

## 5th Grade - ELA

5th ELA (Phonics, Spelling, Penmanship, Literature, Grammar, Composition, Poetry, Sayings)

The Grade 5 grammar and composition curriculum begins to draw students' efforts toward the beauty, form, and flexibility of language. Although the year begins with a review of sentence structures and parts of speech, grammar lessons in Grade 5 begin to add breadth and detail to the familiar grammatical concepts such as pronouns. Students encounter, analyze, and diagram more rigorous and sophisticated sentences, and develop a more intimate familiarity with sentence structures that encourage a kind of playfulness with language. Composition lessons build on past years' practice with writing good sentences and paragraphs and lead the student into higher-level summarization and imitation activities. Students begin creating and writing from one- and two-level outlines of texts, analyzing and practicing topoi (from the Greek word "topos" or topic, this practice develops the scholar's ability to determine what they are going to say). Through copia exercises ("copia" meaning abundance, the practice of which requires scholars to use a variety of words and sentence structure) that intertwine with grammar studies, students are immersed in the playfulness of language.

The literature curriculum continues to serve as a primary source of delight and a model of well-ordered, beautiful language. It is notably marked by students' transition to more frequent and lengthy independent readings of core literature texts, preparing them for independent reading in middle school. Students read a range of genres, including fairy tales, fantasy, and historical fiction, and are more formally familiar with elements of story such as plot, setting, theme, genre, and characters, such that they can converse knowledgeably in class discussions making textual references as appropriate. Literature lessons explore literary elements and support comprehension skills such as finding textual evidence, making inferences, deciphering new vocabulary, reasoning events, and supporting self-monitoring during independent reading. Similarly, while the study, memorization, and recitation of poetry remains a source of delight in Grade 5, poetry instruction becomes slightly more formal as students put names to poetic elements as they encounter them in various poems.

### Literature

Literature lessons and discussions deepen students' understanding of and appreciation for literature. Through these, students are exposed to literary elements comprehension skills such as finding textual evidence, making inferences, deciphering new vocabulary, reasoning events, and supporting self-monitoring during independent reading. At the end of each book, if not throughout the reading of the book, the teacher engages students in Socratic discussion. Students are expected to participate by joining in the conversation with their peers, without raising their hands. As the school year progresses, and with practice, students should begin to ask their own questions as a part of the flow of the conversation. This will help students develop a love for literature and a better understanding of its meaning.

- Unit 1: *The Secret Garden* (36 lessons)
- Unit 2: *Where the Red Fern Grows* (20 lessons)
- Unit 3: *Fairy Tales and Folk Tales* (16 lessons)
- Unit 4: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (32 lessons)
- Unit 5: *Across Five Aprils* (27 lessons)

### Grammar and Composition

In grammar, students will build on the foundation built by the *Well-Ordered Language* levels taught in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. After a review of sentences, principal elements, and parts of speech, they eventually analyze and diagram more rigorous and sophisticated sentences. Grade 5 grammar begins with a review of the four kinds of sentences, the principal elements, and modifiers. Later, students broaden their understanding of pronouns, focusing on interrogative pronouns and personal pronouns. Students will also be introduced to sensory linking verbs, indirect objects, and complex-compound sentences. Each Grammar consists of 9 lessons, with lesson 9 (unit assessment) being given on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the following composition unit. The time allotment for Grammar/Composition will be evenly divided between the two.

- Unit 1: Four Kinds of Sentences, Principal Elements, Adjectives & Adverbs (9 lessons)
- Unit 2: Predicate Verbs, Predicate Nominatives & Predicate Adjectives (9 lessons)
- Unit 3: Prepositional Phrases (9 lessons)

- Unit 4: Personal Pronouns (9 lessons)
- Unit 5: Sensory Linking Verbs (9 lessons)
- Unit 6: Indirect Objects (9 lessons)
- Unit 7: Interrogative Pronouns (9 lessons)
- Unit 8: Relative (Adjectival) Clauses (9 lessons)

In composition, teachers will guide students through four-day lesson outlines from *Writing with Skill – Levels 1 and 2*. While the core practices outlined in Susan Wise Bauer’s materials are upheld, the reading passages used in lessons have been replaced with writing selections from other subject areas such as Literature, History, Science, and the like. This practice of integrating curriculum is designed to give students repeated exposure to the material they are learning in other subject areas and facilitating a deeper understanding of it. Each day will take students through one of four exercises: outlining, analyzing and practicing topoi, and copia. Students outline the events of the passage in the correct order, study a model topoi, then use the model to compose a passage on that topoi. Student compositions are expected to use accurate spelling, grammar, and conventions. Grammar and composition notably intertwine in the copia exercises, where students increase their mastery of written expression through changing the words and sentence structures in a provided sentence. Later in the year, students write about literature independently using the skills mastered from the exercises. Additionally, students will be introduced to and instructed on how to produce multi-paragraph expository and opinion essays. Within this period of instruction, students will review how to write a strong topic and conclusion sentence and how to support those sentences with evidence gathered from informational texts provided to them on the topic.

- Unit 1: Two-level Outlining and Writing from Notes (8 lessons)
- Unit 2: Scientific Description (12 lessons)
- Unit 3: Description of a Person and Biographical Sketch (16 lessons)
- Unit 4: Letter Writing (4 lessons)
- Unit 5: Sequence: Natural Process (8 lessons)
- Unit 6: \*Test Prep\* Persuasive Writing (12 lessons)
- Unit 7: Beginning Literary Criticism: Hero/Villain, Protagonist/Antagonist, Supporting Characters, and Idea stories (8 lessons)
- Unit 8: Narrations and Sequences in History (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 to the selected poems, students will also study and recite historical speeches that directly relate to the Core Knowledge History Units they study during their 5<sup>th</sup> grade year.

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. Students will learn to annotate poems with guidance from their teacher, making notes on meaning and poetic structure. When it is time to recite, emphasis will be placed on presentation skills and understanding, as well as accurate memorization.

### **Great Hearts Core Poetry List**

- Unit 1: “A Poison Tree” by William Blake
- Unit 2: “The Arrow and the Song” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Unit 3: “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Unit 4: “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost
- Unit 5: “Casey at the Bat” by Ernest Lawrence Thayer
- Unit 6: “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carol
- Unit 7: “The Gettysburg Address” Speech by Abraham Lincoln
- Unit 8: “I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman with “I, Too” by Langston Hughes
- Unit 9: “I Will Fight No More Forever” Speech by Chief Joseph
- Unit 10: “O Captain! My Captain!” by Walt Whitman

