



Quick Reference for Reading Support at Home: Third Grade

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story
- Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (e.g., first, second, third; cause and effect)
- Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic
- Writing opinions or explanations that group related information and develop topics with facts and details
- Writing stories that establish a situation and include details and clear sequences of events that describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters
- Independently conducting short research projects that build knowledge about various topics
- Asking and answering questions about information he or she hears from a speaker or while participating in classroom discussions, offering appropriate elaboration and detail that build on what others have said
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguishing the literal and nonliteral meanings of words, such as *something's fishy* and *cold shoulder*
- Spelling correctly and consulting dictionaries to clarify meanings of words

ELA/Literacy Shifts: What They Mean and How You Can Help

Adapted from www.engageNY.org

Shift #1: Read as much nonfiction as fiction	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>read more nonfiction	>>supply more nonfiction text (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.)
>>know the ways nonfiction can be put together/presented	>>read nonfiction texts aloud to or with your child
>> discuss the details of nonfiction	>>talk about new learning from texts, ask questions, etc. - think aloud
Shift #2: Learn about the world by reading	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>learn about science and social studies through reading	>>give students access to texts on topics of interest
>>read and learn from primary sources	>>find books that explain or expose your student to primary sources
>>get smarter <i>through</i> texts	>>discuss nonfiction texts and the ideas in them; model curiosity



Quick Reference for Reading Support at Home: Third Grade (continued)

Shift #3: Read more challenging material closely	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>re-read	>>learn about what is considered appropriate reading for the grade level
>>read material that's at their comfort level and work with more challenging text	>>provide texts students want to read and can read easily, AND more challenging texts
>> "Unpack" text	>>read challenging stuff <i>with</i> students
>> Handle frustration and keep pushing (perseverance)	>>show that challenging stuff is worth unpacking >>encourage students and reassure them that challenge is a part of learning
Shift #4: Discuss reading using evidence	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>find evidence to support their arguments	>>talk about text
>>form judgments	>>demand evidence in everyday discussions/ disagreements
>>discuss what the author is "up to"	>>read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence from the text
Shift #5: Write nonfiction using evidence	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>make arguments in writing using evidence from text	>>encourage writing at home
>>compare multiple tasks in writing	>>write stories/"books" together and use evidence/details
>>write well	>>READ MORE
Shift #6: Increase academic vocabulary	
<i>Students must...</i>	<i>Parents can...</i>
>>learn the words they can use in college and career	>>read and talk often with babies, toddlers, children
>>get smarter with language (using synonyms, paying attention to context and tone, etc.)	>>read different books about the same topic >>let your kids see you reading >>make up rhymes and play word games with your children

Other Resources:

[Common Core Standards](#)

[Ohio Department of Education: Third Grade Reading Guarantee](#)
[Ohio Student Practice Test Portal and Resources](#)