



3rd Grade

“Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.” – Mortimer J. Adler

In 3rd grade, foundational reading skills are still a focus. Reading comprehension becomes a primary focus at this grade level. Students are learning how all of the elements of a text work together to create meaning and how that meaning develops in the text. Students are beginning to write in cursive and experiment with dialogue in their narrative writing. Students are doing their own research, either independently or with teacher-provided materials.

Foundational Skills

ELA.3.F.1 Learning and Applying Foundational Reading Skills

Phonics and Word Analysis

ELA.3.F.1.3: Use knowledge of grade-level phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.

- a. Decode words with common Greek and Latin roots and affixes. (See benchmark 3.V.1.2)
- b. Decode words with common derivational suffixes and describe how they turn words into different parts of speech. (e.g., -ful, -less, -est).
- c. Decode multisyllabic words.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Common Greek and Latin Roots 3-5](#) and [Affixes](#).

Clarification 2: See [Affixes and the Parts of Speech They Form](#).

Fluency

ELA.3.F.1.4: Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Fluency Norms](#) for grade-level norms. Norms are expressed as words correct per minute (WCPM), a measure that combines accuracy with rate.

Clarification 2: Appropriate prosody refers to pausing patterns during oral reading that reflect the punctuation and meaning of a text. See [Sample Oral Reading Fluency Rubrics](#) for prosody.

Clarification 3: Grade-level texts, for the purposes of fluency, are those [within the grade band on quantitative text complexity measures](#) and appropriate in content and qualitative measures.

Reading

ELA.3.R.1 Reading Prose and Poetry

Literary Elements

ELA.3.R.1.1: Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: When explaining character development, students will include character traits, feelings, motivations, and responses to situations.



Theme

ELA.3.R.1.2: Explain a theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.

Perspective and Point of View

ELA.3.R.1.3: Explain different characters' perspectives in a literary text.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: The term perspective means “a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something.” The term point of view is used when referring to the person of the narrator. This is to prevent confusion and conflation.

Poetry

ELA.3.R.1.4: Identify types of poems: free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, and limerick.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: For examples of these forms, see [Appendix B](#).

■ ELA.3.R.2 Reading Informational Text*Structure*

ELA.3.R.2.1: Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structures of chronology, comparison, and cause/effect in texts.

Central Idea

ELA.3.R.2.2: Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.

Purpose and Perspective

ELA.3.R.2.3: Explain the development of an author's purpose in an informational text.

Argument

ELA.3.R.2.4: Identify an author's claim and explain how an author uses evidence to support the claim.

■ ELA.3.R.3 Reading Across Genres*Interpreting Figurative Language*

ELA.3.R.3.1: Identify and explain metaphors, personification, and hyperbole in text(s).

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: In addition to the types of figurative language listed in this benchmark, students are still working with types from previous grades such as simile, alliteration, and idiom. Other examples can be used in instruction.

Clarification 2: See [Elementary Figurative Language](#).



Paraphrasing and Summarizing

ELA.3.R.3.2: Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.

- a. Include plot and theme for a literary text.
- b. Use the central idea and relevant details for an informational text.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Most grade-level texts are appropriate for this benchmark.

Comparative Reading

ELA.3.R.3.3: Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme.

Communication

■ ELA.3.C.1 Communicating Through Writing

Handwriting

ELA.3.C.1.1: Write in cursive all upper- and lowercase letters.

Narrative Writing

ELA.3.C.1.2: Write personal or fictional narratives using a logical sequence of events, appropriate descriptions, dialogue, a variety of transitional words or phrases, and an ending.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Writing Types](#).

Argumentative Writing

ELA.3.C.1.3: Write opinions about a topic or text, include reasons supported by details from one or more sources, use transitions, and provide a conclusion.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Writing Types](#).

Expository Writing

ELA.3.C.1.4: Write expository texts about a topic, using one or more sources, providing an introduction, facts and details, some elaboration, transitions, and a conclusion.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Writing Types](#) and [Elaborative Techniques](#).

Improving Writing

ELA.3.C.1.5: Improve writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing with guidance and support from adults and feedback from peers.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: As needed refers to the fact that sometimes instruction will focus on a specific skill or part of the process. In those instances, only the applicable activity will be engaged in.



ELA.3.C.2 Communicating Orally

Oral Presentation

ELA.3.C.2.1: Present information orally, in a logical sequence, using nonverbal cues, appropriate volume, and clear pronunciation.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Nonverbal cues appropriate to this grade level are posture, tone, and expressive delivery. Clear pronunciation should be interpreted to mean an understanding and application of phonics rules and sight words as well as care taken in delivery. A student's speech impediment should not be considered as impeding clear pronunciation. This grade level introduces an expectation that the information be presented in a logical sequence. A student may self-correct an error in sequence.

Clarification 2: For further guidance, see the [Elementary Oral Communication Rubric](#).

ELA.3.C.3 Following Conventions

Conventions

ELA.3.C.3.1: Follow the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to grade level.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Skills to be mastered at this grade level are as follows:

- Conjugate regular and irregular verb tenses.
- Form and use regular and frequently occurring irregular plural nouns.
- Form and use the past tense of frequently occurring irregular verbs.
- Maintain consistent verb tense across paragraphs.
- Form and use irregular plural nouns.
- Form and use the progressive and perfect verb tenses.
- Use simple modifiers.
- Use prepositions and prepositional phrases.
- Form and use compound sentences.
- Use quotation marks with dialogue and direct quotations.
- Use commas to indicate direct address.

Skills to be implemented but not yet mastered are as follows:

- Use subject-verb agreement with intervening clauses and phrases.
- Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
- Use conjunctions.
- Use principal modals to indicate the mood of a verb.
- Use appositives, main clauses, and subordinate clauses.

Clarification 2: See [Convention Progression by Grade Level](#) for more information.



ELA.3.C.4 Researching*Researching and Using Information*

ELA.3.C.4.1: Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic from multiple sources.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: While the benchmark does require that students consult multiple sources, there is no requirement that they use every source they consult. Part of the skill in researching is discernment—being able to tell which information is relevant and which sources are trustworthy enough to include.

ELA.3.C.5 Creating and Collaborating*Multimedia*

ELA.3.C.5.1: Use two or more multimedia elements to enhance oral or written tasks.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Multimedia elements may include, but are not limited to, drawings, pictures, artifacts, and audio or digital representation. At this grade level, the elements should relate directly to the presentation. The elements can reinforce or complement the information being shared. There is no expectation that the elements be fully integrated into the presentation.

Technology in Communication

ELA.3.C.5.2: Use digital writing tools individually or collaboratively to plan, draft, and revise writing.

Vocabulary**ELA.3.V.1 Finding Meaning***Academic Vocabulary*

ELA.3.V.1.1: Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Grade-level academic vocabulary consists of words that are likely to appear across subject areas for the current grade level and beyond, vital to comprehension, critical for academic discussions and writing, and usually require explicit instruction.

Morphology

ELA.3.V.1.2: Identify and apply knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, base words, and affixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in grade-level content.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: See [Common Greek and Latin Roots 3-5](#) and [Affixes](#).



Context and Connotation

ELA.3.V.1.3: Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.

Benchmark Clarifications:

Clarification 1: Instruction for this benchmark should include text read-alouds and think-alouds aimed at building and activating background knowledge. Review of words learned in this way is critical to building background knowledge and related vocabulary. Texts read aloud can be two grade levels higher than student reading level.

Clarification 2: See [Context Clues](#) and [Word Relationships](#).

Clarification 3: See ELA.3.R.3.1 and [Elementary Figurative Language](#).



Sample texts by benchmark

	ELA.3. R.1.1	ELA.3. R.1.2	ELA.3. R.1.3	ELA.3. R.1.4	ELA.3. R.2.1	ELA.3. R.2.2	ELA.3. R.2.3	ELA.3. R.2.4	ELA.3. R.3.1	ELA.3. R.3.2	ELA.3. R.3.3
	Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.	Explain a theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.	Explain different characters' perspectives in a literary text.	Identify types of poems: free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, and limerick.	Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structures of chronology, comparison, and cause/effect in texts.	Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.	Explain the development of an author's purpose in an informational text.	Identify an author's claim and explain how an author uses evidence to support the claim.	Identify and explain metaphors, personification, and hyperbole in text(s).	Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.	Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme.
"My Doggy Ate My Essay" by Darren Sardelli	•			•					•	•	
"There was an Old Man with a Flute" by Edward Lear				•						•	
"Toward Those Short Trees" by Masaoka Shiki				•						•	
Tula ["Books are Door-shaped"] by Margarita Engle	•	•		•					•	•	
<i>Abraham Lincoln: A Life of Honesty</i> by Tonya Leslie					•	•	•			•	•
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White	•	•	•							•	•
<i>Flight</i> by Robert Burleigh					•	•	•			•	
<i>Frederick Douglass Fights for Freedom</i> by Margaret Davidson					•	•	•	•		•	
<i>Honest Abe Lincoln</i> by David A. Adler					•	•	•			•	•
<i>If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad</i> by Ellen Levine					•	•	•			•	



	ELA.3. R.1.1	ELA.3. R.1.2	ELA.3. R.1.3	ELA.3. R.1.4	ELA.3. R.2.1	ELA.3. R.2.2	ELA.3. R.2.3	ELA.3. R.2.4	ELA.3. R.3.1	ELA.3. R.3.2	ELA.3. R.3.3
	Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.	Explain a theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.	Explain different characters' perspectives in a literary text.	Identify types of poems: free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, and limerick.	Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structures of chronology, comparison, and cause/effect in texts.	Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.	Explain the development of an author's purpose in an informational text.	Identify an author's claim and explain how an author uses evidence to support the claim.	Identify and explain metaphors, personification, and hyperbole in text(s).	Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.	Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme.
<i>Matilda</i> by Roald Dahl	•	•	•							•	
<i>Miracle on 133rd Street</i> by Sonia Manzano	•	•	•							•	
<i>Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11</i> by Brian Floca					•	•	•			•	•
<i>Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People</i> by Monica Brown	•	•	•							•	
<i>Pippi Longstocking</i> by Astrid Lindgren	•	•	•						•	•	•
<i>Revolutionary Friends: General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette</i> by Selene Castrovilla					•	•	•			•	
<i>Rosa Parks</i> by Eloise Greenfield					•	•	•	•		•	
<i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan	•	•	•						•	•	•
<i>Stuart Little</i> by E.B. White	•	•	•						•	•	•
<i>The Boxcar Children</i> by Gertrude Chandler Warner	•	•	•							•	•
<i>The Children's Book of Virtues</i> by William Bennett	•		•	•					•	•	•



	ELA.3. R.1.1	ELA.3. R.1.2	ELA.3. R.1.3	ELA.3. R.1.4	ELA.3. R.2.1	ELA.3. R.2.2	ELA.3. R.2.3	ELA.3. R.2.4	ELA.3. R.3.1	ELA.3. R.3.2	ELA.3. R.3.3
	Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.	Explain a theme and how it develops, using details, in a literary text.	Explain different characters' perspectives in a literary text.	Identify types of poems: free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, and limerick.	Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structures of chronology, comparison, and cause/effect in texts.	Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.	Explain the development of an author's purpose in an informational text.	Identify an author's claim and explain how an author uses evidence to support the claim.	Identify and explain metaphors, personification, and hyperbole in text(s).	Summarize a text to enhance comprehension.	Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or theme.
<i>The Little Prince</i> by Antoine de Saint-Exupery	•	•	•							•	•
<i>The Real McCoy: The Life of an African-American Inventor</i> by Wendy Towle					•	•	•			•	
<i>The Whipping Boy</i> by Sid Fleischman	•	•	•						•	•	•
<i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> by Frank Baum	•	•	•						•	•	•
<i>To the Moon and Back</i> by Buzz Aldrin					•	•	•			•	•
<i>Who was Betsy Ross?</i> by James Buckley, Jr.					•	•	•			•	•