

MERIT Fifth Grade English Language Arts Thomas County Upper Elementary

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This Course Description of MERIT Fifth Grade English Language Arts utilizes the fifth grade [English Language Arts Georgia Standards of Excellence](#).

Reading

Reading is foundational to all the other categories of language arts. Through daily practicing of read-aloud and read-alone of novels, short stories, articles from newspapers and magazines, plays, and poetry, students will learn and develop skills in identifying and analyzing key ideas and details of a text and will build an understanding of how the craft and structure of a text support the author's meaning.

Vocabulary

Fifth grade is a time of tremendous growth in a student's acquisition of vocabulary. Students will learn new words through the context of reading, the intentional study of Greek and Latin affixes and roots, consulting reference materials, and practicing on Membean. Not only will the student learn to identify figurative language, but also s/he will learn to analyze and interpret the word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Writing

Because the best writing practice follows a writing process, each day students will write. During our class discussions students will utilize Cornell Notes. An Interactive Writing Notebook will provide the opportunity to practice specific writing processes (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) and skills (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, fluency, conventions). Over an extended time frame students will write an opinion piece supporting their point of view with reasons and explanations, an informative/explanatory text conveying their ideas and information clearly, and a narrative using effective technique and descriptive details along with a clear event sequence.

Language

Within the conventions of language are the eight parts of speech. Students in the fifth grade will focus on verb tense, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections. Potent punctuation marks will be front and center stage when reading aloud and writing.

Speaking and Listening

Words are powerful and reveal what is inside someone's heart; therefore, words can be used to build up or to tear down. Learning to disagree agreeably, students will respectfully engage one another through one-on-one, small groups, and teacher-led discussions with diverse partners. In practicing building on other's ideas and in expressing his/her own ideas clearly, students will reveal their comprehension and build confidence in themselves. Presentation of reports and projects will include multimedia components and visual displays.

Course Requirements

- *Reading assignments from class novels should be completed with anticipation of a reading check the following day.
- *Membean should be practiced a minimum of ten minutes for five days of the week. Every three weeks a quiz will be administered.
- *Cornell Notes should be reviewed and summaries written each day in preparation for the test. Students should anticipate a check once a week.

Homework Expectations

Students are expected to complete and to submit all homework according to the due date.

Behavioral Expectations

Students should be on time and prepared for class with completed assignments, binder, notebook, paper, and pencils.

Grading	Daily Grade	30%
	Formative Assessments	30%
	Summative Assessments	40%

Make-up Policy

All work is expected to be submitted on time. Projects turned in late will be penalized points for each day late and will be given a zero after the five day grace period.