

“Power of the Dream”

The theme throughout the fifth grade year is “Power of the Dream”. It is based on the history of the United States. It chronicles the time periods of the native people, exploration, colonization, American Revolution, creation of our country, and the westward movement. During these periods there were dreamers who had visions that changed the course of history. The students can apply these examples to their own lives and set goals that they can strive to actualize.

Introduction

Fifth grade students will be building on the skills and academic goals achieved during fourth grade, and at the same time using those skills to expand their knowledge and acquire the confidence needed to complete fifth grade successfully.

In fifth grade, students continue to practice fluency while reading, but comprehension becomes more important as students read to make meaning of their curriculum. In other words, students are now reading to learn instead of learning to read. Writing should be practiced every day, whether just journaling or completing more formal writing projects. Math is of equal importance, as students should be building on previously taught concepts to prepare them for 6th grade and beyond.

Curriculum

Reading

Houghton-Mifflin centers Reading and Language Arts on its reading anthology. In fifth grade there is one basal reader with a correlating practice book. There are six themes in the book; some correlate with Science and Social Studies standards.

*Note: **Theme 4 comes before Theme 3 and Theme 6 comes before Theme 5 on the grid so that it fits sequentially with Social Studies.*

Reading is designed to cover approximately one story per week along with additional short “stories” or articles that may give background information relevant to the story, or link to another curricular area. The reading level of the selected stories may be above your child’s reading level, however, do not be concerned. These stories are designed to create a challenge and foster growth in your child’s reading abilities. The stories are meant to be repeated and re-read so your student can gain confidence and security in his reading ability, so you will want to read the story with your child at least twice.

Remember that the key to a successful reading lesson is to plan ahead. Know the skills you want to focus on and be prepared to model, guide, and instruct your child rather than just assign. The following is a sample format with ideas you may want to adopt and modify to fit your lesson plans, as well as your child’s needs.

Day 1: Introduce the story. Work to build on your child's prior knowledge, have him make predictions based on the title, illustrations, take a "picture walk" (go through the story without reading it using the pictures to guess what the story will be about). Review the new vocabulary words.

Days 2, 3 and 4: Read the story with your child. Take turns reading aloud and make a point of discussing the story. Be sure your student can sequence (tell the order of events). Ask your child questions that will make him think (details, inferences, cause/effect). By the end of the week, your child should be able to read the story without too much help from you, as well as, be able to retell the story in his own words.

Day 5: Take the selection test

Days 1 through 5: Complete corresponding workbook pages in the Practice Book.

Practice Book

Within your Reading Practice Book are sections devoting 2 to 3 pages per week to each of the language arts skills: spelling, phonics, grammar, writing, vocabulary, comprehension, and handwriting.

Spelling: There is a weekly word list at the back of the practice book. This spelling is created to go hand in hand with the reading curriculum. Give a pre-test, do the workbook pages, and by the end of the week administer a final test.

Grammar: The grammar pages in your practice book give writing support as well as teach language conventions for fifth grade proficiency.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is a necessary skill for improving reading accuracy, comprehension, and fluency. The weekly words build this skill in a manageable and efficient manner.

Comprehension: Each week the workbook focuses on a comprehension skill that will improve your student's ability to questions, answer, infer, predict, and ultimately comprehend the stories he is reading.

Writing: In addition to the writing assignments listed on the grid, there are pages in the practice book that are devoted to writing. Some of these pages are listed in conjunction with the writing on the grid, and others are in addition to these assignments.

Additional Reading

Aside from the reading textbook, your child should read for a minimum of 30 minutes daily. While the reading stories will most likely be above your child's independent reading level, the level of difficulty of reading is not a set standard. Select some books that will challenge his reading ability and some that are easy enough to build self-confidence. Students at this age still enjoy being read aloud to. Parents are encouraged to read books aloud that are well beyond your child's independent reading level. This is a good opportunity for students to hear new vocabulary and for parents to model reading fluency.

Each reporting period there are a number of books that will enhance the core curriculum (reading, science, social studies) in some way. They are listed on the grid as “Literature” and “Theme Paperbacks”. Literature books available from VOCS are listed with *, and occasionally have a literature unit that goes with them. Theme Paperbacks are designed to go with each theme in the reading book, and provide additional reading enrichment. These books are not required reading, however, it is very important that you supplement the textbook with daily free reading.

Literature Units

Periodically students will be taking a break from the reading textbook and reading quality literature that correlates with what they are learning in Social Studies. During these weeks the students will be reading Literature and completing Literature Units. These Literature Units are thematic in nature and will have a wide range of activities in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

Writing

Writing is an important part of the curriculum. It is also one of the hardest areas to teach, and is often neglected because of this. There are two resources to aid in the instruction of writing: Daily 6-Trait Writing and the Houghton-Mifflin Writing Packet.

Daily 6-Trait Writing: This program has a student handbook and a photocopied teacher’s edition. It is designed to focus on improving writing as a skill. The teacher’s edition is organized by week and gives activities to complete for four days within that week. Each week focuses on a specific writing skill as well as a language convention. For example, in Week One students will learn the importance of choosing a strong idea and also review capitalizing proper nouns. On the fifth day a writing prompt is assigned so students can apply the skills they’ve learned that week.

Houghton-Mifflin Writing Packet: This writing goes hand-in hand with the Houghton-Mifflin reading. Each assignment is designed to focus on a specific type of writing, such as persuasive or narrative writing. Included in the packet are instructions for guiding students through the writing process for the week as well as guidelines and examples of that type of writing. Students are also directed to pages in the reading practice book that correlate with the writing assignment.

One final aspect of writing that is perhaps the most important is feedback. It is crucial that students learning to write receive constructive feedback that illustrates not only what needs improvement, but also what the strengths are. For this purpose, rubrics are included in the Daily 6-Trait Writing Teacher’s Edition and also in the Reading Practice Book.

Mathematics

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, a curriculum that is correlated to the state standards. The chapters in the book cover number sense, statistics and data analysis, decimals, fractions, integers and equations, ratios and functions, percent, geometry, and measurement. Macmillan McGraw-Hill is a vertically aligned Mathematics curriculum. It ensures that content standards and units of study are introduced, reinforced, and assessed, while allowing for instruction that is targeted towards student needs as well as California Mathematics Standards. Vertical alignment allows for increased precision in teaching because there is no content taught that is not covered elsewhere or that students have not previously mastered. *California Mathematics: Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving* was developed to specifically target the skills and topics that give students the most difficulty. Additional support materials to complement the program include: a student works CD, Standards Practice Workbook, Homework/Practice Workbook, Manipulative Kit, and access to a Teacher's Edition, and the mhschool.com website.

Program Organization

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill's program, Grade 5 is designed to provide students a balanced approach to mathematics learning by offering them the opportunity to:

- investigate concepts and build their conceptual understanding,
- review, learn, and practice basic computational and procedural skills, and
- apply mathematics to problem solving in real-world situations.

Components include:

- Hands-On Activities
- Standards Emphasized in the lessons
- Vocabulary (both new and review)
- Key Concepts
- Examples (fully worked out)
- *Check What You Know* exercises
- Multi-Step Word Problems
- H.O.T. (Higher Order Thinking) Problems
- Writing in Math
- Standards Practice
- Spiral Review
- Assessment (Entry Level Assessment, Progress Monitoring, Summative Evaluation)
- Leveled Resources (black line masters)

Additional Support

Student Works CD

The Student Works CD contains the entire student textbook, multiple worksheets at different ability levels, a personal tutor, and concepts in motion (animated real-world problem solving lessons)

Mastering the California Mathematics Standards Workbook

This workbook will assist you in reviewing and mastering the Grade 5 Math Standards. The book is a combination of two approaches. We are using the approach with the blue cover (practice by standard). The assigned pages/pacing for this support material can be found on the grid. Effort was made to complete this workbook prior to the STAR testing dates in order to expose students to the kinds of questions they may find on the Math portions of the STAR Test.

Homework/Practice Workbook

The Homework/Practice Workbook gives you additional examples and problems for the concept exercise in each lesson. There is one homework/practice sheet for each lesson. These pages are not assigned on the grid and may be used as you, the parent teacher, feels necessary.

Math Manipulative Kit

Manipulatives can bring math alive in a concrete manner. When manipulatives are used, the senses are brought into learning: students can touch and move objects to make visual representations of mathematical concepts. Manipulatives can be used to represent both numbers and operations on those numbers.

Teacher's Edition

A Teacher's Edition CD can be found on the inside cover of the student edition textbook.

Science

Harcourt Brace is the publisher for our Science curriculum. California Science is the name of the anthology. In addition to the student book, students will be working in the Science Content Support workbook as well as a Lab Manual. Harcourt Brace does an excellent job of covering the state standards for life, physical, earth, and health sciences.

Social Studies

Harcourt Brace is the publisher for our Social Studies curriculum. Reflections is the name of the anthology used in fifth grade. This book focuses on the United States as a new nation. Students will study geography, early American Indians, exploration and colonization, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, and Westward Expansion. A Homework/practice book is provided as a companion to the anthology.

Art

While art is an enrichment subject, it is always a favorite of young students. Art ideas are scattered throughout the Reading anthologies and give both art appreciation lessons as well as creative projects. We do have a collection of seasonal projects if you would like additional activities and numerous books on artists and art appreciation in our library.

Enrichment

You will want to take advantage of the many field trips that are offered throughout the school year. Trips are planned regularly so watch your newsletter for any excursion that you feel will be appropriate for your child or your interests. Additionally, enrichment classes are offered on Wednesdays at the school to support your child's learning.

Multimedia

United Streaming and California Streaming, as mentioned above, are two excellent resources of enriching subject matter being taught. In addition to the Science and Social Studies videos that are listed on the grid, each site has a vast library of other videos, including Language Arts, Math, and Health. You are encouraged to investigate these websites.