



## Inspired by the Sea

Essential Questions  
“*What inspires writers and how?*”  
“*Why is main idea important?*”



### Dear Parents,

In this six-week unit of third grade, students read stories, poetry, and informational texts that are inspired by a love of or curiosity with the sea.

### Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will ask and answer questions about a text and refer to the text to find the answers. When reading stories, they will study character point of view and motivation and use this information to explain how a character’s actions contribute to the sequence of events of the story. When discussing how parts of stories, plays, and poems fit together, students will use terms such as *chapter*, *scene*, and *stanza*. When reading informational text, students will identify the main idea and supporting details. Students will read two texts on the same topic and compare the most important points. They will use text features and search tools to help them locate information.

### Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will learn the meaning of common prefixes such as *re-* and *un-* (redo, undo) and suffixes such as *-ly* and *-ness* (happily, happiness). They will read books and poems fluently with purpose and understanding.

### Writing

Students will write to explain a topic using facts, details, and linking words and phrases. They will practice writing an effective concluding statement or section. Students will write stories using a sequence of events that makes sense, include dialogue, and describe character’s actions, thoughts, and feelings. They will use words such as *then*, *later*, and *the next day* to indicate the order of events in their writing. With help, students will organize writing according to its purpose, and will improve their writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. They will take notes as they gather information from print and technology and will use technology to publish their writing.

### Listening and Speaking

Students will follow rules for classroom discussions. They will speak in complete sentences when describing an experience; provide appropriate details, ask questions to understand the discussion, and stay on topic.

### Language (Conventions of Standard English)

Students will explain how adjectives and adverbs are used in speaking and writing. They will form and use simple verb tenses (*I walked*; *I walk*; *I will walk*) and use nouns that represent abstract ideas rather than concrete objects (*childhood*). Students will use conjunctions to produce compound sentences, capitalize words in titles, and use correct punctuation when writing dialogue. Students will determine the meaning of words and phrases in third grade texts and topics. They will use correct spelling for high-frequency and other studied words, apply their knowledge of spelling patterns and learn to consult a dictionary.

### Handwriting & Keyboarding

Third graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. This quarter, students will review the formation of lowercase cursive letters. They will write words in cursive and self-assess their writing using model letters and words. When using the keyboard, students will practice using the home keys while typing words and sentences with punctuation. They will begin typing high-frequency words without looking at the keyboard. Students will learn to create, save and retrieve files.