

English Language Arts Curriculum  
Grade 1

<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Getting to Know Us What Makes You Special?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency and Oral Vocab	Writing
What do you do at your school?	Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Short a Structural Analysis: -s (inflectional ending)	Trait: Ideas: Focus on a Single Event  Grammar Skills: Sentences Mechanics: Sentence Capitalization	Rules, Obey, Safety  Events Illustrations Punctuation	Does Not School What  Learn, Subjects, Common, Object, Recognize	Personal Narrative
What is it like where you live?	Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Short i Structural Analysis: Double final consonants	Trait: Ideas: Describing Details  Grammar Skills: Word Order Mechanics: Sentence Punctuation (Periods)	Building, Yard, Playground  Author Bold Print Sequence	Down Out Up Very  City, Country, Bored, Feast, Scurried	Descriptive Sentences About a Place
What makes a pet special?	Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Beginning consonant blends Structural Analysis: -s (plural nouns)	Trait: Ideas: Describing Details  Grammar Skills: Statements Mechanics: Capitalization and Punctuation (Periods)	Living Things, Need, Cares  Consonant, Label, Publish	Be Come Good Pull  Care, Train, Groom, Companion, Popular	Descriptive Sentences About an Animal

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What do friends do together?	Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: short o Structural Analysis: alphabetical order (one letter)	Trait; Organization: Compare and Contrast  Grammar Skills: Questions and Exclamations Mechanics: Question and Exclamation Marks	Poem Evaluate Rhyme	Fun Make They Too  Cooperate, Relationship, Deliver, Chore, Collect	Personal Narrative
How does your body move?	Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Beginning consonant blends: r-blends, s-blends Structural Analysis: possessives	Trait: Organization – Order of Events  Grammar Skills: Writing Sentences Mechanics: Capitalization and Punctuation (periods, question and exclamation marks)	Diagram First Last next	Jump Move Run Two  Physical, Exercise, Agree, Exhausted. Difficult	Personal Narrative

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<b>Unit 2:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Our Community					
What makes a community?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
What jobs need to be done in a community?	Character, Setting, Events  Phonics/Spelling: short e spelled e and ea Structural Analysis: inflectional ending -ed (no spelling change)	Trait: Organization: Focus on an Idea  Grammar Skills: Nouns Mechanics: Commas in a Series	Firefighter Siren Protect  Brainstorm End Middle	Again Help New There Use  Occupation, Community, Equipment, Fortunately, Astonishing	Story
What buildings do you know? What are they made of?	Character, Setting, Events  Phonics/Spelling: short u Structural Analysis: contractions with 's	Trait: Organization: Beginning, Middle, End  Grammar Skills: Singular and Plural Nouns Mechanics: s and -es to form plural nouns	Homes Build Shelter  Apostrophe Dialogue Presentation	Could Live One Then Three  Shelter, Materials, Collapsed, Furious, Refused	Story

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<b>Unit 2:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Our Community  What makes a community?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
Where do animals live together?	Main Topic and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: ending consonant blends nd, nk, nt, st, sk, mp Structural Analysis: inflectional ending -ing (no spelling change); first introduction to two-syllable words	Trait: Ideas: Main Idea  Grammar Skills: Possessive Nouns Mechanics: Apostrophe with Possessive Nouns	Poem  Draft Repetition Rhythm	Eat No Of Under Who  Habitat, Depend, Hibernate, Tranquil, Tolerate	Sentences that Explain
How do people help out in the community?	Character, Setting, Events  Phonics/Spelling: consonant digraphs th, sh, -ng Structural Analysis: closed syllables	Trait: Organization: Beginning, Middle, End  Grammar Skills: Common and Proper Nouns Mechanics: Capitalize Proper Nouns (people, pets, places, things)	Neighborhood Garden Recycle  Highlight Imaginary Stress	All Call Day Her Want  Leadership, Admire, Enjoy, Rely, Connections	Story

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<b>Unit 2:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Our Community					
What makes a community?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How can you find your way around?	Main Topic and Details  Phonics/Spelling: consonant digraphs ch, -tch, wh, ph Structural Analysis: -es (plural nouns)	Trait: Ideas: Supporting Details  Grammar Skills: Irregular Plural Nouns Mechanics: Capital Letters and Periods (in sentences)	Blog Landmark Various	Around By Many Place Walk  Locate, Route, Height, Model, Separate	Sentences that Explain

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<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Changes over time  What can happen over time?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How do we measure time?	Character, Setting, Plot  Phonics/Spelling: long a: a_e Structural Analysis: contractions with not (isn't, aren't, wasn't, weren't, hasn't, haven't, can't)	Trait: Word Choice: Sensory Details  Grammar Skills: Verbs Mechanics: Commas in Series	Clock Sundial Shadow  Capitalization Flare Rubric Timetable	Away Now Some Today Way Why  Schedule, Immediately, Weekend, Calendar, Occasion	Poem
How do plants change as they grow?	Plot: Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: long i: i_e Structural Analysis: plurals (with CVCe words)	Trait: Word Choice: Use Specific Words  Grammar Skills: Present-Tense Verbs Mechanics: Capitalize and Underline Titles of Plays	Seed Root Sprout  Audience Harvest Vegetables	Green Grow Pretty Should Together Water  Bloom, Sprout, Grasped, Assist, Spied	Opinion About a Topic

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<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Changes over time  What can happen over time?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
What is a folktale?	Plot: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: soft c; soft g, dge Structural Analysis: inflectional endings –ed and –ing (drop final e)	Trait: Word Choice: Use Strong Verbs  Grammar Skills: Past- and Future-Tense Verbs Mechanics: Commas in Series	Poem  Element Puppet Style	Any From Happy Once So Upon  Tale, Hero, Timid, Foolish, Eventually	Poem
How is life different than it was long ago?	Connections Within Text: Compare and Contrast  Phonics/Spelling: long o: o_e; long u: u_e; long e: e_e Structural Analysis: CVCe syllables	Trait; Ideas: Give Reasons for an Opinion  Grammar Skills: is and are Mechanics: Commas in Dates	Transportation Engines Invented  Confusion Frontier Proofreader's marks	Ago Boy Girl How Old People  Century, Past, Present, Future, Entertainment	Opinion About a Topic

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<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Changes over time  What can happen over time?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How do we get our food?	Connections Within Text: Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: variant vowel spellings with digraphs: oo, u Structural Analysis: inflectional endings-ed and - ing (double final consonant)	Trait; Ideas: Give Reasons for an Opinion  Grammar Skills: Contractions with NOT Mechanics: Apostrophes in Contractions	Advantages Disadvantages Process Product	After Buy Done Every Soon Work  Delicious, Nutritious, Responsibility, Enormous, Delighted	Opinion About a Topic



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<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Animals Everywhere					
What animals do you know about? What are they like?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How do animals' bodies help them?	Plot Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: long a: a, ai, ay Structural Analysis: alphabetical order (two letters)	Trait: Word Choice: Figurative Language  Grammar Skill: Was and Were Mechanics: Apostrophe with Contractions	Special Splendid  Mammal Bird Hunt Image Traditions Unusual	About Animal Carry Eight Give Our  Feature, Appearance, Determined, Predicament, Relief	Story
How do animals help each other?	Main Idea and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: long e: e, ee, ea, ie Structural Analysis: Prefixes re-, un-, pre-	Trait: Organization: Introduce the Topic  Grammar Skill: Has and Have Mechanics: Capitalization and End Punctuation	Partner Danger Worker Honey Queen  Accomplish Cooperate Investigate Logical Order	Because Blue Into Or Other Small  Behavior, Beneficial, Dominant, Instinct, Endangered	Report

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<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Animals Everywhere					
What animals do you know about? What are they like?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How do animals survive in nature?	Main Idea and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: long o: o, oa, ow, oe Structural Analysis: open syllables	Trait: Organization: Write a Concluding Sentence  Grammar Skills: Go and Do Mechanics: Capitalize Proper Nouns	Search Seek Poem  Diorama Experience Scene Survive	Find Food More Over Start Warm  Survive, Provide, Wilderness, Communicate, Superior	Report
What insects do you know about? How are they alike and different?	Skill: Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: long i: I, y, igh, ie Structural Analysis: inflectional endings (change y to i)	Trait: Organization: Write a Concluding Statement  Grammar Skills: See and Saw Mechanics: Underline Titles of books	Beautiful Fancy Body Protects Senses  Alike Edit Narrator	Caught Flew Know Laugh Listen Were  Flutter, Different, resemble(s), Protect(s), Imitate	Opinion About a Story

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<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Animals Everywhere					
What animals do you know about? What are they like?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How do people work with animals?	Connections Within Text: Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: long e: y, ey Structural Analysis: compound words	Trait: Word Choice: Words that Tell Order  Grammar Skills: Adverbs that Tell When Mechanics: Commas in a Series	Clever Signal  Graphic Organizer Guide Dog Series Tasks	Found Hard Near Woman Would Write	How-to sentences

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Figure It Out  How can we make sense of the world around us?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words – High Frequency	Writing
How can we classify and categorize things?	Make and Confirm Predictions  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowel ar Structural Analysis: plurals (irregular)	Trait: Sentence Fluency: Use Complete Sentences  Grammar Skills: Words that Join Mechanics: Capitalize Proper Nouns (places)	Trouble Whole Alike Different Sort  Categorize Directions Errors Revision	Four Large None Only Put Round  Distinguish, Classify, Organize, Entire, Startled	Directions to a place
What can you see in the sky?	Plot: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels er, ir, ur, or Structural Analysis: inflectional ending -er	Trait: Word Choice: Describing Adjectives  Grammar Skills: Adjectives Mechanics: Capitalization and End Marks	Leaped Stretched  Earth Telescope Astronaut Enthusiasm Excitement Observe	Another Climb Full Great Poor Through  Observe, Vast, Thoughtful, Certain, Remained	Description of a Place

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Figure It Out  How can we make sense of the world around us?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words – High Frequency	Writing
What inventions do you know about?	Connections Within Text: Problem and Solution  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels or, ore, oar Structural Analysis: abbreviations	Trait: Word Choice: Time-Order Words  Grammar Skills: Adjectives that Compare (-er and -est) Mechanics: Capitalize Days, Months, and Holidays	Idea Unusual Poem  Alliteration Change Robot	Began Better Guess Learn Right Sure  Curious, Improve, Complicated, Imagine, Device	Personal Narrative
What sounds can you hear? How are they made?	Plot: Problem and Solution  Phonics/Spelling: diphthongs ou, ow Structural Analysis: comparative inflectional endings -er, -est	Trait: Sentence Fluency: Use Complete Sentences  Grammar Skills: using a, an, and the Mechanics: Capitalize/Underline Book titles	Suddenly Scrambled Pitch Volume Instrument  Emphasis Favorite Realistic Sound Effect	Color Early Instead Nothing Oh Thought  Volume, Senses, Squeaky, Nervous, Distract	Opinion About a Story

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Figure It Out  How can we make sense of the world around us?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words – High Frequency	Writing
How do things get built?	Plot: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: diphthongs oi, oy Structural Analysis: final stable syllables	Trait: Organization: Steps in Order  Grammar Skills: Prepositions/Prepositional Phrases Mechanics: Name Titles (capitals and periods with Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.)	Balance Section Demonstrate Magazine Reorder	Above Build Fall Knew Money Toward  Structure, Project, Contented, Intend, Marvelous	How-to Article

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<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Together We Can!  How does teamwork help us?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How can we work together to make our lives better?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: variant vowel spellings with digraphs: oo, u, u_e, ew, ue, ui, ou Structural Analysis: Suffixes – ful and -less	Trait: Sentence Fluency: Varying Sentence length  Grammar Skills: Pronouns I, you, he, she, it, we, they Mechanics: Capitalize I	Demand Emergency Rights Protest Improve  Collaborate Disagreement Length Reasonable	Answer Brought Busy Door Enough Eyes  Fair, Conflict, Shift, Risk, Argument	Story
Who helps you?	Author's Purpose  Phonics/Spelling: variant vowel spellings with digraphs: a, aw, au, augh, al Structural Analysis: vowel-team syllables	Trait: Voice: Use Your Own Voice  Grammar Skills: Possessive Pronouns Mechanics: Capitalize Days, Months, and Holidays	Accept Often Poem  Admire Interview Intonation	Brother Father Friend Love Mother Picture  Inspire, Respect, Distance, Swiftly, Decision	Thank-You Note

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<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Together We Can!					
How does teamwork help us?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
How can weather affect us?	Plot: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: silent letters wr, kn, gn Structural Analysis: compound words	Trait: Voice: Use Your Own Voice  Grammar Skills: Special Pronouns (anyone, everyone, anything, everything, nothing) Mechanics: Commas in Dates and Letters	Country Gathers Storm Damage Predict  Affect Closing Tornado	Been Children Month Question Their Year  Predict, cycle, Creative, Frigid, Scorching	Letter
What traditions do you know about?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: three-letter blends scr, spl, spr, str, thr, shr Structural Analysis: inflectional endings -ed, -ing	Trait: Sentence Fluency: Varying Sentence Types  Grammar Skills: I and Me Mechanics: Commas in Dates and Letters	Difficult Nobody Origami Decorations Holiday  Celebrate Greeting Signature	Before Front Heard Push Tomorrow Your  Tradition, Effort, Ancient, Movement, Drama	Letter



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Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Words - High Frequency	Writing
Why do we celebrate holidays?	Author's Purpose  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels air, are, ear Structural Analysis: r-controlled vowel syllables	Trait: Ideas: Main Idea and Details  Grammar Skills: Adverbs That Tell How Mechanics: Name Titles (capitals and periods with Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr.)	Nation Unite Holiday Origins Phrasing	Favorite Few Gone Surprise Wonder Young  Pride, Display, Design, Purpose, Represent	Report