



Alphabet Books and the Children Who Read Them

Essential Questions

“Why is it important to ask questions?”
“How do we communicate our thoughts?”



Dear Parents,

In this first six-week unit of first grade, students are welcomed to school as readers and begin reviewing the alphabet and concepts about print through books about the library, friendship, and the ABCs.

Reading Literature and Informational Text

When reading, students will ask *who, what, when, where, why, and how* questions about important details. They will use the illustrations and details to describe ideas that are important, and to identify the main topic in literary and informational text. They will identify words that suggest feelings, and will explain differences between books that tell stories and books that give information. Students will also compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will read grade level texts with purpose and understanding, reading high-frequency words, and self-correcting errors and/or re-reading when necessary. They will listen to words spoken orally and practice breaking the words into parts (syllables and individual sounds). They will listen to word parts and practice blending them into words, for example /c/-/a/-/t/ = cat. Students will recognize parts of a sentence and the way those parts can be indicated with *capitalization and punctuation*.

Writing

With guidance and support from adults, students will write informational pieces that explain a topic making sure to include facts. They will also write narrative pieces that recount two or more sequenced events and provide a sense of closure (a good ending). Students will work with their peers to complete shared research and writing projects. They will use suggestions and questions from peers to improve their writing.

Listening and Speaking

When discussing a topic or listening to a presentation, students will follow agreed-upon rules for discussion. They will speak in complete sentences and ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topic being discussed.

Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Students will write and expand declarative (.), interrogative (?), imperative (*a command*), and exclamatory (!) sentences using correct end punctuation. They will be expected to use common, proper, and possessive nouns, spell known words and words with common spelling patterns, and spell unknown words by sound. When coming to an unknown word or phrase in their reading, students will use clues from the text to discover the meanings of these words or phrases. They will sort and define words by category (*colors, clothing*) and characteristics (*a duck is a bird that swims*).

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Students will practice forming upper and lowercase letters correctly and writing legibly on lined paper. When using the keyboard, they will practice using their left hand to depress keys on the left side of the keyboard and their right hand for keys on the right side. They will learn to use the mouse to make an insertion point in a document.