



READ
with **ME** [★] NV

**FAMILY LITERACY GUIDES & ACTIVITIES
FOURTH GRADE**

www.ReadWithMeNV.com
Follow us @ReadWithMeNV





Hello Families,

We're so excited to partner with you as your child learns to read!

Learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will ever build. It helps them succeed in school and in life. **Reading is a step-by-step journey, and you're your child's first and most important teacher.**

This packet is filled with simple, fun activities you can do at home using materials you already have. Our goal is to make learning feel like play. When children read, write, talk, and play, they grow stronger every day.

You may already be doing many of these things and that's wonderful! These guides will give you even more ideas to keep the fun going.

At the beginning of each grade section, you'll see a guide that shares what students are learning in school. This helps us all work toward the same goals. After the guide, you'll find easy activities to try at home. As you do them, remember to talk with your child. Ask questions. Let them explain their thinking. Sometimes, let your child be the teacher!

You'll also see teacher tips and the learning standards connected to each activity. This shows how your fun time together is building important skills.

Most of all, enjoy this time. Laugh, play, and learn together. When reading feels joyful, children grow into confident readers.

Please visit ReadWithMeNV.com or follow us @ReadWithMeNV on Instagram and Facebook for more helpful resources and fun learning ideas. You can also scan the QR code for quick access.

We're so glad to be on this journey with you!

With gratitude,
L3 Coalition





READ
with **ME** ^{NV}



FOURTH GRADE GUIDE & ACTIVITIES



www.ReadWithMeNV.com
Follow us @ReadWithMeNV



FAMILY LITERACY GUIDE

Fourth Grade



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

What should my child know and be able to do by the end of 4th grade?

LANGUAGE

- Learn and accurately use a variety of new words, including academic and topic-specific vocabulary (e.g. denominator, ecosystem).
- Engage in conversations with adults and peers about different topics and texts. Give clear explanations and evidence for their ideas and build on others' ideas.

READING

4th graders should show these skills with books that they read independently.

- Accurately read unfamiliar multisyllabic words.
- Accurately read grade-level texts smoothly and with expression.
- Use evidence and quotes from a text to analyze what it says and to draw thoughtful conclusions (inferences) about ideas that are not directly stated.
- Summarize texts and explain how important details support the main idea (or ideas).
- Bring together information from multiple texts in order to write or speak knowledgeably about a topic.

WRITING

- Write organized essays for different purposes, including telling a story, supporting an opinion, or giving information. Include relevant details, examples, and information.
- Write complete, expanded sentences using correct spelling and grammar.
- Strengthen writing by planning, editing, and revising.

Explore more activities to support your child at ReadwithMeNV.com!



How can I support my child's literacy learning?

All literacy activities can be done in your home language!

Talk with your child using big words, sentences, and ideas. Engage in conversations as much as you can.

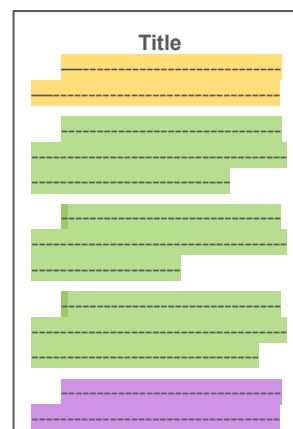
Read 20 minutes per day. 4th graders should read mostly independently, but benefit from talking to an adult about what they read and reading out loud to adults or younger children.

Chapter book series are a great way to get your child interested in reading.



Informational books help your child gain knowledge and vocabulary.

Encourage your child to **write** for different purposes. Help them organize and extend their ideas.



- A clear **introduction** section.
- Supporting **examples, reasons, or details**.
- Related ideas grouped into **paragraphs**.
- Ideas connected with **transition words**.
- A **conclusion** section.

MAIN IDEA/THEME CHART

Identifying what happened in a story and what is the lesson.

Grade Range: 4th - 5th Grade

Time Required: 15-25 minutes



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

OVERVIEW:

Read a text of your own and your child's choosing, then create a chart to compare themes to main ideas.

MATERIALS:

- Paper of any size (the bigger, the better)
- Something to write with
- A story, poem, or play

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose a story, poem, or play to focus on.

This can be a text you read together or a book your child is reading independently. You can also use these same questions about a show or movie!

2. After reading the text, have your child summarize what happened. Ask questions to help them include more detail.

- Can you describe the setting and characters?
- What were the important events?
- What was the problem or challenge?
- Why did the characters do what they did?
- Can you summarize the text in just a few sentences?

3. Create a chart, similar to the one featured to the right, and begin comparing main ideas and themes.

- **Main idea** - What is the story, or section of a story, mostly about (characters, events)?
- **Theme** - What is the message, moral, or lesson of a story?

The Wild Robot	
Main Idea what a story is mostly about	Theme the message, moral, or lesson.
Roz and the gosling become a family, even though they outwardly are very different.	Unconventional Family
The animals think Roz is a monster even though they don't know her.	Acceptance



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

Why This Helps

In upper elementary, it is important to understand what happens in a text vs. what the text is telling the reader. This is an essential skill for critical thinking.

Tips For Families

Learn more about identifying theme with this [Khan Academy video](#).



TEXT DETECTIVES

Cracking the code of informational text.

Grade Range: 4th - 5th Grade

Time Required: 30-45 minutes

*Can be done over 2-3 days.



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

OVERVIEW:

Explore how informational texts are organized to help readers understand important ideas. Learn to identify “text structures” such as cause/effect and compare/contrast.

MATERIALS:

- Any nonfiction text that your child can read
- Highlighters or crayons (2-3 colors)
- Pencil and paper
- Optional: sticky notes

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review or explain nonfiction text structures.

Text structures are ways that the author organizes information in a text to meet a particular purpose. They include:

- **Description**- shows characteristics or details about a topic.
- **Cause and effect**- explains an event and what happened as a result.
- **Compare and contrast**- tells how two or more things are the same and different.
- **Sequential order**- lays out events in order to steps of a procedure.
- **Problem and solution**- explains a problem or issue and how it is solved.

2. Read and pause.

Read the text together or independently.

After each section, ask, “What did you learn?” “Did you see any clues about the text structure?”

3. Figure out the text structure.

Ask your child to identify the text structure and give evidence to show how they know.

4. Show what you know.

Show the ideas in the text using the graphic organizer for the text structure, OR Write a paragraph summarizing the text and providing the main idea.

NONFICTION TEXT STRUCTURES		
TEXT STRUCTURE	SIGNAL WORDS	SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZER
DESCRIPTION	• for example • for instance • specifically • in addition	
COMPARE AND CONTRAST	• like • similarly • however • in contrast	
CAUSE AND EFFECT	• because • therefore • as a result	
SEQUENTIAL ORDER	• first • next • then • finally	
PROBLEM AND SOLUTION	• problem is • solution is • because of this • as a result	

Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

Describe the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text.

Why This Helps

This teaches students how to *actively* read nonfiction. Understanding text structure helps you find important information and improve comprehension.

Tips For Families

- Make it fun!
- Take turns reading.
- View the [Text Structure Chart](#).



BEACH BALL TOSS

Reading Comprehension Activity

Grade Range: 4th - 5th Grade

Time Required: 10-15 minutes



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

OVERVIEW:

This activity provides a fun and fast paced way for students to answer questions and analyze a story. It can be repeated many times for different stories, and is even great to use with shows and movies!

MATERIALS:

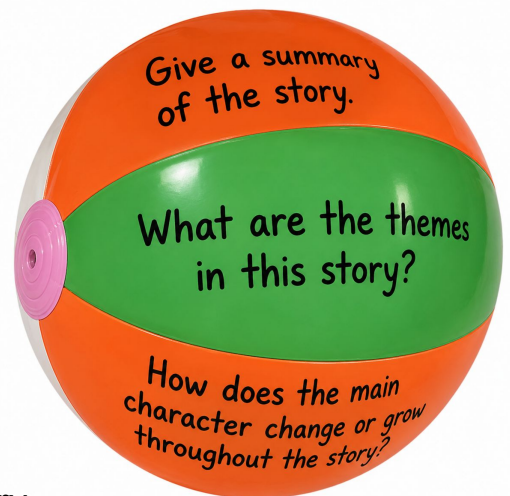
- Beach ball, another large ball, or a balloon
- Permanent markers
- Book or other fictional story

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Create a comprehension question ball.

Using a permanent marker, write the following prompts around the ball.

- Give a summary of the story.
- What are the themes in this story?
- How does the main character change or grow throughout the story?
- What was the main problem or conflict, and how was it solved?
- What is something that you would have done differently from the main character? Why?
- What connections can you make between this story and your own life or other stories?



2. Choose a book or story to focus on.

If you can, choose a story that multiple people in your family have read so you can all answer questions. You can also use questions for a show or movie!

3. Toss the ball and answer the question that your right hand is touching.

4. Explain your answer and provide evidence from the text.

You can use the frame, "I know/think ___ because the text says ___."

5. Repeat to answer more questions!



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Answer questions about characters, theme, and plot in a story.
- Use details and examples from a text to explain thinking.

Why This Helps

This activity includes several types of questions that require the reader to analyze the text. Providing evidence for answers is a big focus in upper elementary!

Tips For Families

You can include younger siblings or other family members in this game by reading a story together, and asking younger children more simple questions.

VOCABULARY FOUR SQUARE

Deepen your knowledge of vocabulary words.

Grade Range: 3rd - 5th Grade

Time Required: 10 minutes



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

OVERVIEW:

Your child will think about a vocabulary word in different ways. The more they know about a word, the better they will be able to remember and use it!

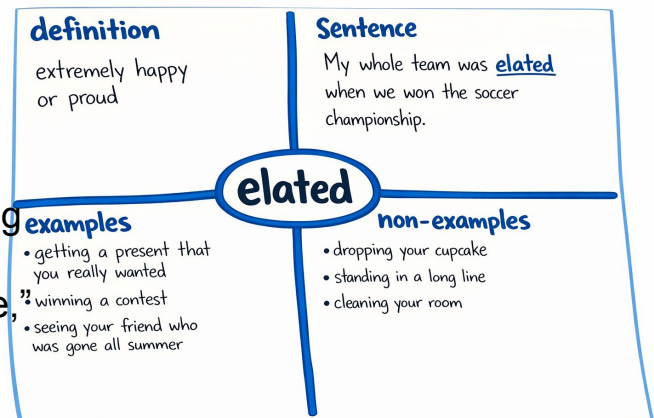
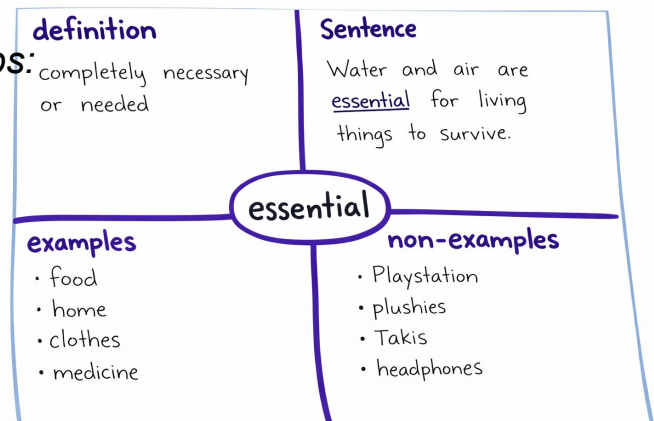
MATERIALS:

- Paper or notebook
- A pencil, pen, or other writing tool

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

Support your child in completing the following steps:

1. **Identify a challenging vocabulary word from reading or conversation.**
2. **Look up the definition of the word.**
You can find student-friendly definitions at kids.wordsmyth.net.
3. **Make a four-square model on a piece of paper as shown here.**
4. **Fill out the boxes with:**
 - A **definition**
 - An **sentence** that shows understanding of the word. (Example: "Water and air are essential for living things to survive," instead of "It is essential.")
 - **Examples** (these could be things or situations)
 - **Non-examples**



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

Learn and use new vocabulary words from reading and conversation.

Why This Helps

Vocabulary knowledge has a big impact on how well students understand what they read, especially as grade level texts get more advanced!

Tips For Families

If you use a notebook for this activity, you can keep track of all the new words your child has learned and go back to review them!

WRITING FANFICTION

Use favorite stories as an inspiration for writing!

Grade Range: 3rd - 5th Grade

Time Required: 20+ minutes



READ
with **ME** ^{NV}

OVERVIEW:

Your child will write their own story based on a book, movie, TV show, or video game that they love.

MATERIALS:

- Materials to write or type a story

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **If your child isn't familiar, explain what fanfiction is.**

Fanfiction is creative writing that uses books, movies, TV shows, or video games as inspiration for new stories.

2. **Pick a favorite fictional world and brainstorm ideas for new stories that they could write.**

3. **Encourage your child to write their new fan fiction story.**

Being creative can be challenging! Celebrate all of your child's efforts and ideas. Encourage them to stick with it.

4. **Read and talk about your child's writing.**

- Show interest in their story by asking questions.
- Point out positives in their writing.
- You can give feedback to help your child improve their writing, but keep the tone positive and encouraging. The focus should be more on creative ideas than perfect writing!



Learning Goals (Standards Aligned)

- Write an imagined narrative with a sequence of events and descriptive details.

Why This Helps

Connecting writing to your child's interests shows them a way that writing can be fun and meaningful.

Tips For Families

When giving your child feedback on their writing, limit suggestions to 1 or 2 at a time. More can easily become overwhelming!



READ
with **ME** [★]NV

**FAMILY LITERACY GUIDES & ACTIVITIES
FOURTH GRADE**

www.ReadWithMeNV.com
Follow us @ReadWithMeNV

