

# Rising 5th Graders - Summer Learning!

As you prepare your child to enter 5th grade, we've put together a list of skills that are important to practice over the summer months to ensure a smooth transition. We have provided suggestions that make learning fun and active along with resources that can help you with other ideas.

## Skills to Practice

- Review basic grammar/parts of speech - nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
  - Mad Libs - a phrasal template word game where one player prompts the others for a list of words to substitute for blanks in a story before reading aloud. Can be found online or purchased in stores.
  - Parts of Speech Scavenger Hunt - As you read together, challenge your child to pick out different parts of speech. You can make the game more interesting by asking for adjectives that are colors, verbs that end with -ing, etc.
- Fluency
  - Ask your child to read a small excerpt aloud to you. Be sure they're using appropriate pacing (pausing at commas and end of sentences), using appropriate inflection (excited tone when they see an exclamation point), and reading smoothly. Read through the same excerpt of text several times to improve accuracy, quickness, and expression.
- Comprehension & Main Idea
  - While reading with your child, ask a variety of questions about the text and discuss the story. (See suggested list)
  - After reading, discuss the main idea of the text.
- Context Clues & Inference
  - While reading, use the text to help determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
  - Ask students to make inferences from photographs found in magazines.
- Point of View
  - While reading, be able to describe the author's point of view. Find articles on the same topic but with different points of view. Ask your child to compare and contrast the texts.
- Writing - Compose a complete sentence (capital letter, punctuation) and a cohesive paragraph.
  - Give your child simple writing prompts such as describing their favorite summer activity, explaining the steps to complete a task, writing a note to a friend - remind your child to use their best handwriting (spend time practicing both print and cursive).
  - Keep a daily journal
  - Expand your child's vocabulary by giving them a new word/definition each day. Vocabulary.com offers a "Word of the Day." Encourage your child to use their new word in conversation and in their writing.
  - Pay careful attention to easily confused words (to/too, your/you're, their/there/they're).

## Helpful Websites, Apps, & Resources

**Achieve**- access through Clever.com. Your child's username and password is their 7 digit ID number.

**MyOn Virtual Library** - Thousands of books for your child tailored to their reading level. Access through Clever.com.

**ABCYA.com** - Learning games and apps by grade level

**Suggested Reading** - Encourage your child to read all summer for at least twenty minutes per day. Engaging in a variety of books will help students increase their vocabulary. The following is a great list to get you started!

- Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
- Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
- The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Baseball In April and Other Stories by Gary Soto
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

**Comprehension Questions** - Ask children to point to specific evidence from the story when answering questions.

- Who is this story about? Describe him/her. Do they have a problem in this story? How is the problem solved?
- When and where does the story take place?
- What is the story about? Retell the story.
- Could this story really happen? Explain why/why not.
- Would you like to be a character in this story? Why or why not?
- Would you recommend this story to a friend? Why or why not?

**Social Studies:** Social Studies is more than learning about the past. It is about building knowledge of the world and understanding how interconnected our world is. Its history, citizenship, and maps, along with expressing ideas, critical thinking, and becoming a productive citizen.

**Topics for Exploration Include:** \*Contributions and impact of inventors such as Alexander Graham Bell, George Washington Carver, and Thomas Edison \*U.S. involvement during WWII and the impact at home \*Key people and events of the Civil Rights Movement \*Major indigenous settlements in Tennessee \*The Civil War and battles in TN \*Effects of the Great Depression on TN

*This is a very short list from the numerous topics students will explore next year. To see the complete list of standards (topics), visit: [TN Academic Standards for Social Studies](#)*