

English Language Arts Curriculum  
Grade 3

<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Growing and Learning How Can Learning Help Us Grow?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
What can stories teach you?	Character, Setting, Plot  Phonics/Spelling: Short vowels a, i Structural Analysis: Word Families	Trait: Ideas/Focus of an Event  Grammar Skills: Sentences and Fragments Mechanics: Capitalization and Punctuation	Ached, Concentrate, Discovery, Educated, Effort, Improved, Inspired, Satisfied  Fantasy, Expression, Moral	Context Clues Synonyms	Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative, Narrative Text  Project: Research Aesop's Fables
What can traditions teach you about cultures?	Character, Setting, Plot  Phonics/Spelling: Short vowels e, o, u Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings	Trait: Word Choice/Descriptive details  Grammar Skills: Commands and Exclamations Mechanics: Punctuation in Commands and Exclamations	Celebrate, Courage, Disappointment, Precious, Pride, Remind, Symbol, Tradition	Context Clues Synonyms	Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative, Narrative Text  Project: Research contributions of different cultures

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<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Growing and Learning  How Can Learning Help Us Grow?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do people from different cultures contribute to a community?	Test Structure: Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: Final e Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings, drop final e	Trait: Organization/Sequence  Grammar Skills: Subjects Mechanics: Complete Sentences and Fragments	Admires, Classmate, Community, Contribute, Practicing, Pronounce, Scared, Tumble  Celebrate, Symbols, Traditions	Compound Words	Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative, Narrative Text  Project: Research community resources
How can problem solving lead to new ideas?	Text Structure: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: Long a Structural Analysis: Plurals – s and -es	Trait: Word Choice  Grammar Skills: Predicates Mechanics: Complete Sentences	Design, Encouraged, Examine, Invention, Quality, Simple, Solution, Substitutes  Examine, Solution, Bailed, Boiler, Patent	Metaphors	Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative, Narrative Text  Project: Research problem solving skills

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<b>Unit 1:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Growing and Learning  How Can Learning Help Us Grow?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do landmarks help us understand our country's story?	Main Idea and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Long o: o, ow, o-e. oa, oe Structural Analysis: Compound Words	Trait: Sentence Fluency/Sentence Types  Grammar Skills: Simple and Compound Sentences Mechanics: Punctuate simple and compound sentences	Carved, Clues, Grand, Landmark, Massive, Monument, National, Traces	Context clues: Multiple-meaning words	Friendly Letter, Personal Narrative, Narrative Text  Project: Research famous landmarks

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<b>Unit 2:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Figure it Out What does it take to solve a problem?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
Why is working together a good way to solve a problem?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: Long i and long u Structural Analysis: Plural words with y to i	Trait: Word Choice/ Linking Words and Phrases  Grammar Skills: Kinds of Nouns Mechanics: Capitalize Proper Nouns	Attempt, Awkward, Cooperation, Created, Furiously, Interfere, Involved, Timid  Collaboration, Connections	Context clues: Antonyms	How-to, Explanatory Essay, Informative Text  Project: Research how to form an effective team
Why do people immigrate to new places?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: Long e Structural Analysis: Inflectional endings	Trait: Word Choice/ Precise Language  Grammar Skills: Singular and Plural Nouns Mechanics: Punctuate 4 Sentence Types	Arrived, Immigrated, Inspected, Moment, Opportunity, Photographs, Valuable, Whispered  Astronomer, Ticker Tape, Confetti, Borders,	Figurative Language: Similes	How-to, Explanatory Essay, Informative Text  Research famous immigrants

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			Pushcart Plagiarizing, Precise, Accurate, Repetition		
Unit 2: Big Idea: Figure it Out					
What does it take to solve a problem?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do people make government work?	Author's Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Words with silent letters Structural Analysis: Singular and Plural Possessives	Trait: Ideas/Supporting Details  Grammar Skills: Special Nouns Mechanics: Spelling Plural Nouns	Announced, Candidates, Convince, Decisions, Elect, Estimate, Government, Independent  Campaign, Volunteers, Sworn, Laws	Prefixes: re-, un-, dis-, mis-	How-to, Explanatory Essay, Informative Text  Research different positions in state governments
How can people help animals survive?	Author's Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Three-letter blends Structural Analysis: Closed	Trait: Organization/ Sequence  Grammar Skills: Combining Sentences Mechanics:	Caretakers, Population, Recognized, Relatives, Resources, Success, Survive, Threatened	Suffixes: -ful, -less	How-to, Explanatory Essay, Informative Text  Research endangered animals

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	syllables	Commas	Coated, Ecosystem, Endangered, Extinct, Full, Glide, Going, Spoiled. Organize, Signal, Events		
<b>Unit 2:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Figure it Out  What does it take to solve a problem?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do people figure things out?	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Digraphs Structural Analysis: Open syllables	Trait: Ideas/ Descriptive Details  Grammar Skills: Possessive Nouns Mechanics: Apostrophes in Possessive Nouns	Bounce, Imagine, Inventor, Observer  Alliteration, Free Verse, Limerick, Rhyme Ornithopter Descriptive	Figurative Language: Similies	How-to, Explanatory Essay, Informative Text  Research ways people solve problems (using reliable and appropriate sources)

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<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> One of a Kind Why are individual qualities important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
What makes different animals unique?	Problem and Solution  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels Structural Analysis: Contractions	Trait: Sentence Fluency / Vary Sentence Types  Grammar Skills: Action verbs Mechanics: Quotation marks and colons in time	Disbelief, Dismay, Fabulous, Features, Offered, Splendid, Unique, Watchful  Aroma, Ability, Species, Amphibian  Declarative, Exclamatory, Imperative, Interrogative \	Context clues: Synonyms	Opinion letter, Book review, Opinion writing  Research animal families
How can one person change the way you think?	Character, Setting, Plot: Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels ar and or	Trait: Word Choice/ Linking Words and Phrases  Grammar Skills: Present-tense	Amazement, Bravery, Disappear, Donated, Leader, Nervous, Refused, Temporary	Figurative Language: Idioms	Opinion letter, Book review, Opinion writing  Research people who have made a difference

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	Structural Analysis: Prefixes un-, re-, and pre-	verbs Mechanics: Subject-verb Agreement	Essay Relationship		
<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> One of a Kind  Why are individual qualities important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
What do we know about Earth and its neighbors in space?	Main Idea and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowels ar and ir Structural Analysis: Suffixes – y and -ly	Trait: Organizations / Strong Paragraphs  Grammar Skills: Past-tense Verbs Mechanics: Abbreviations and Name Titles	Amount, Astronomy, Globe, Solar system, Support, Surface, Temperature, Warmth  Elliptical, Rotate, Axis  Related, Paragraph	Suffixes: -y -ly	Opinion letter, Book review, Opinion writing  Research Earth and other bodies in the solar system
What ideas can we get from nature?	Main Idea and Key Details  Phonics/Spelling: Prefixes pre-, dis-, mis- Structural Analysis: Syllables with Final e	Trait: Organization / Strong Conclusions  Grammar Skills: Future-tense Verbs Mechanics: Book Titles	Effective, Example, Identical, Imitate, Material, Model, Observed, Similar  Bored, Invention, Biomimicry Quality, Closure	Root Words	Opinion letter, Book review, Opinion writing  Research animal characteristics



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<b>Unit 3:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> One of a Kind Why are individual qualities important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How is each event in history unique?	Sequence  Phonics/Spelling: Diphthongs oi and ou Structural Analysis: Prefixes un-, non-, dis-	Trait: Voice  Grammar Skills: Combining Sentences with Verbs Mechanics: Punctuation in Formal Letters, Dates, Addresses, and Locations	Agreeable, Appreciate, Boomed, Descendants, Emigration, Pioneers, Transportation, Vehicles  Formal, Informal, Contractions	Suffixes –able, -ful, -less	Opinion letter, Book review, Opinion writing  Research unique events in American history (quoting and paraphrasing)

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<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Meet the Challenge					
What are different ways to meet challenges?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
What choices are good for us?	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: u Structural Analysis: Roots in related words	Trait: Voice  Grammar Skills: Linking Verbs Mechanics: End Punctuation and Complete Sentences	Aroma, Expect, Flavorful, Graceful, Healthful, Interrupted, Luscious, Variety  Intermission, Program, Props Habit, Positive, Impact	Root Words	Fictional Narrative, Poetry, Narrative Text/Poetry  Research how to make informed choices
How can you use what you know to help others?	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Plural words Structural Analysis: Vowel team syllables	Trait: Idease  Grammar Skills: Contraction with NOT Mechanics: Using Apostrophes	Achievement, Apologize, Attention, Audience, Confidence, Embarrassed, Realized, Talents  Not, Now, Off, Practiced, Special, Agenda	Prefixes un-, non-, im-, pre-	Fictional Narrative, Poetry, Narrative Text/Poetry  Research ways to help others

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			Realistic fiction, Ask and answer questions, Point of view, Narrator, Fiction, Dialogue, Realistic, Illustrations, Prefixes, Definition, Phrasing, Talent task, Directions, Narrations, Situations		
<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Meet the Challenge  What are different ways to meet challenges?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do animals adapt to challenges in their habitat?	Compare and Contrast  Phonics/Spelling: Variant vowel o Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Main and Helping Verbs Mechanics: Commas and Quotation marks in Dialogue	Alert, Competition, Environment, Excellent, Prefer, Protection, Related, Shelter  Burrows, Vibrations	Sentence clues	Fictional Narrative, Poetry, Narrative Text/Poetry  Research animal adaptations

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<b>Unit 4:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Meet the Challenge					
What are different ways to meet challenges?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How are people able to fly?	Compare and Contrast  Phonics/Spelling: Homophones Structural Analysis: r-controlled vowel	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Complex Sentences Mechanics: Using Commas in Sentences	Controlled, Direction, Flight, Impossible, Launched, Motion, Passenger, Popular  Spy, Physics	Multiple-meaning words	Fictional Narrative, Poetry, Narrative Text/Poetry  Research discoveries in early aviation
How can others inspire us?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: Soft c and g Structural Analysis: Words with -er and -est	Trait: Word Choice  Grammar Skills: Irregular Verbs Mechanics: Correct Verb Forms	Adventurous, Courageous, Extremely, Weird  Free verse, Narrative poem, Repetition, Rhyme  Inspire, Descriptive, Specific	Using Metaphors	Fictional Narrative, Poetry, Narrative Text/Poetry  Research famous people who inspire others (use primary and secondary sources)

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Take Action					
What are ways people can take action?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do we get what we need?	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Compound words Structural Analysis: Consonant + ie syllables	Trait: Sentence Fluency  Grammar Skills: Singular and Plural Pronouns Mechanics: Capitalizing I, and Nouns	Admit, Barter, Considered, Creation, Humble, Magnificent, Payment, Reluctantly  Disobey, Clearing Needs, Wants	Root words	Opinion Essay, Book Review, Opinion Writing  Research how people get and use resources
How can we reuse what we already have?	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Inflectional endings -ed, -ing, -s Structural Analysis: Suffixes -ful, -less, -able	Trait: Word Choice  Grammar Skills: Subject and Object Pronouns Mechanics: Pronoun usage	Conservation, Discouraged, Frustration, Gazed, Jubilant, Recycling, Remaining, Tinkered  Soles, Widow, Channel, Sensation, Unison, Overflowed, Reuse	Context clues: Homographs	Opinion Essay, Book Review, Opinion Writing  Research how to recycle everyday materials

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Take Action					
What are ways people can take action?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do teams work together?	Author's Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Closed syllables Structural Analysis: Roots in related words	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Pronoun-verb Agreement Mechanics: Pronoun-verb Agreement	Accidental, Careless, Disasters, Equipment, Harmful, Prevention, Purpose, Respond  Regrowth, Reborn, Renewing	Context clues: Sentence clues	Opinion Essay, Book Review, Opinion Writing  Research how to participate effectively in a team
What do good citizens do?	Author's Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Inflectional endings y and i Structural Analysis: Suffixes – ful, -ness, -less	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Possessive Pronouns Mechanics: Possessive Pronouns and Reflexive Pronouns	Citizenship, Continued, Daring, Horrified, Participate, Proposed, Unfairness, Waver  Preposterous, Flabbergasted, Sentiments Abolitionist	Prefixes and Suffixes	Opinion Essay, Book Review, Opinion Writing  Research different ways to be a good citizen

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<b>Unit 5:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Take Action					
What are ways people can take action?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
What are different kinds of energy?	Cause and Effect  Phonics/Spelling: Open syllables Structural Analysis: Prefixes and Suffixes	Trait: Voice  Grammar Skills: Pronoun- Verb Contractions Mechanics: Spelling Contractions and Possessive Pronouns	Energy, Natural, Pollution, Produce, Renewable, Replace, Sources, Traditional  Nuclear, Biofuel	Context clues: Homophones	Opinion Essay, Book Review, Opinion Writing  Research alternative energy sources (create a bibliography)

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<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Think it Over					
How do we decide what's important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How do you decide what is important?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: Prefixes un-, re-, pre-, dis- Structural Analysis: Roots in related words	Trait: Sentence Fluency  Grammar Skills: Adjectives and Articles Mechanics: Commas in a Series and in Dates	Alarmed, Anguished, Necessary, Obsessed, Possess, Reward, Treasure, Wealth  Crestfallen, Optimistic, Volunteer  Myth, Drama, Scene, Stage directions, Dialogue	Root words	Feature Article, Research Report, Informative Text  Research qualities people value
How can weather affect us?	Theme  Phonics/Spelling: Consonant + le syllable Structural Analysis: Latin	Trait: Word Choice  Grammar Skills: Adjectives that Compare Mechanics: Correct Comparative and	Argue, Astonished, Complained, Conditions, Forbidding, Forecast, Relief, Stranded	Idioms	Feature Article, Research Report, Informative Text  Research the effects of extreme weather



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	Suffixes	Superlative Forms	Granite, Heifer, Crook, Bawling  Extreme, Weather, Fable		
<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Think it Over  How do we decide what's important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
Why are goals important?	Problem and Solution  Phonics/Spelling: Vowel-team syllables Structural Analysis: Greek and Latin Roots	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Adverbs Mechanics: Adverbs and Adjectives	Communicated, Essential, Goal, Motivated, Professional, Research, Serious, Specialist  Reach for the stars, Out of this world  Weightlessness, Mission specialist, Payload, Climate, Lunar Achieve, Interview, Organize, Order	Greek and Latin Roots	Feature Article, Research Report, Informative Text  Research how to set goals and achieve them

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<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Think it Over					
How do we decide what's important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
How can learning about animals help you respect them?	Compare and Contrast  Phonics/Spelling: r-controlled vowel syllables Structural Analysis: Latin Suffixes	Trait: Organization  Grammar Skills: Adverbs that Compare Mechanics: Using MORE and MOST	Endangered, Fascinating, Illegal, Inhabit, Requirement, Respected, Unaware, Wildlife  Scamper, Nimble, Clever  Sensory, Webbed, Plates, Nocturnal, Hatchling  Compare and contrast, Signal words, Illustration, Caption, Conclusion	Context clues: Paragraph clues	Feature Article, Research Report, Informative Text  Research animal's unique abilities

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<b>Unit 6:</b> <b>Big Idea:</b> Think it Over					
How do we decide what's important?					
Essential Question	Skills / Competencies - Reading	Skills/ Competencies - Writing	Vocabulary Words - Academic	Vocabulary Strategy	Writing
	Point of View  Phonics/Spelling: Suffixes –ful, -less, -ly Structural Analysis: Frequently misspelled words	Trait: Word Choice  Grammar Skills: Prepositions Mechanics: Commas after Introduction	Entertainment, Humorous, Ridiculous, Slithered  Narrative poem, Rhyme, Rhythm, Stanza  Creep, Bookworm, Hit the Ceiling	Idioms	Feature Article, Research Report, Informative Text  Research types of jokes and how to create them (Presentation skills)