

Introduction

Curriculum Overview

Congratulations on choosing an outstanding fourth-grade curriculum! This curriculum allows you and your student the opportunity to read and respond to texts from a wide variety of genres and learn all about the correct uses of the English language. The student will be using the skills learned to create wonderful writings that are sure to delight anyone who reads them. He or she will be able to edit and revise his or her writings, as well as those written by other individuals. One of the true advantages in selecting Texas Tech University K-12 is that you will have an all-encompassing curriculum written according to state standards by Texas-certified educators.

This course is completed entirely online in Blackboard using the PDF **Unit Lessons** and **Worksheets** documents, along with the textbooks.

For each Unit assessment, the student will download and complete PDF **Unit Test** pages, then scan or take a digital photograph of the completed pages showing his or her work. Combine the images into a single PDF (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page) and upload the file for grading as instructed in the assignment.

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4

Reading

Reading is an important, life-long skill which we all use daily. This curriculum reviews key concepts with which your student is already familiar. It also introduces vital new concepts to help the student become a more proficient reader. As the student reads, we hope to emphasize the entertainment and joy in reading. We also want your student to gain an appreciation for literature and to develop a strong desire to read for a variety of purposes.

The textbook for this course, *Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Texas Treasures, Grade 4*, contains wonderful stories, both fiction and nonfiction, full of rich vocabulary and interesting characters. At the end of each story, the student will “meet” the authors and illustrators who created these beautiful writings and pictures. Your student will also be asked to select age-appropriate books to read as part of some of the lessons.

It is essential that the student spend time reading every day, both aloud and silently. You, as the instructor, will be asked to read aloud to the student during each reading lesson. This enables the student to hear the emotions with which you read that help bring the characters and storylines to life. It will help to strengthen the student’s own reading skills to listen to you. We encourage you to spend time in the library with your student, encouraging him or her to find books he or she finds interesting. Emphasize that you can NEVER read too much!

Grammar and Composition

The Grammar and Composition lessons are very teacher-guided, much like the reading lessons. The instructor will be modeling new skills and strategies for the student. Then, the student will have the opportunity to practice and apply those skills and strategies to all content areas. The interaction between the student and instructor is very important and will aid in the student's development of oral language and social skills and lead to greater achievements, increased self-esteem, and higher motivation for learning.

Just as it is imperative that children read every day, it is also essential that they spend time writing every day. Students who are given the opportunity and encouragement to write every day will become more fluent writers, readers, spellers, and speakers as their skills improve and comfort with words grows.

Your student will practice writing paragraphs, poems, and complete essays. You should encourage the student to use vocabulary and spelling words learned in daily lessons to expand writings and make them more interesting. The student will keep a Writer's Journal. Encourage the student to write in it not only for assignments but whenever he or she has an idea, comes upon a new word or phrase he or she may want to use in his or her writing, or any other time he or she wishes.

The Writer's Journal can also be used to write responses to readings to help your student develop a better understanding of the text.

Phonics/Spelling and Handwriting

The spelling words introduced each week are developed around phonics elements, spelling patterns, and high frequency words. The lists and lessons are designed to help students spell *any* word, not just the words on the spelling lists. The words are organized according to patterns they remember and ideas to which they can relate. There are daily opportunities for independent practices as well as independent activities for integrating writing and language arts. Cumulative, systematic review and assessment are regular parts of weekly instruction, so the words your student learns weekly will still be with him or her next week, next month, and next year. Spelling activities develop writing skills to help the student become a successful writer as well as a good speller.

Students in fourth grade should be proficient in cursive handwriting. The daily handwriting activity will provide additional practice as students continue to develop and perfect this skill. A handwriting grade will be part of the student's composition grade.

Course Objectives

The English Language Arts curriculum covers all of the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) (TEKS) for fourth grade. At the end of this unit, the student should be able to master the following:

- **Reading/Fluency.** Students read grade-level text with fluency and comprehension. Students are expected to read aloud grade-level stories with fluency (rate, accuracy, expression, appropriate phrasing) and comprehension.

- **Reading/Vocabulary Development.** Students understand new vocabulary and use it when reading and writing. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes;
 - ◇ use the context of the sentence (e.g., in-sentence example or definition) to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or multiple meaning words;
 - ◇ complete analogies using knowledge of antonyms and synonyms (e.g., *boy : girl as male : _____* or *girl : woman as boy : _____*);
 - ◇ identify the meaning of common idioms; and
 - ◇ use a dictionary or glossary to determine the meanings, syllabication, and pronunciation of unknown words.

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre.** Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ summarize and explain the lesson or message of a work of fiction as its theme; and
 - ◇ compare and contrast the adventures or exploits of characters (e.g., the trickster) in traditional and classical literature.

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Poetry.** Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of poetry and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to explain how the structural elements of poetry (e.g., rhyme, meter, stanzas, line breaks) relate to form (e.g., lyrical poetry, free verse).

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Drama.** Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of drama and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to describe the structural elements particular to dramatic literature.

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Fiction.** Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the structure and elements of fiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ sequence and summarize the plot's main events and explain their influence on future events;
 - ◇ describe the interaction of characters, including their relationships and the changes they undergo; and
 - ◇ identify whether the narrator or speaker of a story is first- or third-person.

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Literary Nonfiction.** Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the varied structural patterns and features

of literary nonfiction and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to identify similarities and differences between the events and characters' experiences in a fictional work and the actual events and experiences described in an author's biography or autobiography.

- **Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Sensory Language.** Students understand, make inferences, and draw conclusions about how an author's sensory language creates imagery in literary text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to identify the author's use of similes and metaphors to produce imagery.
- **Reading/Comprehension of Text/Independent Reading.** Students read independently for sustained periods of time and produce evidence of their reading. Students are expected to read independently for a sustained period of time and paraphrase what the reading was about, maintaining meaning and logical order (e.g., generate a reading log or journal; participate in book talks).
- **Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Culture and History.** Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about the author's purpose in cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. Students are expected to explain the difference between a stated and an implied purpose for an expository text.
- **Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Expository Text.** Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ summarize the main idea and supporting details in text in ways that maintain meaning;
 - ◇ distinguish fact from opinion in a text and explain how to verify what is a fact;
 - ◇ describe explicit and implicit relationships among ideas in texts organized by cause-and-effect, sequence, or comparison; and
 - ◇ use multiple text features (e.g., guide words, topic and concluding sentences) to gain an overview of the contents of text and to locate information.
- **Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Persuasive Text.** Students analyze, make inferences, and draw conclusions about persuasive text and provide evidence from text to support their analysis. Students are expected to explain how an author uses language to present information to influence what the reader thinks or does.
- **Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Procedural Texts.** Students understand how to glean and use information in procedural texts and documents. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ determine the sequence of activities needed to carry out a procedure (e.g., following a recipe); and

- ◇ explain factual information presented graphically (e.g., charts, diagrams, graphs, illustrations).
- **Reading/Media Literacy.** Students use comprehension skills to analyze how words, images, graphics, and sounds work together in various forms to impact meaning. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ explain the positive and negative impacts of advertisement techniques used in various genres of media to impact consumer behavior;
 - ◇ explain how various design techniques used in media influence the message (e.g., pacing, close-ups, sound effects); and
 - ◇ compare various written conventions used for digital media (e.g., language in an informal email vs. language in a web-based news article).
- **Writing/Writing Process.** Students use elements of the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to compose text. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for conveying the intended meaning to an audience and generating ideas through a range of strategies (e.g., brainstorming, graphic organizers, logs, journals);
 - ◇ develop drafts by categorizing ideas and organizing them into paragraphs;
 - ◇ revise drafts for coherence, organization, use of simple and compound sentences, and audience;
 - ◇ edit drafts for grammar, mechanics, and spelling using a teacher-developed rubric; and
 - ◇ revise a final draft in response to feedback from peers and the teacher and publish written work for a specific audience.
- **Writing/Literary Texts.** Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ write imaginative stories that build the plot to a climax and contain details about the characters and setting; and
 - ◇ write poems that convey sensory details using the conventions of poetry (e.g., rhyme, meter, patterns of verse).
- **Writing.** Students write about their own experiences. Students are expected to write about important personal experiences.
- **Writing/Expository and Procedural Texts.** Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ create brief compositions that:

- ◆ establish a central idea in a topic sentence;
 - ◆ include supporting sentences with simple facts, details, and explanations; and
 - ◆ contain a concluding statement;
 - ◇ write letters whose language is tailored to the audience and purpose (e.g., a thank-you note to a friend) and that use appropriate conventions (e.g., date, salutation, closing); and
 - ◇ write responses to literary or expository texts and provide evidence from the text to demonstrate understanding.
- **Writing/Persuasive Texts.** Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues. Students are expected to write persuasive essays for appropriate audiences that establish a position and use supporting details.
- **Oral and Written Conventions/Conventions.** Students understand the function of and use the conventions of academic language when speaking and writing. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ use and understand the function of the following parts of speech in the context of reading, writing, and speaking:
 - ◆ verbs (irregular verbs);
 - ◆ nouns (singular/plural, common/proper);
 - ◆ adjectives (e.g., descriptive, including purpose: *sleeping bag, frying pan*) and their comparative and superlative forms (e.g., *fast, faster, fastest*);
 - ◆ adverbs (e.g., frequency: *usually, sometimes*; intensity: *almost, a lot*);
 - ◆ prepositions and prepositional phrases to convey location, time, direction, or to provide details;
 - ◆ reflexive pronouns (e.g., *myself, ourselves*);
 - ◆ correlative conjunctions (e.g., *either/or, neither/nor*); and
 - ◆ time-order transition words and transitions that indicate a conclusion;
 - ◇ use the complete subject and the complete predicate in a sentence; and
 - ◇ use complete simple and compound sentences with correct subject-verb agreement.
- **Oral and Written Conventions/Handwriting, Capitalization, and Punctuation.** Students write legibly and use appropriate capitalization and punctuation conventions in their compositions. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ write legibly by selecting cursive script or manuscript printing as appropriate;
 - ◇ use capitalization for:
 - ◆ historical events and documents;
 - ◆ titles of books, stories, and essays; and

- ◆ languages, races, and nationalities; and
 - ◇ recognize and use punctuation marks including:
 - ◆ commas in compound sentences; and
 - ◆ quotation marks.
- **Oral and Written Conventions/Spelling.** Students spell correctly. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ spell words with more advanced orthographic patterns and rules:
 - ◆ plural rules (e.g., words ending in *f* as in *leaf, leaves*; adding *-es*);
 - ◆ irregular plurals (e.g., *man/men, foot/feet, child/children*);
 - ◆ double consonants in the middle of words;
 - ◆ other ways to spell *sh* (e.g., *-sion, -tion, -cian*); and
 - ◆ silent letters (e.g., *knee, wring*);
 - ◇ spell base words and roots with affixes (e.g., *-ion, -ment, -ly, dis-, pre-*);
 - ◇ spell commonly used homophones (e.g., *there, they're, their; two, too, to*); and
 - ◇ use spelling patterns and rules and print and electronic resources to determine and check correct spellings.
- **Research/Research Plan.** Students ask open-ended research questions and develop a plan for answering them. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ generate research topics from personal interests or by brainstorming with others, narrow to one topic, and formulate open-ended questions about the major research topic; and
 - ◇ generate a research plan for gathering relevant information (e.g., surveys, interviews, encyclopedias) about the major research question.
- **Research/Gathering Sources.** Students determine, locate, and explore the full range of relevant sources addressing a research question and systematically record the information they gather. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ follow the research plan to collect information from multiple sources of information both oral and written, including:
 - ◆ student-initiated surveys, on-site inspections, and interviews;
 - ◆ data from experts, reference texts, and online searches; and
 - ◆ visual sources of information (e.g., maps, timelines, graphs) where appropriate;
 - ◇ use skimming and scanning techniques to identify data by looking at text features (e.g., bold print, italics);
 - ◇ take simple notes and sort evidence into provided categories or an organizer;
 - ◇ identify the author, title, publisher, and publication year of sources; and

- ◇ differentiate between paraphrasing and plagiarism and identify the importance of citing valid and reliable sources.
- **Research/Synthesizing Information.** Students clarify research questions and evaluate and synthesize collected information. Students are expected to improve the focus of research as a result of consulting expert sources (e.g., reference librarians and local experts on the topic).
- **Research/Organizing and Presenting Ideas.** Students organize and present their ideas and information according to the purpose of the research and their audience. Students are expected to draw conclusions through a brief written explanation and create a works-cited page from notes, including the author, title, publisher, and publication year for each source used.
- **Listening and Speaking/Listening.** Students use comprehension skills to listen attentively to others in formal and informal settings. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity. Students are expected to:
 - ◇ listen attentively to speakers, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments; and
 - ◇ follow, restate, and give oral instructions that involve a series of related sequences of action.
- **Listening and Speaking/Speaking.** Students speak clearly and to the point, using the conventions of language. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity. Students are expected to express an opinion supported by accurate information, employing eye contact, speaking rate, volume, and enunciation, and the conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively.
- **Listening and Speaking/Teamwork.** Students work productively with others in teams. Students continue to apply earlier standards with greater complexity. Students are expected to participate in teacher- and student-led discussions by posing and answering questions with appropriate detail and by providing suggestions that build upon the ideas of others.

Source: The provisions of this §110.15 adopted to be effective September 4, 2008, 33 TexReg 7162.

Teaching Handwriting

Students at Texas Tech University K-12 begin cursive writing at the beginning of third grade and continue throughout their educational careers. Because the cursive style of handwriting connects letters, rather than forming letters individually as in manuscript, cursive handwriting increases the speed at which students can write. This skill promotes accuracy and time efficiency when taking notes in high school or college courses.

Teaching handwriting requires patience on the part of the teacher and the student. Fine motor skills do not develop at a uniform rate in all children. The teacher should choose reasonable expectations and provide daily practice. Your child may not be able to form the letters perfectly in the beginning lessons, but will show progress with continued practice and encouragement. Keep handwriting sessions short to prevent fatigue and frustration. Feel free to tailor the worksheets to your student. If the student shows signs of fatigue, you may reduce the number of times the student is required to write each letter. Always supervise writing sessions to make sure your student is establishing proper writing habits and letter formations. Give frequent praise for letters that are well written and have your student erase and rewrite letters that are not formed correctly. It is very difficult to undo bad writing habits; therefore, it is well worth the effort to make sure the student learns the proper writing habits in the beginning.

The first step in teaching writing is to make sure the student is sitting in the proper position. Provide a flat surface on which the student's arms can rest comfortably. The student should sit up straight with the paper placed on the table parallel to the right forearm for the right-handed student and parallel to the left forearm for the left-handed student. The hand opposite to the writing hand should hold the paper in place. The pencil should be held with the thumb and first two fingers about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch from the pencil lead with the hand slightly arched over the paper. Check to make sure your student does not grip the pencil too tightly because too much tension will be tiresome and painful.

It is recommended that the teacher adhere closely to the formation of the letters as demonstrated in the Cursive Alphabet Chart on the next page.

Your child should be using cursive in all of his or her writing assignments. This expectation will continue from the second semester of Grade 3 throughout the later grades.

Even though we live in a world filled with communication technology, legible handwriting is still an important skill. Young students are often eager to learn this new skill, but are sometimes quickly overwhelmed if they do not have the guidance of an understanding teacher. Every effort should be made to make this new experience of learning to write letters and words as enjoyable as possible.

Traditional Cursive

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff

Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll

Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq

Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww

Xx Yy Zz

Help Your Child Learn to Write Well

This is a resource courtesy of the United States Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement that parents can use to help their children learn how to write. Included are helpful hints and tips, and pointers for parents so their children can look at the world with an eye for expression and thought through writing.

American children must be ready to learn from the first day of school. And of course, preparing children for school is a historic responsibility of parents.

Should you help your child with writing?

Yes, if you want your child to:

- do well in school
- enjoy self-expression
- become more self-reliant

You know how important writing will be to your child's life. It will be important from first-grade through college and throughout adulthood.

Writing is:

Practical.

Most of us make lists, jot down reminders, and write notes and instructions at least occasionally.

Job-Related.

Professional and white-collar workers write frequently — preparing memos, letters, briefing papers, sales reports, articles, research reports, proposals, and the like. Most workers do *some* writing on the job.

Stimulating.

Writing helps to provoke thoughts and to organize them logically and concisely.

Social.

Most of us write thank-you notes and letters to friends at least now and then.

Therapeutic.

It can be helpful to express feelings in writing that cannot be expressed so easily by speaking.

The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) suggests that you help your child with writing. OERI believes you, a parent, can make a big difference. You can use helping strategies that are simple and fun. You can use them to help your child learn to write well — and to enjoy doing it! This article tells you how.

Things to Know

Writing is more than putting words on paper. It's a final stage in the complex process of communicating that begins with *thinking*. Writing is an especially important stage in communication, the intent being to leave no room for doubt. Has any country ratified a verbal treaty?

One of the first means of communication for your child is through drawing. Do encourage the child to draw and to discuss his/her drawings. Ask questions: What is the boy doing? Does the house look like ours? Can you tell a story about this picture?

Most children's basic speech patterns are formed by the time they enter school. By that time children speak clearly, recognize most letters of the alphabet, and may try to write. Show an interest in, and ask questions about, the things your child says, draws, and may try to write.

Writing well requires:

- **Clear thinking.** Sometimes the child needs to have his/her memory refreshed about a past event in order to write about it.
- **Sufficient time.** Children may have “stories in their heads” but need time to think them through and write them down. School class periods are often not long enough.
- **Reading.** Reading can stimulate a child to write about his/her own family or school life. If your child reads good books, he/she will be a better writer.
- **A Meaningful Task.** A child needs meaningful, not artificial, writing tasks. You'll find suggestions for such tasks in the section “Things To Do.”
- **Interest.** All the time in the world won't help if there is nothing to write, nothing to say. Some of the reasons for writing include sending messages, keeping records, expressing feelings, or relaying information.
- **Practice.** And more practice.
- **Revising.** Students need experience in revising their work—i.e., seeing what they can do to make it clearer, more descriptive, more concise, etc.

Pointers for Parents

In helping your child to learn to write well, remember that your goal is to make writing easier and more enjoyable.

Provide a place. It's important for a child to have a good place to write — a desk or table with a smooth, flat surface and good lighting.

Have the materials. Provide plenty of paper — lined and unlined — and things to write with, including pencils, pens, and crayons.

Allow time. Help your child spend time thinking about a writing project or exercise. Good writers do a great deal of thinking. Your child may dawdle, sharpen a pencil, get papers ready, or look up the spelling of a word. Be patient — your child may be thinking.

Respond. Do respond to the ideas your child expresses verbally or in writing. Make it clear that you are interested in the true function of writing, which is to convey ideas. This means focusing on *what* the child has written, not *how* it was written. It's usually wise to ignore minor errors, particularly at the stage when your child is just getting ideas together.

Don't you write it! Don't write a paper for your child that will be turned in as his/her work. Never rewrite a child's work. Meeting a writing deadline, taking responsibility for the finished product, and feeling ownership of it are important parts of writing well.

Praise. Take a positive approach and say something good about your child's writing. Is it accurate? Descriptive? Thoughtful? Interesting? Does it say something?

Things To Do

Make it real. Your child needs to do real writing. It's more important for the child to write a letter to a relative than it is to write a one-line note on a greeting card. Encourage the child to write to relatives and friends. Perhaps your child would enjoy corresponding with a pen pal.

Suggest note-taking. Encourage your child to take notes on trips or outings and to describe what he/she saw. This could include a description of nature walks, a boat ride, a car trip, or other events that lend themselves to note-taking.

Brainstorm. Talk with your child as much as possible about his/her impressions and encourage the child to describe people and events to you. If the child's description is especially accurate and colorful, say so.

Encourage keeping a journal. This is excellent writing practice as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, about people he/she likes or dislikes and why, things to remember or things the child wants to do. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as

disappointments. If the child wants to share the journal with you, read the entries and discuss them — especially the child’s ideas and perceptions.

Write together. Have your child help you with letters, even such routine ones as ordering items from an advertisement or writing to a business firm. This helps the child to see firsthand that writing is important to adults and truly useful.

Use games. There are numerous games and puzzles that help a child to increase vocabulary and make the child more fluent in speaking and writing. Remember, building a vocabulary builds confidence. Try crossword puzzles, word games, anagrams, and cryptograms designed especially for children. Flash cards are good, too, and they’re easy to make at home.

Suggest making lists. Most children like to make lists just as they like to count. Encourage this. Making lists is good practice and helps a child to become more organized. Boys and girls might make lists of their records, tapes, baseball cards, dolls, furniture in a room, etc. They could include items they want. It’s also good practice to make lists of things to do, schoolwork, dates for tests, social events, and other reminders.

Encourage copying. If a child likes a particular song, suggest learning the words by writing them down — replaying the song on your stereo/tape player or jotting down the words whenever the song is played on a radio program. Also encourage copying favorite poems or quotations from books and plays.

OERI’s strategies for helping children learn to write well are helping youngsters throughout the country. We hope they will help your child.

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Books and Materials for ELAR 4 this Semester

Textbooks:

Texas Treasures: A Reading/Language Arts Program:

- August, Diane, et al., *Texas Treasures, Grade 4* (2011). Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-02-200027-1
- *Texas Treasures Practice Book, Grade 4* (2011). Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-02-206205-7
- *Texas Treasures Grammar and Writing Handbook, Grade 4* (2011). Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-02-201077-5
- *Texas Treasures Grammar Practice Book, Grade 4* (2011). Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-02-206533-1

Required Materials:

- books, articles, and stories of student's choice, short, several
- colored pencils or crayons
- dictionaries, print version and online/electronic version
- dry erase board and markers
- encyclopedia
- folder with brads or small 3-ring binder
- glue
- magazine or newspaper article appropriate for children
- magazines and other periodicals showing advertisements (child-friendly)
- markers
- nonfiction book that includes a glossary or index and table of contents
- paper: construction, lined notebook, plain white; large sheets of chart, butcher, or drawing paper
- pencils
- scissors
- thesaurus

Optional Materials:

- drawing materials
- poster board

Grading Procedures and Unit Assessment Checklists

Grades are calculated for Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3. The semester grade is an average of the three unit grades. Each unit grade will be a combination of the following:

- Reading Comprehension test
- Grammar test
- Spelling test
- Composition
- A handwriting grade assessed from the spelling test and composition

Each of the five required assessments will count 20%. The Units 1 and 2 assessments are located in their respective Unit folders in this online course; the Unit 3 assessment is in the Final Exam folder. The composition choices are given on the test.

The Unit assessments will be uploaded to Texas Tech University K-12 to be graded. After the student has finished each test, scan or take a digital photograph of the assigned pages showing his or her work. Combine the images into a *single* PDF (see “Requirements for Creating PDFs” on the course home page). When you save the document, use the naming convention given for each Unit Test as the name of your file. Upload the file according to the instructions given in the assignment.

Schedule for Assessments

Unit 1, Day 25

The Unit 1 Assessment consists of the following parts:

- Spelling/Phonics Test
 - ◇ 25 spelling words
- Reading Test
 - ◇ 16 multiple-choice questions and 2 short-answer questions
- Grammar Test
 - ◇ 30 questions

- Composition/Handwriting
 - ◇ Four topic choices

Unit 2, Day 50

The Unit 2 Assessment consists of the following parts:

- Spelling/Phonics Test
 - ◇ 25 spelling words
- Reading Test
 - ◇ 16 multiple-choice questions and 2 short-answer questions
- Grammar Test
 - ◇ 47 questions
- Composition/Handwriting
 - ◇ Four topic choices

Unit 3, Day 75

The Unit 3 Assessment consists of the following parts:

- Spelling/Phonics Test
 - ◇ 25 spelling words
- Reading Test
 - ◇ 16 multiple-choice questions and 2 short-answer questions
- Grammar Test
 - ◇ 24 questions
- Composition/Handwriting
 - ◇ Four topic choices