



First Grade Essential Skills for English Language Arts

September

- I can sound out one-syllable words.
- I can blend one-syllable words.
- I can write uppercase and lowercase letters.
- I can find or identify words that show feelings in a story or poem.
- I can read poetry.
- I can find clues about a text from both pictures and words.
- I can follow class rules for discussions.
- I can participate in a conversation by responding to things others say.
- I can draw pictures about a story.
- I can capitalize dates and names of people.
- I can use punctuation.
- I can figure out words that I do not know by sounding them out.

October

- I can break apart a spoken word.
- I can explain that a sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with an ending mark.
- I can clap out the syllables of a word and know that every syllable has a vowel sound.
- I can ask questions of my classmates.
- I can identify who is telling the story.
- I can ask and answer questions about words in the story or text.
- I can participate in writing "how-to" story with my classmates.
- I can spell words by using spelling patterns.

November

- I can write about my opinion.
- I can write an informative story.
- I can tell the difference between fiction and non-fiction (fantasy/real).
- I can compare and contrast what happens to the characters in the story.
- I can tell the difference between long and short vowel sounds.
- I can break apart one-syllable words.
- I can remember what I have heard or read and use that information to add to my sentences.

December

- I can ask and answer questions about a story and give/follow two-step directions.
- I can ask and answer questions of a speaker to gather more information.
- I can compare and contrast two similar stories.
- I can use pictures and details from the story to tell about the characters, setting, and events.
- I can sort words into categories.

January

- I can write a narrative.
- I can add details to my story.
- I can spell words with digraphs (ch, sh, wh, th).
- I can read long vowel words.
- I can use different parts of a book to find information (table of contents, glossaries, etc.)
- I can tell the meaning of a word using context clues.
- I can make connections between words and their uses.

February

- I can read two-syllable words.
- I can describe details about a story, expressing my ideas clearly.
- I can recite poems, songs, and rhymes with feeling.
- I can use common nouns, proper nouns, and possessive nouns correctly.
- I can ask and answer questions about the story or text.
- I can use verbs (past, present, and future).

March

- I can speak in complete sentences.
- I can read sight words.
- I can retell the story and include details.
- I can find the main idea and retell details from the text.
- I can use the pictures and details in a text to describe the story.
- I can use adjectives.
- I can use singular and plural nouns.
- I can use personal, possessive, or indefinite pronouns.
- I can define words by their attributes.
- I can show the meanings of verbs and adjectives and their synonyms.

April

- I can use technology to write.
- I can read words with –ed and –ing endings.
- I can read with expression.
- I can describe characters, settings and details in the story.
- I can tell why something happened in the story using details from the text.
- I can use conjunctions (and, but, so, or, because).
- I can use determiners.
- I can use prepositions.
- I can use affixes to figure out what a word means.
- I can find the roots of words.

May

- I can describe the connection between two people, events, ideas, or information in a story.
- I can use commas.
- I can read to understand.
- I can use context clues and self-correct when I am reading.
- I can use that I know to write a story.
- I can read non-fiction text. I can compare what I already know about the subject and make predictions.
- I can use statements, questions, and exclamations in my sentences.