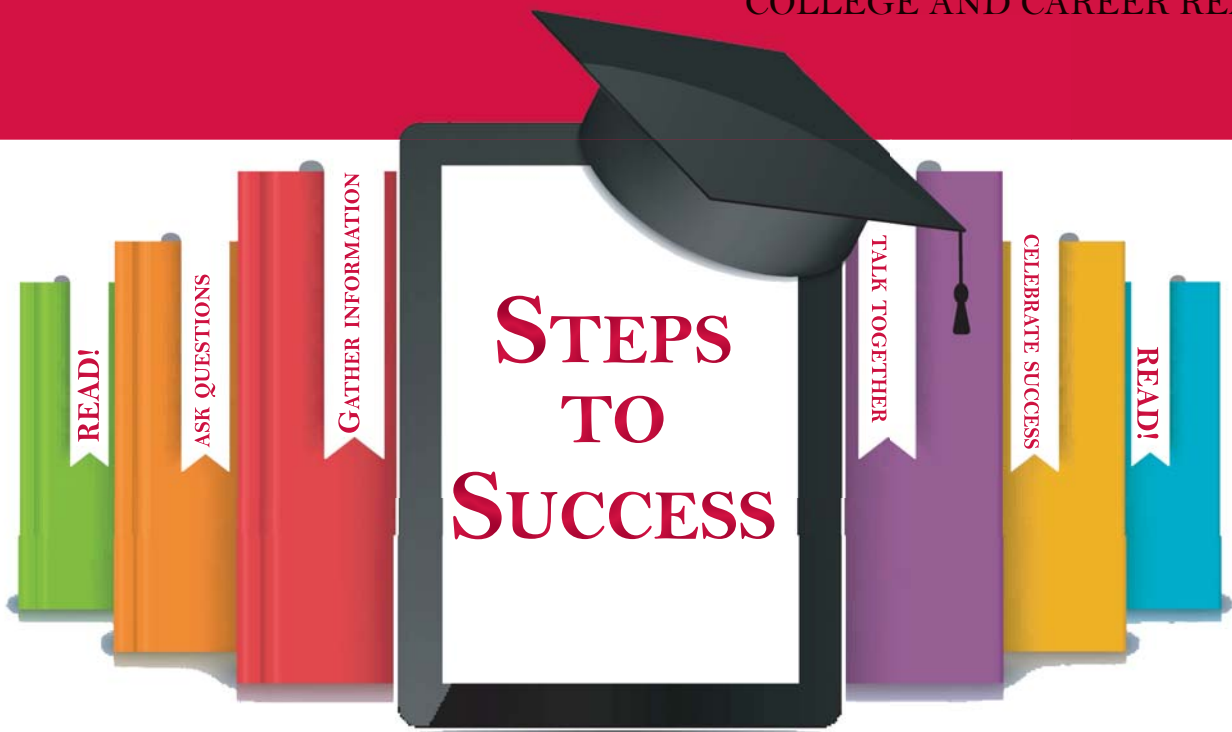


# SOUTH CAROLINA STANDARDS

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY



## Family-Friendly Guide for Fourth Grade

### English Language Arts

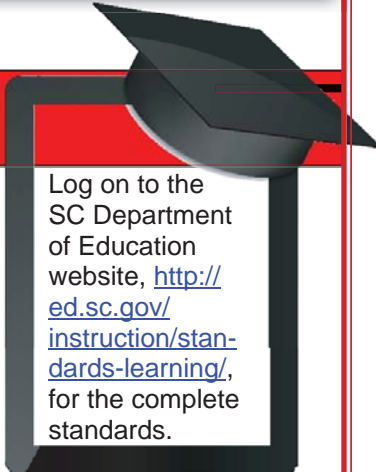
Fourth-grade children like to know how things work. The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards* build on this inquisitive nature to build more complex reading and more effective writing skills. Fourth graders are better able to handle abstract ideas in their work. They can analyze different points of view and the implications of the text. At this age, students are able to take more responsibility for organizing and prioritizing their work.



## STEPS TO SUCCESS

*This document is designed to:*

- Provide examples of the standards, skills, and knowledge your child will learn in English language arts and should be able to do upon exiting fourth grade
- Suggest activities on how you can help your child at home
- Offer additional resources for information and help



Log on to the SC Department of Education website, <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>, for the complete standards.

## LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts* (ELA):

- Outline the knowledge and skills students must master so that, as high-school graduates, they have the expertise needed to be successful in college or careers.
- Provide a set of grade-level standards, “stair steps,” based on the previous grade’s standards which serve as the foundation for the next grade.
- Ensure that no matter where a student lives in South Carolina, the expectations for learning are the same.

Human knowledge now doubles about every three years. Therefore, revision of South Carolina’s standards occurs periodically to respond to this growth of knowledge and increase of needed skills so our students will be ready for college or jobs. The *Col-*

*lege- and Career-Ready Standards* prepare students for dealing with the growing mass of information by not only emphasizing content knowledge but by also stressing the skills of reasoning, analyzing data, and applying information to examine and solve situations.

South Carolinians developed these academic standards for South Carolina’s children. The ELA standards are aligned with the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*, which summarizes the knowledge, skills, and habits employers expect (See [http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate\\_Updated.pdf](http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate_Updated.pdf).) Developed by business leaders, the *Profile* is approved by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and is endorsed by the Superintendents’ Roundtable, as well as South Carolina’s colleges and universities. The *Profile* demands world-class knowledge and skills, emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving, communication, and interpersonal skills.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FOURTH GRADE

### INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION

Fourth-grade students are pushed to think, analyze and learn in more sophisticated and structured ways. Fourth graders are encouraged to be more independent in their learning, depending less on the teacher’s guidance. They will research, plan, and revise their work more frequently this year and do it more independently. These **Steps to Success** include:

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop questions that focus thinking about an idea in order to decide further study</li> <li>• Plan and collect relevant information from primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• Draw reasonable conclusions from relationships and patterns found during the inquiry process</li> <li>• Determine appropriate tools and develop a plan to communicate findings and/or take informed action</li> <li>• Examine the learning process and consider how to apply new ways of thinking to future study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop questions that narrow a topic and help direct further study</li> <li>• Conduct short research projects (such as book reports) to build knowledge and generate possible explanations. Consider other views or possible results.</li> <li>• Compare the way similar topics or ideas are handled in several print and multimedia sources</li> <li>• Draw conclusions from relationships and patterns found during the research</li> <li>• Discuss the purpose and reliability of information presented in different print and digital sources</li> <li>• Develop a plan to communicate findings and/or conduct further research</li> <li>• Examine the act of learning and think of how new learning can be used and applied in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop questions that narrow a topic and help direct further study</li> <li>• Conduct research to develop questions, build knowledge; and, generate possible explanations, while considering other views or possible results</li> <li>• Combine information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems</li> <li>• Analyze the reliability of information presented in different print and digital sources</li> <li>• Draw conclusions from relationships and patterns found during research</li> <li>• Develop a plan to communicate findings and/or conduct further research</li> <li>• Analyze the learning process and think of how to apply new ways of learning to future study</li> </ul>

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FOURTH GRADE

## LEARNING TO READ

Fourth-grade students focus now on reading to learn. They spend less time figuring out words and more time gaining an understanding of what is read as they use various reading strategies. Fourth-graders grammar and punctuation knowledge is growing. These **Steps to Success** include:

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand how syllables, base words, prefixes, and suffixes work in order to read and understand multiple-syllable words</li><li>• Read irregularly spelled multi-syllable words and words with common initial and final sounds</li><li>• Use context of a paragraph to determine the meaning of words and phrases</li><li>• Expand the use of capitalization and punctuation</li><li>• Read for longer lengths of time to understand third grade texts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the knowledge of all letter combinations to read accurately, even unfamiliar multiple-syllable words in context</li><li>• Use definitions, examples and restatements to determine the meaning of words or phrases</li><li>• Increase the use of commas, quotation marks, and apostrophes</li><li>• Read for extended periods to improve fluency and gain understanding of fourth grade texts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the knowledge of all letter combination sounds to read accurately, even unfamiliar multiple-syllable words in context</li><li>• Use the overall meaning of a text or words to figure out the meaning of a word or phrase</li><li>• Expand the use of commas, quotation marks, and apostrophes</li><li>• Read for extended periods to understand fifth grade texts</li></ul>



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FOURTH GRADE

## WRITING

Fourth-grade students spend time working on more complex writings than in previous grades. They write essays, reports, and opinion papers. They use more resource tools and better understand the concept of “audience” and of purpose when writing. These **Steps to Success** include:

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to practice cursive writing</li><li>• Write a researched opinion/informational piece that is logically organized</li><li>• Gather ideas from many sources to write about real or imagined experiences that use descriptive details and are logically organized</li><li>• Adjust the writing for the task- to explain, entertain, inform or convince</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit by building on personal and others ideas to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics. Increase writing in length and complexity.</li><li>• Continue to work on keyboarding skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to improve cursive writing</li><li>• Write stories, opinions, and information pieces that are well organized</li><li>• Use information from several print and digital sources to support ideas, opinions, and information</li><li>• Adjust the writing for the task- to explain, entertain, inform or convince</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to better focus on a topic and to improve writings. Build on the ideas of others to strengthen writing.</li><li>• Write often on various topics. Increase writing in length and complexity</li><li>• Demonstrate accurate keyboarding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Write legibly</li><li>• Write stories and research papers using arguments that are well organized and supported by relevant facts</li><li>• Use information from various credible sources. Provide a general observation and focus.</li><li>• Use a style and tone appropriate to the writing purpose</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to better focus on a topic and to improve writings. Build on the ideas of others to strengthen writing.</li><li>• Write frequently on both fiction and non-fiction topics with deepening understanding</li><li>• Write and research at length using the computer</li></ul>



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FOURTH GRADE

## COMMUNICATION

Fourth-grade students' speaking and listening skills continue to develop. They listen to others, explain personal ideas, and respond to others' comments. They examine the manner in which presenters give their information and whether that information is sufficient. These **Steps to Success** include:



### Third Grade

- Participate in discussions by asking questions to obtain information and clarify thoughts
- Express ideas gathered from many sources in a concise way. Conduct research both individually and in a group.
- Compare how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats
- Use techniques of volume and tone, eye contact, facial expressions, and posture when speaking
- Create presentations using audio and visual tools to clarify ideas and thoughts
- Identify a speaker's presentation style. Determine if a speaker is organized, addresses the audience, and why certain word choices and figurative language is used.

### Fourth Grade

- Paraphrase and respond to information given in a discussion, compare ideas, and examine evidence given to support certain points
- Express ideas gathered from many sources in a concise way. Conduct research independently.
- Report on a topic or give an opinion with facts and supporting details
- Speak clearly, adapting speech to task. Use standard English when appropriate.
- Create presentations using audio and visual tools to clarify ideas and thoughts
- Identify how and why a speaker chooses particular words and phrases or stresses certain words. Consider whether sufficient facts are included.

### Fifth Grade

- Develop ideas to contribute to a discussion, providing accurate and related information
- Report on a topic or give an opinion with facts and descriptive details. Use a logical order of ideas.
- Participate in focused conversations. Build on the ideas of others. Pose questions, respond to clarify thinking, and express new thoughts.
- Identify how and why the speaker chooses particular words and phrases or stresses certain words. Consider whether sufficient facts are included and how they are presented.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FOURTH GRADE

## READING FOR ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT

Fourth-grade students read a greater variety of texts, among them: fictional stories, magazines, and non-fiction books. At this age, students are better able to understand concepts and the perspectives of others. Fourth graders are encouraged to think about the messages in a text, how different texts compare and how a message relates to their own lives. These **Steps to Success** include:

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the differences between first and third person points of view</li> <li>• State the author's purpose and tell how the student's perspective differs from the author's</li> <li>• Recognize the different points of view of the narrator and the different characters</li> <li>• Describe characters' traits, reasons for their actions, and their feelings. Explain how their actions contribute to the development of the plot.</li> <li>• Explain the influence of cultural and historical context on characters, setting, and plot development</li> <li>• Read independently with understanding for a sustained amount of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare and contrast first and third person points of view and how an author's point of view influences the content and meaning</li> <li>• Compare the way topics, ideas, concepts, and events are described by first person and second person accounts/sources</li> <li>• Determine how the author uses words and phrases in order to shape and make the meaning clear</li> <li>• Explain how conflicts cause the characters to change or adjust their plans before the end of a story or the final event</li> <li>• Read independently for a sustained amount of time to improve fluency and build stamina</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summarize the key details of a story or the main concepts in the text</li> <li>• Analyze how the author uses words and phrases to impact the reader's point of view</li> <li>• Compare the way topics, ideas, concepts, and events are shown in first person, second person, and third person accounts/sources</li> <li>• Quote accurately to study the meaning beyond the text to support conclusions</li> <li>• Analyze two or more characters, events, or settings and explain how they influence the plot or action</li> <li>• Read often and at length to improve vocabulary, learn about style, and enjoy the stories</li> </ul>

## READING FOR INFORMATION

Fourth-grade students use a wider range of research materials and take on a larger variety of topics. Students are taught to think deeply about and make connections to what they read and learn in all their subjects. These **Steps to Success** include:

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make assumptions and draw conclusions, referring to the text to support those ideas</li> <li>• Summarize key details of several paragraphs</li> <li>• Make conclusions or predictions from the reading. Support ideas with details.</li> <li>• Begin to read according to the purpose of the task and whether the text explains, informs, or convinces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the meaning implied in the text. Give details and examples to support conclusions.</li> <li>• Summarize key details of several paragraphs</li> <li>• Make conclusions or predictions from the reading. Support ideas with details.</li> <li>• Read texts that are more complex. Respond according to the purpose of the task and whether it is to explain, inform, or convince.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quote from the text to analyze meaning given and implied in the text</li> <li>• Summarize a text with two or more central ideas, supporting with key details</li> <li>• Make conclusions or predictions from the reading, supporting ideas with details</li> <li>• Read texts that are more complex. Respond according to the purpose of the task and whether it is to explain, inform, or convince.</li> </ul>

## LEARNING AT HOME

Your more independent learner still needs support and help to succeed in the fourth grade. Work with your child at home. Stay informed on work assignments and know if help is needed with specific skills. Here are some suggestions for things to do at home to help your child learn:

- Read a classic adventure book to your child, such as *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Treasure Island*, and *Robinson Crusoe*. The vocabulary and descriptive phrases used in such books will help your fourth grader improve his writing and his verbal skills.
- Have your child make a book for a friend or a family member. She will write the story, illustrate it, and decorate it with beads and stickers.
- Create a comic book/graphic book on his favorite topic. The book can be a story, a how-to, or a poem.
- Take a familiar tale, such as *Three Little Pigs*, and have your child write the story as if she were a reporter. Remind her to answer the basic questions of *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how*.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- *Scholastic* has “parent primers” that help get you up to speed on such things as grammar, spelling, and writing. <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/subject-refreshers/parent-primers>.
- The *Funbrain* site has some games to help with noun/verb agreement and adjectives/adverbs. It also has some free books to read online. See <http://www.funbrain.com/FBSearch.php?Grade=4>.
- Tap into all aspects of fourth grade grammar with fun games at <http://www.vocabulary.co.il/?s=grade+4>.
- For fun and challenging free games in English language arts, go to <http://mrusbaum.com/fourth-grade-language-arts/>. Some of this site’s games can be downloaded onto a tablet for use.
- Ideas for helping with literary analysis, vocabulary, or handwriting skills, and more are available at <http://www.education.com/activity/fourth-grade/>. You have to sign up, but the activities are free.
- For spelling lists, crossword puzzles and other fun activities for improving spelling try <http://www.spelling-words-well.com/4th-grade-spelling-words.html>.
- Don’t forget the activities and resources available at your public library. The library has reading activities, books, puzzles, summer programs, and more. Many library sites have suggested book lists by reading ability and grade level.



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