

Georgia Milestones Language Arts Vocabulary

Word List A	Definition
Inference	To infer means to come to a reasonable conclusion based on evidence found in the text. By contrast, an explicit idea or message is fully stated or revealed by the writer. The author tells the reader exactly what they need to know.
Theme	The theme of a literary text is its lesson or message. For example, a story could be about two friends who like to do things together, and the theme might be the importance of friendship.
Plot	The series of events that form a story in a specific order.
Resolution	In most stories there is a conflict or problem. The resolution is the solution to the problem or the end of the main dramatic conflict.
Figurative Language	To understand figurative language, you need to distinguish between literal and figurative meanings of words and phrases. Literal refers to the actual meaning of a word or phrase. For example, if someone tells you to open the door, you can open a physical door. If someone tells you to “open the door to your heart,” you are not expected to find a door in your chest. Instead, you open up your feelings and emotions. Examples of figurative language are similes and metaphors .
Similes	Make comparisons using a linking word such as <i>like</i> , <i>as</i> , or <i>than</i> (her eyes shone like the stars).
Metaphor	Makes a comparison without a linking word; instead of one thing being <i>like</i> another, one thing <i>is</i> another (her eyes <i>were</i> shining stars). If someone says the “sea was glass,” they are using a metaphor. The sea was calm, smooth, and clear; it was not literally glass.

Word List B	Definition
Personification	When a writer describes an object as if it were a person. For example, <i>The trees sighed in the afternoon breeze</i> . The trees did not really sigh but seemed to as they blew gently in the breeze.
Point of View	The perspective from which a story is told. The point of view depends upon who the narrator is and how much he or she knows. The point of view could be first person (<i>I went to the store</i>), second person (<i>You went to the store</i>), or third person (<i>He went to the store</i>).
Compare vs. Contrast	Though similar, comparing is analyzing two things such as characters or stories in relation to each other, while contrasting is specifically analyzing the <i>differences</i> between two things such as two different characters or stories.
Genre	A genre is a category of passages, such as fiction and nonfiction. Each genre has a particular style, form, and content.
Summary	A summary is an overview of a text that captures the main points but does not give all of the details and does not include opinions.
Connotative Meaning	A meaning beyond the explicit meaning of a word. For example, the word <i>childlike</i> connotes innocence as well. Connotations are meanings inferred from certain words.
Organization	The way in which a piece of writing is structured. Each sentence, paragraph, or chapter fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas.
Author's Purpose	The author's intention for his or her piece. All passages have a purpose, whether it is to persuade, inform, explain, or entertain.
Author's Point of View	The opinion of the author. Your opinion may differ from the opinion of the author writing a passage.
Evidence	Something that proves or demonstrates the truth of something else. Informational texts may contain evidence to prove that the information they are providing is correct.

Word List C	Definition
Fact and Opinion	A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion is a statement that cannot be proven because it states a writer's belief or judgment about something. Deciding whether or not a statement is a fact or an opinion often comes down to a single question: "Can you prove it?" If you can prove a statement, then it is a fact. If not, it's an opinion.
Chronological Order	The order in which a series of events happened. A text that is arranged in order of time from the beginning to the end is in chronological order.
Cause and Effect	This is a relationship where one thing causes another thing to happen. A passage may also be organized by stating the problem and solution as well.
Claims	Ideas and opinions set forth by the author. For example, a writer could make the claim that the school cafeteria is too expensive.
Reasons	The evidence given to support a writer's claims. For example, a writer could include information on the price of school lunch or the number of students who don't want to buy it as reasons to support the claim that the school cafeteria is too expensive.
Relationships	The ways in which ideas are connected. Writing should use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claims and reasons.
Purpose	The writer's intention for his or her piece. All writing has a purpose, whether it is to persuade, inform, explain, or entertain.
Multimedia	A variety of mediums. Writing does not only include pen-to-paper or a typed essay. Other ways of enhancing writing can include mediums such as art, presentations, photographs, charts, videos, and more.

Word List D	Definition
Organization	<p>The way in which a piece of writing is structured. Similar ideas and illustrations should be grouped together and the order of the information should make sense.</p> <p>In writing, the organization helps explain ideas and information more clearly. Writers use transitions to organize information. Also, an entire piece of writing has an organizational structure to it. Writers structure their texts to match their purpose and audience. For example, if you were writing an argumentative text in which you wanted to show the negative effects of something, you might choose cause and effect as an organizational structure.</p>
Revision	<p>The process of editing and rewriting a piece of writing. All good writing requires a lot of revision in order to catch mistakes and clarify ideas.</p>
Informational / Explanatory Texts	<p>Texts that are forms of writing that inform the reader or explain something.</p>
Introduction	<p>The beginning of a piece of writing. The introduction should let readers know what they will be reading about and set up the main idea of the writing.</p>
Transition	<p>A word, phrase, or clause that links one idea to the next. Writing should not jump from one idea to the next without transitions that guide the reader to the next idea. Examples include words such as <i>another, for example, also, and because.</i></p>
Conclusion	<p>The end of a piece of writing is the conclusion. The conclusion should sum up the main idea of the writing and provide an overall message for the reader.</p>
Formatting	<p>The way in which a piece of writing is organized. For example, a writer can use headings and subheadings to organize the writing and present the information in a clear way.</p>

Word List E	Definition
Writing Process	Most informational or technical pieces require hard work and revision before they can be considered ready. Drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading your writing are all essential parts of an effective writing process. The steps in the writing process are prewriting, drafting, revising and editing, proofreading, and publishing.
Subjective / Nominative Pronoun	Pronouns that act as the subject of a sentence. Examples are <i>I, we, he, she, and they</i> . In the sentence <i>They went to the beach, they</i> is the subject in the subject-verb-object structure.
Objective Pronoun	Pronouns that act as the object of a sentence. Examples are <i>me, us, him, her, and them</i> . In the sentence, <i>He gave it to them, them</i> is the object in the subject-verb-object structure.
Possessive Pronoun	Pronouns that show possession. Examples are <i>mine, his, hers, ours, and theirs</i> . For example, <i>Those cookies are mine</i> .
Indefinite Pronoun	Pronouns that represent an object that may have already been identified or does not need explicit identification. Examples are <i>another, any, both, each, neither, none, and some</i> .
Punctuation	Writing marks that help to separate and clarify ideas. Examples of punctuation are the period, comma, colon, exclamation mark, and question mark.
Style	The particular form or way an author chooses to write. There are many different writing styles. It is important to maintain your style throughout a piece of writing.
Context	Words and phrases that surround another phrase and help to explain its meaning. Sometimes a word cannot be understood without the context of the words and phrases around it. For example, <i>he threw it</i> could mean several things, but when the full sentence is included, <i>He threw the basketball up high from midcourt and sunk it through the hoop for two points</i> , the meaning is clear.