skill in literary analysis. Note the use of figurative language; analyze the impact of word choice on meaning and tone; consider how an author develops the point of view of a narrator.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

GRADE 7

SPELLING & HANDWRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue work with spelling, with special attention to commonly misspelled words. Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting
VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use common Latin and Greek affixes and roots as clues to a word’s meaning. ▪ Consult dictionaries and other reference materials to find pronunciation and clarify the meaning of key phrases. ▪ Interpret figures of speech, including literary, biblical, and mythological allusions, in context. ▪ Distinguish among connotations of words with similar definitions: <i>refined</i>, <i>polite</i>, <i>condescending</i> <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language</p>
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the function of phrases and clauses; recognize and correct misplaced and dangling modifiers in a sentence. ▪ Understand when a comma is used to separate two adjectives (<i>It was a cold, stormy night</i>) and when it is not used (<i>She wore an old purple dress</i>). <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation</p>
COMPOSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to hone skills in nonfiction writing. Essays should be focused around a main point and should have a coherent structure, typically following the pattern of introduction, body, and conclusion. Paragraphs should have a unified focus, be developed with evidence and examples, and be linked by transitions. Essays should have appropriate tone and diction, with correct spelling and grammar in their final form. ▪ Write narratives that develop real or imagined experiences. Incorporate narrative techniques, such as dialogue and pacing, transitional phrases to convey sequence, sensory language, and descriptive details. ▪ Write research essays. Define a thesis (a central proposition, a main idea); organize with an outline; gather data; summarize and paraphrase; integrate quotes from sources; acknowledge sources and avoid plagiarism; prepare a bibliography. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition</p>
LITERATURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to read, for enjoyment and information, a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres. Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a certain period with a historical account; understand how fiction authors may use or alter history. ▪ Continue to hone the ability to analyze a text by citing multiple pieces of textual evidence (both explicit and implicit); determine the theme of a text; analyze how particular elements of a story interact. (How does the setting shape the characters?) ▪ Continue to develop skill in literary analysis. Note the use of figurative language; analyze how a drama or poem’s form contributes to its meaning. Analyze how an author develops points of view of different characters. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature</p>

GRADE 8

SPELLING & HANDWRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue work with spelling, with special attention to commonly misspelled words <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/spelling-handwriting</p>
VOCABULARY & LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use common Latin and Greek affixes and roots as clues to a word’s meaning. ▪ Consult dictionaries and other reference materials to find pronunciation and clarify the meaning of key phrases. ▪ Interpret figures of speech—including verbal irony and puns—in context. ▪ Identify examples of oxymorons, hyperbole, simile, and metaphor. ▪ Distinguish among connotations of words with similar definitions: <i>bullheaded, stubborn, willful, resolute</i> <p>https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/vocabulary-language</p>
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the functions of verbals—gerunds, participles, infinitives—in particular sentences. ▪ Form and use verbs in the active and passive voice. ▪ Form and use verbs in the indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood. ▪ Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood. Use verb voice and mood to achieve a particular effect in writing. ▪ Use punctuation—comma, ellipsis, dash—to indicate a pause or break. ▪ Use an ellipsis to indicate an omission. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/grammar-punctuation</p>
COMPOSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop composition skills practiced in Grade 7. Essays should be focused around a main point and should have a coherent structure, typically following the pattern of introduction, body, and conclusion. Paragraphs should have a unified focus, be developed with evidence and examples, and be linked by transitions. Essays should have appropriate tone and diction, with correct spelling and grammar in their final form. ▪ Write narratives that develop real or imagined experiences. Incorporate narrative techniques, such as dialogue and pacing, transitional phrases to convey sequence, sensory language, and descriptive details. ▪ Write research essays. Define a thesis (a central proposition, a main idea); organize with an outline; gather data; summarize and paraphrase; integrate quotes from sources; acknowledge sources and avoid plagiarism; prepare a bibliography. <p>Go to: https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/composition</p>

GRADE 8

LITERATURE

- Continue to read widely for enjoyment and information.
- Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres. Analyze how a filmed or live production of a story stays faithful to (or departs from) the text.
- Continue to hone the ability to analyze a text by citing textual evidence; determine the theme of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. Analyze how incidents in a story propel the action or reveal aspects of a character.
- Continue to develop skill in literary analysis. Note the use of figurative language, including analogies and allusions to other texts. Analyze how modern fiction draws on themes from myths, traditional stories, and religious works such as the Bible.
- When analyzing a text, note the use of irony, flashbacks, foreshadowing, hyperbole, oxymoron, and parody.
- Compare the structure of two or more texts and analyze how structure contributes to meaning. Consider how differences in the points of view of the characters and the reader create effects such as suspense or horror.

Go to: <https://www.besthomeschoolresources.com/literature>

SOURCES

Three key sources were used in compiling the Language Arts Sequence. Our use of these foundational Scope & Sequence materials does not imply an endorsement from any of these organizations.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE.

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

The Common Core State Standard Initiative lays out Language Arts standards for Grades 1–12 across six categories: Reading: Literature, Reading: Informational Text, Reading: Foundational Skills, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language. The Scope & Sequence outlined above is heavily informed by Common Core State Standards.

CORE KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE FROM THE CORE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

<https://www.coreknowledge.org/our-approach/core-knowledge-sequence/k-8-sequence/>

The Core Knowledge Foundation publishes a K-8 Sequence with content suggestions for all areas of academics, including Language Arts, History, Science, Math, Visual Arts, and Music. This excellent sequence provides detailed grade-leveled suggestions for spelling lists, vocabulary words, poetry reading lists, and much more.

ALL ABOUT LEARNING PRESS

<https://www.allaboutlearningpress.com>

The Reading and Spelling Scope & Sequences published by All About Learning Press were used as a key resource to provide more detailed recommendations across the Reading and Spelling categories. Although these excellent programs do not completely align with grade-level standards, the general progression of skills should be consistent across curricula.