

## 2nd Grade - ELA

2nd ELA (Phonics, Spelling, Penmanship, Literature, Grammar, Composition, Poetry, Sayings)

Kindergarten through Grade 2 ELA provides the foundation to all subject areas as it provides a foundation in the arts of language. The goal is to introduce students to the most fundamental units of language and for them to develop basic proficiency in reading and writing, such that basic encoding and decoding are relatively seamless skills. We also introduce them to the structure of storytelling

and artistic examples of language, developing their aesthetic sense and moral imagination.

Kindergarten begins with the introduction of phonograms and the proper positioning of the pencil and

Grade 2 ends with reading, retelling, and discussing several children's novels.

The goals of the teacher are as follows:

- Provide examples of correctly written and spoken English, attuning the hand and ear to order and beauty.
- Coach students first to speak in complete sentences and later to write in complete sentences using proper conventions.
- Help students see patterns of language and enjoy the rich content and engaging style of sentences.

The language arts block of instruction is divided into five major components: 1) Phonics, Spelling, and Penmanship, 2) Reading, 3) Literature, 4) Grammar and Composition, and 5) Poetry and Sayings.

In Grade 2, students solidify their understanding of the written and spoken word through narration, copywork, and dictation exercises of sentences and work to write in complete sentences. Students will know what a complete sentence is, what the types of sentences are, and the proper construction of sentences (including punctuation). Students will also work on retelling stories and ideas through narration for detail and narration for summary. Finally, they also foray into the longer composition by writing paragraphs in the last quarter of the year.

Students engage in a slightly more formal study of grammar and begin to learn the names of parts of speech and the formal structure of sentences. This is to prepare them for more technical analysis and knowledgeable play with language in the upper elementary grades (developing *copia*). Daily spelling lists continue in Grade 2 as students learned more complex patterns of orthography and use cursive penmanship.

The goal of Grade 2 is for students to master a basic fluency in decoding as well as build enjoyment and stamina in reading longer works toward the purpose of reading a complete children's book (with a novel-like structure) independently. Reading groups should move all students toward reading literature (rather than decoding primers) by the end of the year. The poetry in Grade 2 represents slightly longer works, primarily focusing on works by Robert Louis Stevenson. Students are coached on presenting with poise and noticing new rhythmic patterns.

## **Course Outline**

### **Phonics, Spelling, and Penmanship**

The teacher uses specific guided instruction to train students in phonics, decoding, and spelling skills through the Spalding method as articulated in *The Writing Road to Reading* toward the end of understanding words (in their written and spoken form).

Students at this level build on the systematic phonics work of Kindergarten and Grade 1 by reviewing all 70 phonograms and moving on to Ayres word lists K-Q, applying skills with increasing independence. They will pronounce, syllabicate, and mark words and articulate any and all rules that apply to their daily spelling words.

Students in Grade 2 perfect manuscript letters (upper and lower case). Early in the spring semester (generally around February), students are introduced to cursive penmanship, at which point they are required to begin using cursive when entering words into their Spalding notebooks after mastery in written phonogram reviews. For other written work, it is up to teacher discretion whether students shall use cursive or manuscript.

- Unit 1: Review (10 Lessons)
- Unit 2: List K (20 Lessons)
- Unit 3: List L (25 Lessons)
- Unit 4: List M (25 Lessons)
- Unit 5: List N (20 Lessons)
- Unit 6: List O and Cursive (30 Lessons)
- Unit 7: List P (20 Lessons)
- Unit 8: List Q (25 Lessons)

### **Literature**

Grade 2 provides a range of literary works, including classic fairy tales, fables, folk tales, and longer works of children's literature. Students will read and discuss the literature books as a class. Grade 2 also provides a rich exploration of several types of shorter texts: Greek mythology, folktales, fairytales, and tall tales.

As students encounter literature through listening or reading, they can and should practice decoding and comprehension skills. However, the mechanical skills of reading are not the primary objective in this course of study--rather, students should be guided toward a sense of literary structure, artistic use of language, the role of illustration, and a consideration of the human experience. Their main goals are to accurately recall what occurred in a story, and be able to explain it in rich detail in complete sentences orally.

There are three ways in which students can encounter the text of literature in elementary grades: as a Read-Aloud, a Read-Along, or a Read-Alone. Students in grades K-2 almost always encounter texts as a Read-Aloud or a Read-Along, though they may re-read a text independently if it is appropriate to their reading level. The teacher reads to or with the students and guides them through Socratic discussion of simple literary elements such as plot, character, and setting. For most Core Literature texts, students will have a copy of the text at their desks and will follow along in their books, decoding as they are able, as the teacher reads aloud.

- Unit 1: Folktales and Fables (6 Lessons)
- Unit 2: The Boxcar Children (12 Lessons)
- Unit 3: Fairy Tales (4 lessons)
- Unit 4: Sarah, Plain and Tall (9 Lessons)
- Unit 5: The Little Mermaid (4 lessons)
- Unit 6: A Cricket in Times Square (20 Lessons)
- Unit 7: Greek Myths (16 Lessons)
- Unit 8: Little House in the Big Woods (27 Lessons)
- Unit 9: Tall Tales (8 Lessons)
- Unit 10: Charlotte's Web (36 Lessons)

### **Grammar and Composition**

Grammar instruction is aimed primarily at the proper use of language and builds awareness of the structure of language, especially at the sentence level.

Students receive a more formal introduction to all eight parts of speech and other grammatical conventions, always starting with observation and Socratic discussion of models, and ending with songs or chants from *Well Ordered Language*. Although this text is not used in Grade 2, it is used in grades 3-8, so students are exposed to its verbiage, definitions, and songs. The goal in Grade 2 is to build familiarity with and delight in the different parts of speech, so that when they begin rigorous analysis in Grade 3, they are ready with both understanding of and a joyful disposition towards grammatical concepts.

Whenever possible, the sentences or passages for discussion are to be well constructed sentences from familiar classic literature, history, and science texts with which the students are familiar. If a particular class is not on the same schedule as the passages used in the Portal lessons, teachers are welcome to use the same method but with a different passage instead. See the Grade 2 Composition Guide PD Module, and your campus' academic leadership, for more information and advice.

In the fourth quarter, regular composition exercises shift to set students up for independent paragraph composition. This is an extremely scaffolded unit that allows students to work systematically through each sub-skill needed for writing paragraphs. That being said, if a student has not mastered oral narration, copywork, and dictation by quarter 4, remediation will be necessary in order for them to compose a paragraph successfully and independently. See the Remediating Writing: Lower Skills PD Module and your school's academic leadership for more information and advice.

- Unit 1: Sentences (24 Lessons)
- Unit 2: Nouns (8 Lessons)
- Unit 3: Q1 Assessment (4 Lessons)
- Unit 4: Verbs (8 Lessons)
- Unit 5: Adjectives (8 Lessons)
- Unit 6: Adverbs (8 Lessons)
- Unit 7: Prepositions (8 Lessons)
- Unit 8: Q2 Assessment (4 Lessons)
- Unit 9: Pronouns (12 Lessons)
- Unit 10: Conjunctions (8 Lessons)
- Unit 11: Interjections and Review (12 Lessons)
- Unit 12: Q3 Assessment (4 Lessons)
- Unit 13: Paragraph Writing (24 Lessons)
- Unit 14: Paragraph Projects (12 Lessons)

## Poetry and Sayings

Discussing, memorizing, and reciting poetry engages the students' natural sense of wonder, not only about the poem's content but also the carefully chosen words of the poet. The students' ears will be trained to the musicality of poetry and their minds to the meaning. Throughout the year, students will delight in language as they discover its many facets and how it can be used to beautifully convey truths of the human condition and the world.

In addition, students will gain further appreciation for the English language by memorizing, discussing, and illustrating various core sayings—expressions that represent linguistic and cultural nuances unique to our tradition.

Students listen to, discuss, memorize, and recite poems throughout the year. They continue to study various rhythmic patterns while practicing accurate memorization and recitation skills such as tone, fluency, speed, posture, projection, expression, and poise. Poetic form will be taught through observation of stanzas and line breaks, with an emphasis on commas and capitalization.

- Unit 1: Introduction to Poetry (36 Lessons)
- Unit 2: Robert Louis Stevenson (36 Lessons)
- Unit 3: Robert Louis Stevenson and Historical Poems (36 Lessons)
- Unit 4: Poetry with Historical Context (28 Lessons)