

Key Skills in the Fifth Grade

Grade Five students compute with very large and very small numbers, decimals, and fractions. They apply the four arithmetic functions to fractions, decimals, and positive and negative numbers. They use formulas and a protractor with ease. In English/language arts, students read and understand a wide variety of text, connecting essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives. They draw inferences and conclusions and can support them with textual evidence. In addition to their regular school reading, students in grade five make progress toward the goal of reading one million words annually on their own.

By the end of the year, students in grade five should be able to independently read:

Amber Brown (series) by Paula Danzinger; *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden; *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson; *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White; *Wrinkle in Time* (series) by Madeleine L'Engle; *Eragon* by Chris Paolini; *Artemis Fowl* (series) by Eoin Colfer.

Math

Students:

- understand percents as part of a hundred and find decimal and fractional equivalents
- find prime factors of all numbers through 50 and use “powers” to show repeated multiplication
- add and subtract negative numbers
- add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers and express fractional answers in their lowest form
- use letters in formulas to express unknown numbers
- use formulas to compute the area and volume of simple objects such as triangles and cubes
- measure, identify, and draw angles, perpendicular and parallel lines and triangles using rulers and protractors
- draw two-dimensional views of three-dimensional objects
- know how to write ordered pairs (x, y) and find ordered pair locations on a graph
- multiply and divide fractions

English/Language Arts

Students:

- read common sight words* and use word origins to determine the meaning of words
- distinguish facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text
- identify the main problem/conflict in a plot and explain how it is resolved
- describe common literary devices such as imagery, metaphor, and symbolism
- understand that theme refers to the meaning or moral of a selection and identify themes in literary works
- write clear, coherent, and focused essays of 500-700 words with awareness of audience and purpose
- write narratives and establish and develop plots, describe characters and settings, and present an ending
- write expository compositions with a topic, important ideas and events in order, details and transitional phrases that link the paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph that summarizes the ideas
- write research reports that frame the investigation and develop the topic with facts, details, and examples
- write persuasive letters and compositions that state a clear position and support the position with evidence
- use colons, semicolons, and quotation marks correctly
- use correct capitalization
- spell roots, suffixes, prefixes, contractions, and syllable constructions correctly
- use prepositional phrases, appositives, and independent and dependent clauses; use transitions and conjunctions to connect ideas
- use verbs correctly such as lie/lay, sit/set, and rise/raise. Use correct modifiers and pronouns

*Ask your ES for the list of 500 most common words in the English Language